Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2

English

What are we doing this half term? Descriptive and Narrative writing. In this creative writing unit students will use a range of extracts and images to inspire them and to build their creative writing skills. They will learn about the use of language devices and structure to craft a piece of creative writing, as well as the accurate use of sentences for effect.

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

How can parents help? Please encourage your children to read (we always ask this; it really does develop their literacy skills) and complete their home learning and Lexia.

PE

What are we doing this half term? Building on skills, techniques and strategies learnt in year 7, students will rotate through the curriculum on a half term cycle, experiencing a variety of sports and activities from invasion games, net games, striking and fielding games, aesthetic activities and athletics.

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.

Music

What are we doing this half term? The first project in year 9 will be about Jazz. Students 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.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? This half term we will be covering inequalities, solving quadratic equations and rearranging formulae.

Assessments: Students will complete a unit assessment after each topic, and will also complete a large assessment at the end of the half term which covers all that they have learnt so far.

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. Maths homework club runs every Monday in room 4C if students need help.

Science

What are we doing this half term? Cell Biology and Atomic structure and the Periodic Table topics are completed.

Assessments: 2 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. Students to complete weekly Sparx science tasks.

History

What are we doing this half term? We finish of our study of the Industrial Revolution by looking at a case study of one of the most notorious Victorian Britain events of all time - the Jack the Ripper murders.

Assessments: There will be an in-class assessment on this unit. We then dive into the trenches and battlefields of World War One. Looking at why an assassination in Sarajevo sparked the war and what the fighting conditions were like for those involved.

How can parents help? Books, films, documentaries. A visit to the Imperial War Museum in London would be fantastic to see their World War One exhibition.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term? After half term Yr9 students will start the Religion Peace and Conflict themes unit. In this unit, students explore religious teachings about peace, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation.
They examine causes of war and conflict, including terrorism and nuclear weapons. Students study Christian and Jewish responses to violence and peace-making. Key topics include just war theory, pacifism, and the role of religious organisations in promoting peace. Real-world examples are used to apply ethical and theological ideas. The unit encourages thoughtful reflection on moral choices in times of conflict.

Students need to attend lessons with the correct equipment, an open mind and a GCSE attitude. Every lesson from day 1 counts towards that final grade.

How can parents help? You can support your son/daughter by encouraging them to use their school subscription to GCSE Pod. Every lesson is consolidated into a short 4-5 minute video which helps students break the course up into manageable bite size chunks.

Geography

What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will study natural hazards across the globe. They will explore a range of hazards included earthquakes and volcanoes, the impact on people and the environment. Throughout this topic students will develop their decision making and critical thinking skills.

Assessments: An end of topic written project.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler, glue, scissors and a green pen for peer and self-assessment. Investigate relevant web cams to watch natural hazards as they happen, for example, https://www.skylinewebcams.com/en/webcam/espana/canarias/las-palmas/cumbre-vieja.html.
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.

Drama

What are we doing this half term?: Year 9 will explore the text 'Woman in Black' this half term and will
develop their understanding of how this play was created successfully to build a ghost story on stage. Students will learn about the plot and key characters in the text. They will experiment with multi rolling and the importance of accent to convey a range of roles. Students will experiment with building atmosphere and tension to create jump scares, whilst building the audience's imagination through successful delivery of text.

Assessment: Their work will culminate in an assessed piece of theatre which the students will write and
perform themselves inspired by their learning on 'The Woman In Black' Ghost story.

French



What are we doing this half term? This term, Year 9 French students will expand their vocabulary through the theme of Holidays. They will have the opportunity to use three tenses, past, present and future and continue to develop their opinions.

Assessments: Speaking describing a a picture and through general conversation.

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.

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 continue to do regular assessments to check for progress.

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.

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? This term, Year 9 Spanish students will expand their vocabulary through the theme of Holidays. They will have the opportunity to use three tenses, past, present and future and continue to develop their opinions.

Assessments: Speaking describing a a picture and through general conversation.

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.

Design Technology (Rotation)



What are we doing this half term?: 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. Student's 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..

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.

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term?: Students will be advancing their decorative skills and design creativity by making a textile wall hanging based on an inspirational theme. It will include printing, embroidery and applique techniques. Students will be introduced to the method of working needed for the new Textile Design GCSE, planned for a September 2022 start**.**

Assessments: The research task into the inspiration for the design will be assessed, as well as each decorative technique and the final construction.

How can parents help?: Discuss the project, look at existing textile designs that exist in your home and other places. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

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.

Assessments: 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