Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 1

English

What are we doing this half term? Students will begin the spring half term exploring Romantic poetry. They will be introduced to the likes of Shelley, Blake and Wordsworth to name a few of the classic poets. They will learn a range of poetic devices and apply this knowledge to unpicking and analysing poetry.

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

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their Lexia weekly and their specific Romantic poetry home learning. If you can encourage and listen to your children read too and ask them questions to test their comprehension skills, that is even better!

History

What are we studying? Year 9 will be continuing their studies of World War One, considering issues such as medical advancements, the contribution of troops from the Empire and why the Allies won the war. In the second half of term we will move on to looking at Suffragettes, women and the vote. Then moving on to the causes of World War Two.

How can parents help? Discuss history with your child. Visiting historic sites and museums such as the Imperial War Museum. Use BBC Bitesize.
Encourage wider reading and watching of historical films such as War Horse.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

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.

How can parents help? 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. 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.

Maths

What are we doing this half term?: Students will be working on constructions, followed by circles (area and circumference) and cylinders (volume and surface area).

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. Energy topic is then started as well as Chemistry topic 2 - Bonding and structure.

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.

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 also be learning about key algorithms sued to search and sort lists of data.

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.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will study ecosystems across the globe. They will focus on the rainforest and polar regions. Throughout this topic students will develop their decision making and critical thinking skills.

Assessments: Tri-weekly 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 a green pen for annotating answers. Testing students on the information on their revision pages helps build their confidence, that they can recall relevant information. Watch the weather reports on the news, so pupils can familiarise themselves with key terms. 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.

Spanish



What are we studying? School and future plans
Assessment: Assessment & 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.

French



What are we studying? School and future plans
Assessment: Assessment & 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.

PE



What are we doing this half term?: Through a range of team and individual sports students will continue to 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 continue to 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 complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on PE days. on PE days.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Students will explore and learn about infamous news events through history and use these as stimuli for devising theatre. The Scheme of Learning will begin with the shocking school shooting in the 1970s committed by Brenda Ann Spencer. Students will learn about this event, and use thought tracking to consider what led this girl to such an atrocious act. Students will discuss how such events could be prevented and mental health support will be discussed. Through the half term other True Crime will be explored and students will refine their performance skills and develop their ability to cooperate in groups to devise their own response to events. How can parents help: Build a healthy interest in the news and current affairs.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on their knowledge of devising techniques and their practical devised performances.
How can parents help: Build a healthy interest in the news and current affairs.

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, dough balls and garlic butter, Mac and Cheese, Singapore Noodles.

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?: 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 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.

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.

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.

Music

What are we doing this half term? This half term we will be exploring the importance of music in film. Students will have the chance to understand how music is used to compliment other media, have a go at performing some film pieces but also compose some of their own as well.

Assessments: Students will be assessed about their understanding of the musical elements and how they can be used to create certain moods. They will also be assessed on practical elements of performance and composition.

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.