Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2

English

What are we studying? Poetry study: Worlds and Lives. In this unit, students will examine and explore a series of poems from the Worlds and Lives anthology. These poems include Romantic Poet study, along with Cultural poetry, exploring different worlds and lives of the poets. They will study the context of the poem, the conventions and tone within the poems as well completing key structural and language analysis, building on skills for Year 10.

Assessment: End of unit assessment, assessing reading and analysis skills.

How can parents help? Please assist your child with completing their spelling books, quiz them on the novel, ask them about the plot and characters.

Maths

What are we doing this half term? students will be working on Pythagoras' Theorem before moving on to Ratio and Proportion (including calculating best value for money).

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 1C if students need help.

Science

What are we doing this half term? Students will start their GCSE course in Science with Biology topic 1 – Cell Biology, Chemistry topic 1 - Atomic structure and the Periodic Table and Physics topic 1 - Energy

Assessments: Low stake quizzes at the end of each topic.

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

History

What are we studying? For the second half of the Spring Term we will first of all be completing our assessment on World War One, then moving on to look at the Suffragettes and women achieving the vote in 1918 and then on to World War Two. We will be thinking about how and why a man such as Hitler came to power in Germany in the 1930s and the impact that World War Two had, not only in Germany, but across Europe and the wider world.

How can parents help? Read: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak **Watch:** Saving Private Ryan **Visit:** The Imperial War Museum, London.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

This term we are studying Judaism beliefs from the AQA spec A course.

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 managable bite size chunks.

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.

Art



What are we doing this half term? Students are continuing to explore the Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead festival within their 'Life & Death in Mexican Art' project. Students are inspired by a variety of traditional and current popular culture references alongside artists such as Frida Kahlo and Butch Locsin. 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.

French



What are we studying? Food and drink including ordering food and buying at a market using quantities.
Assessment: Vocabulary test
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? Students wil 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 regularly quizzed on the programming techniques that they have learnt. The students will also have an end of unit assessment on the advanced programming techniques that they have learnt about.

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

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will continue to 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: 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.

Spanish



What are we studying? Environment including recycling, global problems, protecting the planet and natural disasters
Assessment: Vocab and grammar test to consolidate knowledge for the end of module assessment.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to make a bank of flashcards to revise words and phrases. Encourage your child to share what they have learnt in class.

Drama



What are we doing this half term? Students will complete their exploration of devising theatre techniques started last half term and will explore one last stimulus to inspire their devised work. They will be given a project to devise their own piece of theatre in the final lessons of the term.

Assessment: Devising a piece of drama using Devising techniques taught and a knowledge test on key devising techniques and drama vocabulary.

Help at home? Please ensure your child completes their homework on time and encourage them to research into their chosen stimulus in more depth.

Food and Nutrition

Students will develop their prior knowledge of bacteria, cross contamination, food poisoning and food storage and build on prior knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating. Focusing on different dietary requirements and diet related diseases. Much of this scheme of work focuses on food choice and food provenance. Gaining a good understanding behind reasons for food choice and how a person's; religion, moral beliefs, level of physical activity, allergies and intolerances can affect their food choice. They will gain an understanding of how the food industry negatively impacts the environment and allows them to think of ways this could be improved in households and within industry. Practical lessons will include Chilli Con Carne, Mac n Cheese, Vegetable Biryani and Sweet and Sour Chicken.

How will they be assessed? Assessment will include, Research into different cultures and their traditional cuisines, time plan and making of their own meal.

Home Learning: What parents can do to help? Encourage a discussion of the origins and carbon footprint of the food we eat, create an awareness of seasonal and local produce. Try making all dishes again at home, adapting and improving recipes, promote a love of food and nutrition by involving your child in the preparation of family meals.

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? 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

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.

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.

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.

Music

What are we doing this half term? Year 9 will be continuing with their film music project, developing their understanding of the elements of music. They will be practicing listening and appraising music using theses elements, which will help them prepare for GCSE music if it is one of their options. They will also work on a project where they compose music for an action scene.

Assessments:

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.