Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2

English



What are we studying? Poetry Masters: In this un.. students will learn about poetic techniques used by writers and learn the art of interpreting poems. They will also begin to explore how understanding contextual factors influence a writer's work.

Assessment: End of unit assessment tests grammar, knowledge (of poetic techniques, for example), reading skills, writing skills.

How can parents help? Discuss the poems your child has been studying; ensure Lexia, reading logs and spellings are completed each week.

Maths



What are we doing this half term?: (1) Fractions: finding equivalent fractions, ordering fractions and changing between mixed numbers and improper fractions. (2) Adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. (3) Algebra: expanding and simplifying with single brackets, factorising into a single bracket.

Assessments: There will be an open 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) Biology – Variation (2) Chemistry - Separating mixtures (3) Physics - Energy transfer

Assessments: Low stake quizzes and summative assessment. The summative assessment will take place in w/b 19th February. Your child's teacher will give the exact date via Teams.

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 for homework tasks and revision - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p.

It would be useful to have a KS3 Science revision guide to aid students in preparation for summative assessments – https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-SCIENCE-REVISION-LEVELS-GUIDES/dp/B008MWXGFO

Spanish



What are we studying? Going to town - places in town and directions

Assessment: Listening and Reading

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

PE



What are we doing this half term?: Students will continue to take part in activities this half term which is from a different rotation to the Autumn and Spring 1 terms. During each activity block students will be taught a range of skills, tactics and strategies to develop their knowledge and understanding of the activity areas they are studying.

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.

Art



What are we studying? Year 7 students continuing on their 'My Journey to School' project. Students will explore a variety of artists such as David Hockney to inspire a painting based on their own observations.

Assessment: Students are graded holistically throughout the project based on the 4 assessment objectives detailed in their sketchbooks.

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.

History



What are we studying? For the second half of the Spring Term we will be finishing of England in the Middle Ages and completing an assessment on this. We will then be moving on to non-British wider-world History studies looking at civilizations and architecture from all four corners of the globe; from the Great Wall of China to the temples of Machu Pichu. We will be finding out how and when different civilizations have developed in different parts of the world and developing our global awareness of other historical cultures and societies.

Assessment: England in the Middle Ages

How can parents help? Encouraging your child to watch historical documentaries and reading books on ancient civilizations Visiting The British Museum, London.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we studying? Religious Festivals.

Assessment: All assessments are out of 24 marks and require the following key skills:

a) Key words defined

b) Two statements of belief

c) Explanation

d) The use of scripture as supporting evidence

e) Evaluation

How can parents help? Discuss RPE lessons with your son/daughter. Play devils advocate and encourage healthy debate about important topics.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Principles of Programming

Assessment: On the topic above students will answer a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended -response questions.

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise using BBC Bitesize: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7tp34j

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y7 students will be developing their understanding of the challenges and opportunities found in cities. Throughout this topic students will develop a range of 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.

French



What are we studying? Going to town- places in town and directions

Assessment: Listening and Reading

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

Drama



What are we studying this half term - Building on skills and techniques learnt in our previous scheme of learning Gloom Manor, Year 7 will learn about 'Hamlet by William Shakespeare. They will become confident in the plot of the play, and explore how actors build atmosphere effectively. The class will learn some key drama techniques such as conscience alley, soundscape and soliloquy as they explore the play.

Assessment: Students are accessed on a performance of a scene. The marks reflect how they create their drama, perform in role and how they evaluate their performance. Help your child develop critical thinking by asking them their opinion on films or live theatre seen.

Food and Nutrition

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. Practicals 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 sewing skills at home.

Music

What are we studying? Year 7 students will be using triads to compose a fanfare piece in ternary form.

Assessment: A performance of a fanfare composition in pairs.

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.