Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1

English

What are we doing this half term? This half term, students will continue their English journey with 'Identity poetry' This unit will require students to engage with a range of poetry and spoken word and understand how this can be used to shape identity. Students will develop their own spoken language skills, explore how writers use language to achieve effects and also develop their writing skills - all whilst learning to use a number of figurative devices.

Assessments: Tri-weekly, testing skills, comprehension and writing.

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) 2D shapes: line properties, perimeter, area of rectangles, triangles and compound shapes. (2) Coordinates: Using 4 quadrants and problems involving shapes. (3) Factors and Multiples: Finding factor pairs, multiples, HCF and LCM from a list and product of prime factors.

Assessments: There will be a closed book unit assessment after each topic and a bigger assessment covering all of 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.

Science

What are we doing this half term? (1) Plant reproduction topic in Biology, (2) Acids and alkalis topic in Chemistry, (3) Light topic in Physics.

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 studying? Year 7 Students will be continuing their studies of the Middle Ages, moving onto studying the effects of the church and religion in Medieval England including the murder of Thomas Becket and the Crusades. We will evaluate the significance of the Magna Carta and King John and the significance of the Black Death and Peasants revolt. After half term we will be studying a global History unit looking at civilisations outside of Europe.

Assessment: End of unit knowledge and skills test.

How can parents help? Discuss history with your child. Visiting historic sites and museums such as Guildford Castle. Use sites such as BBC Bitesize, encourage wider reading and watching films and programmes such as Horrible Histories.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term? Year 7 will begin this term with the unit 'How do Jews worship'. This will end with an end of topic assessment.

How can parents help? Students will need to learn key vocabulary carefully and spend time practicing their skills in explaining and evaluating. You can encourage your son/daughter at home by discussing their RPE lessons and testing them on their knowledge of Judaism.

Spanish



What are we studying? We will be describing where we live (town/town/bedroom).

Assessment: Listening and Reading

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to learn these words and phrases by testing themselves or by testing them. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y7 students will be investigating settlement.

Assessments: Check point assessments and 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 pens for annotating answers. Testing students on the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence. 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.

French



What are we studying? We will be describing where we live (town/house/bedroom)

Assessment: Listening and Reading.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to learn these words and phrases by testing themselves or by testing them. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term? This term the students will start learning the basics of programming. They will be using a website called code.org to learn the basic building blocks of all software and how to apply the theory of computational thinking.

Assessments: The students will be doing an assessment every few lessons to check progress.

How can parents help? Parents can explore the bbcs bitesize website on programming with your child so that they become familiar with programming: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhy39j6.

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.

Drama



What are we doing this half term: Building on skills gained last half term, year 7 will explore a storyline based on 'Gloom Manor'. This Scheme of Learning takes the students on an adventure to explore a Manor house and the woman who lives there. Students will develop their skills in building tension and climax in scenes. Students deepen their confidence in the use of key techniques such as hot seating, whole class improvisation and flashback. They will be challenged to build their own creative responses to scenarios and their own performance skills will be honed.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on their knowledge of key drama vocabulary taught this term and their performance of a key scene. Encourage your child to hand home learning in on time and to enable them time and space to complete this effectively.

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.
Practical lessons include: Eat the Rainbow Wrap, Boiled egg and soldiers, Quesadilla, Flatbread and tzatziki, Cheese and Spinach Muffins, Sausage Koftas.

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 practicals. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practicals 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.

To be successful in this subject, students will need to be good at and enjoy:

- Learning how to cook independently
- Developing organisational and time management skills
- Developing problem solving skills and the ability to overcome challenges
- Teamwork when carrying out practical investigations
- Learning through practical activities

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 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.

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

Music



What are we studying? Year 7 will be taking a course of keyboards, how to play skilfully, accurately and fluently with a performance for right hand only. Students who have prior experience on the keyboard will be challenged with higher grade pieces with more technical demand, but will also be able to use their music lessons as personal practice time.

Assessments: Performances of their chosen piece.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child has their Music book, a pen, and a pencil every lesson. Support your child with learning keywords, developing their musical literacy and encourage them to listen to music at home.

PE



What are we doing this half term? PE lessons at Thamesmead are based on key areas Resilience, Enjoyment, Solidarity, Positivity, Emphathy, 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 complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on PE days.