Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1

English

What are we doing this half term? Victorian Author Study - A Christmas Carol: We will begin the year looking at one of the most well-known novels, A Christmas Carol. Students will enjoy reading an abridged version of this popular Gothic fiction piece. Students will understand how authors build plot, character and setting as well as tropes and stereotypes around a ghost story/ piece of fiction. Students will use a range of inference and analytical skills, looking at both language and structure.
Assessments: three checkpoint assessments across the first term including a skills check, a guided formative assessment with detailed feedback and a summative assessment.
How can parents help? Please encourage your children to read (we always ask this, it really does develop their literacy skills), as well as encouraging your children to complete home learning to the best of their ability.

Maths

What are we doing this half term? Students will be working on fractions, decimals and percentages, with a particular focus on percentage change. They will then move onto probability, followed by standard form.
Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic.
How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX (the maths homework platform) spending at least 50 minutes per week doing their home learning - they should be completing 100% of the tasks each week.

History

What are we doing this half term? Pack your work bag kids because we are heading to the factory! We will start by studying the various aspects of the Industrial Revolution. We'll be finding out what life was like for children in Victorian Britain and about the great and famous inventors of the time and the impact that they had on shaping the modern world. We will conclude with an investigation into Britain's most notorious murderer - Jack the Ripper - and finding out not only about him but also the victims and the nature of the police investigation.
Assessment - checkpoint knowledge and skills.

How can parents help? Books, documentaries, visits to London and other historical sites such as the Museum of London, Museum of London Docklands or Florence Nightingale Museum.

Science

What are we doing this half term? Cell Biology, Atomic structure and the Periodic Table.
Assessments: 3 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 GCSE bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrkw2hv

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term? Welcome to **Full Course GCSE Religious Studies**! Students will have 2 hours a week of GCSE teaching ready for the exam at the end of Year 10. Thamesmead has chosen Judaism alongside Christianity for GCSE exam in yr10. Both are Abrahamic faiths with the same laws and prophets so easier to recall.
How can parents help? Students need to attend lessons with the correct equipment and a GCSE attitude. You can support your son/daughter by encouraging them to use GCSE Pod.

Computer Science

What are we doing this half term? Students will be building on the Python programming techniques that they have learn 't about in year 8. They will continue to use their computational thinking skills to write, test, debug and run small programs. The students will be learning more advanced programming techniques such as functions and lists in Python.
Assessments: Students will be doing an assessment every three weeks as a check for understanding and mastery.
How can parents help? We ask parents to get their child to practice the programming techniques they have already learnt about. Students can use the CS Newbs website (https://www.csnewbs.com/python) to practice programming techniques. Parents can also help by making sure home learning is completed as this helps prepare them for each of the 4 assessments they will do this term.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will study development across the globe. They will explore development indicators, the impact of fair trade and life in refugee camps. Throughout this topic students will develop their decision making and critical thinking skills.
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.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Year 9 start the year exploring Shakespeare's Elizabethan Theatre. They will look into extracts from 'Twelfth Night', 'Macbeth' and 'A Midsummer Nights' Dream'. Students will learn about different types of stages in theatre and the Globe's unique stage. They will explore Shakespeare's theatrical convention of gender deception and develop their confidence to read and understand Shakespeare's texts. Students will be assessed on a performance from a scene studied in lessons and the new knowledge they have gained through lessons.
How can parents help? Please support your child to learn their lines for their assessed performance. If you are able, take your child to see a production at The Globe theatre in London.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Students research the Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead festival as a starting point for their first project in Year 9. Students are inspired by a variety of traditional and current popular culture references alongside artists such as Frida Kahlo, Alfonso Castillo Orta and Jose Posada. Students refine their skills using a variety of painting and drawing techniques and processes to create their own Calavera celebrating the life of a loved one or someone they admire.
How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. High quality drawing and painting equipment will support students in completing their work in lesson and at home. Discussing popular culture and examples of art & design in our everyday lives encourages students to make connections and develops visual literacy to support creative thinking.

Spanish



What are we doing this half term? We launch into the exciting world of Media, watching Spanish film trailers, choosing French TV programmes to watch and considering the benefits and dangers of social media. the emphasis is on expressing more advanced opinions and using more past tense.
Assessments: Students will be doing a vocabulary test every two weeks. The end of module assessment will be mid-Oct.
How can parents help? Highlight the importance of language learning in our global world for encouraging tolerance of other cultures as well as giving them the edge in business. 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 - www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence. regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence.

French



What are we doing this half term? We launch into citing world of Media, watching French film trailers, choosing French TV programmes to watch and considering the benefits and dangers of social media. the emphasis is on expressing more advanced opinions and using more past tense.
Assessments: Students will be doing a vocabulary test every two weeks. The end of module assessment will be mid-Oct.
How can parents help? Highlight the importance of language learning in our global world for encouraging tolerance of other cultures as well as giving them the edge in business. 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 - www.wordreference.com. Testing your child on key vocabulary regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence. regularly will help them memorise key vocabulary and grammar ahead of assessments and build confidence.

Music



What are we doing this half term? The first project 9 will be about Jazz. Student's will start the year by revisiting the blues, before extending their understanding of chords, scale and improvisation.
Assessments: Jazz piece performed in pairs.
How can parents help? Please ensure your child has a pen, a pencil and their Music book each lesson and provide help with learning the key musical words.

PE



What are we doing this half term? Through a range of team and individual sports students improve and develop not just their athletic ability but also learn valuable skills to take away such as teamwork, communication, leadership and sportsmanship. With each sport they will develop more advanced skills, tactics and strategies.
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.

Design Technology (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term? Students will learn about metal materials. They will cut, drill, file and finish galvanised steel sheet into a desk tidy. They will learn about heat treatment and bending metals effectively. They will also learn about casting metals and make a piece of pewter jewellery/key ring. They will also learn about mechanisms. The project aims to introduce students to practical skills relating to metal. The students will use a range of tools and equipment in order to create products made from metals.
Assessments: The complexity and quality of the material.
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 metal materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed.

DT Graphics (Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be learning about what graphics is and how it is applied to different products. Students will then spend time researching colour theory and typography and looking at how graphic products are produced, before embarking on a series of Design Challenges that involve them designing graphic products. The project aims to encourage students to consider how information is communicated, and what makes an effective graphic product, before giving them the chance to create some. In Product Design, students' will be exposed to a Mini GCSE project related to designing for the disability. Students' will be learning about Inclusive and Exclusive design, Ergonomics and Anthropometric data and how to use iterative design to produce the best solution for the Design brief.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing film posters), Designing (designing a graphic product), Making (producing a graphic product) and Evaluating (evaluating the effectiveness of the final product).
How can parents help? Offering students feedback about the work that they are doing is always helpful as it enables students to reflect upon the effectiveness of their work.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term? This year more complex practical skills are introduced in preparation for KS4 study. This ensures that students who opt for the subject at KS4 are well prepared but also those that do not continue with the subject still learn complex skills that they can use at home. A key focus is different pastry skills and considering the different nutritional profiles of different types of pastry. These intermediate skills build on the foundations of the basic skills learned in year 7 and 8. Our students come from a variety of different cultures so a focus in year 9 is International and British cuisines. This topic is sequenced in the final year of KS3 as it pulls through knowledge from the previous years and also from other subjects such as RE, Science, Geography and Maths.
Practical lessons include: Turkey burgers, 50:50 Bolognaise, Corn, chilli and cheese empanadas, Cauliflower Mac and Cheese, Singapore Noodles, Risotto, Tomato Spaghetti, Fruity crumble bars
Assessment: 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.
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.
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.