Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 1

English

What are we studying? Media Unit: The Social Dilemma. Students will begin the summer term by studying the Netflix Documentary The Social Dilemma. They will look at evaluating the pros and cons of social media and the context and development of technology. The unit will look at rhetoric and how we are persuaded as consumers. Students will develop their rhetorical skills and complete a spoken language assessment at the end of the unit.

Assessment: End of unit assessment - knowledge, grammar, reading and writing skills

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete their home learning in good time. If you can listen to your child read, that is even better!

Maths



What are we studying? Year 9 Higher students are moving on to Proportion, and then Angles and Polygons this half term, whist foundation students move onto Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.

Assessment: Students will continue to complete unit assessments for each topic.

How can parents help? Please help students to check they have the correct Maths equipment, especially scientific calculators, and that homework is being completed.

PE

With a focus on athletics and striking and fielding activities, such as cricket, rounders and softball 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.

Science

What are we doing this half term? Students will continue with their GCSE course in Science with Biology topic 3 - Infection and response, Chemistry topic 2 - Bonding and Structure and Physics topic 1 - Energy

Assessments: Low stake quizzes and summative assessment.

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)

Welcome to the Full Course of GCSE Religious Studies!

What are we studying? Relationships and Families

Assessment: The same style of assessment is used throughout the year. 5 questions that add up to 24

How can parents help? Ask your son/daughter lots of questions, play devils advocate!

Art

What are we studying? Year 9 students are starting a project based on 'Contemporary Portraits'. This includes studying variety of historical and iconic portraits including the Pop Art movement.

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. Visiting local and national art galleries and discussing works of art and design at home can enable students to gain confidence in their creative thinking.

History



What are we studying? We continue our studies of World War Two, moving on to an in depth study of the Holocaust - looking at both victims and perpetrators and how and why this happened. We then move on to looking at the fight for Civil Rights from around the world from both here in the UK, to the USA, South Africa, India and elsewhere.

Assessment: End of year assessment.

How can parents help: Encourage your child to read books or watch films related to World War Two and the Holocaust such as the 'Once' series by Morris Gleitzmann or the film 'The Pianist.' Visit the Imperial War Museum.

French



What are we studying? Target Language Speaking world

Assessment: Informal writing and End of year assessments

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

Music



What are we studying? Year 9 students are completing two projects on Film Music this term. Most classes will initially be on the computers composing music to accompany a James Bond film clip. The other classes will be learning to play famous film themes on the keyboards. Classes will then swap rooms at half term to complete the other film music project.

Assessment: Completed James Bond film piece/Film Music keyboard performance

How can parents help? Please ensure your child arrives to their lessons with their Music book, a pen, ruler and pencil, and encourage them to listen to lots of Music at home.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y9 students will explore sustainable cities.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has a glue and scissors. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed. Revision notes for assessments need to follow the guidance on the revision help sheet.

Drama



What are we studying this half term? Theatre practitioners will be explored in Drama, such as the director and playwright Emma Rice and Joan Littlewood.

Assessment: Devised Performance.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes any home learning on time, encourage them to express themselves in lesson and complete wider reading around the topic.

Spanish



What are we studying? Target Language Speaking world

Assessment: Informal writing and End of year assessments

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

Computer Science



What are we studying? Fundamentals of Networks

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/guides/zc6rcdm/revision/1

Food and Nutrition

How can parents help?: 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.

Assessment: will include, Research into different cultures and their traditional cuisines, Time plan and Making of their own meal.

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 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**.**

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).