Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

English

What are we doing this half term? students will continue their English journey with Gothic creative writing. This unit will require students to engage with a range language devices and sentence types, all while taking inspiration from the work they have already undertaken in reading The Graveyard Book.

Assessments: There will be a creative writing assessment which tests writing skills.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child's spellings homework and reading log are completed, that they complete their Lexia, and always bring a reading book to school. If you can listen to your children read too and ask them questions to test their comprehension skills, that is even better!

Maths

What are we doing this half term? (1) Continue to work on data handling with tables and charts, using averages and range. (2) Algebra: simplifying & writing expressions, writing & using formulae, expanding brackets and factorising. (3) Fractions: working with fractions, improper fractions & mixed numbers, add/subtract/multiply/divide fractions.

Assessments: There will be an open book unit assessment after each topic and a bigger assessment covering all the work since September before the end of term.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment for every lesson such as a pencil, ruler, protractor, compass and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX (the maths homework platform) spending at least 40 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week.

PE

What are we doing this half term? PE lessons at Thamesmead are based on key areas Resilience, Enjoyment, Solidarity, Positivity, Empathy, Collaboration and Tolerance. Students will take part in a range of activities on a half term rotation. During each activity block the students are taught skills, tactics and strategies to develop their knowledge and understanding of the activity area. Students will engage in a wide range of sports and movement-based activities from conventional sports such as Netball, Football, Basketball and Badminton to the non-conventional such as Circuit training and Handball.

Assessments: Students will be assessed throughout the practical blocks of work.

How can parents help? Please ensure students are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Science

What are we doing this half term? (1) Human reproduction topic in Biology is completed (2) The particle model topic in Chemistry is completed (3) Sound topic in Physics is completed and students began the light topic.

Assessments: 3 (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) assessments carried out in class over the half term**.**

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. The BBC KS3 bitesize is a useful resource - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p.
Students to complete weekly Sparx science tasks.

History

What are we doing this half term? We will be diving into Medieval Britain and the major changes that took place in the 11th Century. Avoiding battle axes, flaming arrows and cavalry charges, we look at the events and results of the Battle of Hastings before finding ourselves transported into the life of a regular medieval resident of a town before building a castle and planning how to attack our enemies' using trebuchets, siege towers or just sit and wait for them to run low on supplies.

How can parents help? Historical books, documentaries and weekend trips (while the weather is nice!) to see history in real life.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term?: This term we will be exploring who Jesus could have been. We will explore this from a Christian, Muslim and Jewish perspective. Students will need to learn key vocabulary carefully and spend time practicing their skills in explaining and evaluating.

How can parents help?: You can encourage your son/daughter at home by discussing their RPE lessons and playing devil's advocate!

Drama

Year 7 will explore what life was like in WW2 through the eyes of evacuees. Students will develop their skills in building character, developing language in role, and learning a range of new techniques such as hot seating.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on how they create and perform a selected scene, alongside the written KS3 checkpoint assessments.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their revision for the test.

Geography

What are we doing this half term? Y7 students will develop their Global Knowledge by investigating the seven continents and the Commonwealth. Followed by comparing and contrasting of Low Income Countries and High-Income Countries. Throughout this topic students will develop their data collection, presentation and analysis skills.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment, short and long answer questions.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment including glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed and test students to confirm that they know the keywords and definitions. Make sure the revision notes for the assessment follow the guidance on the revision help sheet, to include definitions, diagrams and explanations to aid in learning the information. Testing students on the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence, that they can recall relevant information.

Art

What are we doing this half term? Our Year 7 Art & Design students first project is exploring 'The Formal Elements of Art'. Over the course of each lesson students will examine each formal element, looking at how artist's such as Michael Craig Martin and Yayoi Kusama use it in their artwork. Students will create a booklet that documents their exploration over the first half term. This project also includes learning about colour theory, colour mixing and painting techniques.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. Drawing equipment and good quality colouring pencils will support students in completing their work in lesson and at home.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? As students get older they will be going online more often. In computer science students will be learning about the dangers of being online and what they can do to protect themselves. They will learn all aspects of e-safety and will produce a PowerPoint presentation on different aspects of e-safety. Topics they will learn about include: online grooming, cyberbullying, radicalisation, digital footprints and online wellbeing.

Assessments: Students will use quizzes each lesson to assess understanding. The students will complete an end of unit assessment which will give students feedback on their progress.

How can parents help? Parents can start researching and talking to their child about the dangers online. Parents can help students become familiar with using PowerPoint and Office 365.

French



What are we doing this half term? This term, year 7 are going to build upon their skills and expand their target language knowledge to communicate about themselves, their family and pets.

Assessments: Writing and translation assessments into the target language.

How can parents help? Try to learn some French along with your child and help them realise the importance of learning another language for our multicultural world. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary such as www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary.

Music



What are we doing this half term? Students will start an ensemble singing project by learning a Christmas song ready to perform at the Carol Concert in December. Students will be invited to attend and sing as a year group at the concert.

Assessments: Students are assessed on their effort, projection of the voice and intonation**.**

How can parents help?
Please encourage your child to take part in the concert and attend the concert yourselves if you can.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? This term, year 7 are going to build upon their skills and expand their target language knowledge to communicate about themselves, their family and pets.

Assessments: Writing and translation assessments into the target language.

How can parents help? Try to learn some Spanish along with your child and help them realise the importance of learning another language for our multicultural world. Do not allow your child to use online translators and remind them we expect them to use class notes as reference and perhaps a few words from an online dictionary such as www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary.

Design Technology (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term?: We will be looking into the key terms that we use to describe material properties and wood based materials. We will start practicing cutting wood joints to build confidence and resilience then move onto creating a phone stand made from bent plywood. We will be trained on the sanding machine and understand general health and safety and how to perform a risk assessment.

Assessments: Students will be assessed on the finger joint practical work which they have the opportunity to repeat and improve. They will also create a phone stand out of a laminated plywood curve. Practical's will be marked on accuracy and quality of finish.

How can parents help?: Take an interest in the project work and skills they are learning and discuss them. Help them look at products made from wood materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed. Make some IKEA furniture!

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be using recycled fabrics or items of old clothing to design and produce a cultural cushion. The project aims to introduce and develop an understanding of basic Textiles, and to ensure the creative process of the design and make project is acknowledged. Students will also develop an appreciation and awareness of different cultures, and learn how they can reflect on the principles of a certain culture through the medium of colour and fabric.

Assessments: The research work that is completed will be assessed for accuracy and how well inspiration has been drawn from it. The final constructed product will also be assessed using quality and complexity as the benchmarks.

How can parents help?: Discuss the project, look at existing textile products, turn them inside out and understand how they were constructed. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

DT Graphics (Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be given a design context which they will use to design and manufacture a tea light holder that has a pattern inspired by a historical design movement. The project aims to develop students' awareness of design movements whilst encouraging them to reflect upon the needs of different clients. The students will also be given the opportunity to experiment with CAD in order to produce innovative designs.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing patterns and their appropriateness for a tea light holder), Designing (designing patterns that would be appropriate for the tea light holder) and Evaluating (evaluating the final product).

How can parents help? Students will be designing a product for a real world situation, so discussing what customers might want from the products they buy would be useful. It would also be helpful to talk through what design movements are to help support with students' understanding.

Food and Nutrition

What are we doing this half term?
Students arrive with limited skills and knowledge as many primary schools lack the facilities or expertise to teach Food at KS2, therefore much of what they know is taught at home, usually cakes. Year 7 focuses on laying the foundation of basic practical skills and Healthy Eating knowledge to allow students to build upon this in later years. Learning how to use equipment safely is a key focus of this year, with fruits and vegetables being the focused commodity.

How will they be assessed?
Students will be given regular verbal feedback within their practical lessons 'in the moment'. This allows students to act upon this feedback immediately for the maximum impact on progress.
Students will be assessed via written and practical assessments.

Home Learning
Students are set practical evaluations to reflect upon their practical outcome and own personal performance in practical's. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practical's they will continue to develop their weighing and measuring skills at home when preparing their ingredients for lessons.
Students are encouraged to practice their practical skills out of lessons by helping to prepare and cook meals at home.