Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 1

English

What are we studying? Language Paper 1 skills . Students will study a range of extracts as they get to grips with the skills required of them for their English Language paper. The papers will test their reading, writing, analysis and comprehension skills.

Assessment: End of unit assessment - Creative writing assessments.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their Lexia minutes and completes all home learning. If you can listen to your child read, that is even better!

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.

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!

Maths

What are we studying? Year 9 students will be working on compound measures and motion-time graphs. 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.

Science

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

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.

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. Students will develop an understanding of the key information and cultural differences between the different regions of France, such as festivals, food & drink and key environmental aspects

Assessment: vocabulary test and End of year assessment.

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 learning about the importance of hooks and riffs in pop music. This will involve in depth analysis of melody and rhythm and performance and composition tasks.

Assessment: Performance of a piece of pop music.

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



Whare are we studying this half term?
Students have previously learnt how to make drama using a range of techniques and skills and will now learn more about other people who have made drama in their own styles. This half term students will learn about a range of Theatre Practitioners; those from the past and those who are making theatre today.

Assessment: Making a piece of drama in the style of a practitioner. Writing an evaluation on the work created. Help at home? Please ensure your child completes their homework on time and encourage them to research into past and current theatre makers.

Spanish



What are we studying? Target Language Speaking world. Students will explore festivals and cultures related to religion, beliefs, and heritage in Spanish-speaking countries.

Assessment: vocab test and End of year assessment.

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

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.

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).