



Year Seven Curriculum News - Autumn 2009

Dear Parents

Firstly, I hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday. At our first assembly I welcomed all the pupils and adults who work and learn here, hoping they settle quickly to the new school year and find it both enjoyable and successful.

Thanks to suggestions and discussions by our Home School Partnership we are changing the format of our Parents Evenings, a letter will follow soon. On 13th and 14th October we are offering two nights of appointments between 4pm and 6pm, when you will be able to talk with your child's class teacher on pastoral and academic matters. Academic information will have been passed on by subject teachers, and examples of your child's work will be available. The school will also be open for parents on 15th October from 4pm to 5pm when you are welcome to look around classrooms and meet some staff on an informal basis.

Due to our changes in timetable and staffing we are also making some changes to our Parents evenings in January and February. For parents of children in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) there will be no change; 5 minute appointments with subject teachers of your choice. For parents of children in Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) there will be longer appointments with your child's class teacher who again will be supplied with an account of academic progress from subject teachers.

I trust that you will enjoy and be informed by the following newsletter. We are all looking forward to a term of hard work, achievement and enjoyment. Please contact us if there is any matter you wish to discuss with us about the education and welfare of your child.

Yours sincerely

David Watson.

Maths

This year sees the continuation of our scheme of work for Year 7, Framework Maths. It is a well-structured, differentiated scheme with regular homeworks that match classwork well. This scheme is followed in Year 8 and in Year 9 at the high school, providing good continuity for our pupils.

The main topics covered this term are:

- Sequences and functions- relating sequences to diagrams, rules and patterns.
- Number calculations – including negative numbers.
- Perimeter and area – measurement and calculation.
- Fractions and decimals – equivalence, calculations.
- Statistics and probability – interpreting and analysing data, finding averages.
- Expressions and formulae – simplifying and solving expressions; using formulae.
- Angles and shape – finding angles in simple shapes and on lines. Coordinates.

There is a lot of work to cover so we will all need to rise to the challenge.

English

The year begins with a topic that has a focus on Fiction, the personal choices of pupils and how settings, plot and characters are developed across a number of genres. Medieval Ballads including Lady Diamond (Anon) are studied – their form subject matter and content. This will be followed by an introduction to Chaucer.



Science

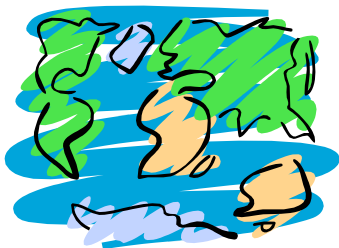
Key Stage 3 Science is following a new and condensed curriculum. This means that, not only has the content had a thorough shake up, but the way in which we deliver the topics has also altered giving the pupils a wider experience of how science fits into the everyday world. The biggest difference will be that we are completing KS3 in 2 years.

The topics covered this term will be: Energy, Acids and Alkalis, Particle Model and Cells. We have a lot to fit in and so it is important for pupils to catch up with any work missed due to absence and to complete homework, which is all in the red booklet, on time. Each pupil's performance will be assessed over a wide variety of practical skills and written and oral tasks so pupils will always be encouraged to do their best.

History

Key Stage 3 History begins by going back to the Norman Period but concentrating upon the concept of Power and how the Normans controlled this country. Study will move to the power of the Church within Medieval society including the struggle between King and Thomas Becket. Medieval life through to the Black Death will also be studied.

Geography



In year 7 pupils will be studying a unit called Making Connections; this unit helps pupils to develop a range of geographical skills and techniques. The pupils will be learning about places and how they are connected in many different ways. They will discover how some countries are dependant on others and think about how the pupils themselves are linked with other parts of the world. Towards the end of the term pupils will be studying Our Restless Earth, a topic based upon volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Pupils will identify and describe the patterns and distribution of the world's volcanoes and earthquakes. They will look particularly at the Eruption of Montserrat, the Earthquake in Pakistan and

the Boxing Day Asian Tsunami.

Life skills

Pupils study units of work covering material from Religious Education, Personal and Social Education and Citizenship. During the year, pupils will cover six units of work. These will cover subjects such as relationships, rights and responsibilities, bullying, study skills, the media and environmental issues as well as looking at aspects of Christianity. Pupils will begin with a unit entitled "Myself and My Community." We look at the different communities to which the pupils belong and at their relationships within these. We discuss relationships within their families, with their peers – including advice on how to deal with bullying.

French

Year 7 will continue to complete work based on our course book *Métro 1*. They will learn to talk about school subjects and give their opinions of these. During the course of this work they will learn to tell the time in French and discuss their timetables. The activities related to this work will be varied – to include oral and group activities, games, songs and raps designed to stimulate and maintain pupils' interest and to promote self-confidence in language learning skills. Following this we shall be completing a module of work "Tout à propos des animaux" which focuses on endangered animals around the world and environmental issues. The pupils will complete a variety of thinking skills activities and, through these tasks, increase their knowledge of the language, particularly verbs in the present tense.

Food Technology

This term the Year 7 pupils will be building on the skills they acquired during Year 6. The year starts out with a recap of the safety and hygiene rules and basic skills they learned last year. They will acquire a new range of skills and techniques using basic food preparing tools such as a food processor, microwave and hand mixers. This will develop the pupils' understanding of working with food through a range of activities. The pupils design, plan and make a celebration scone. They also participate in a sensory tasting experiment, which always produces interesting results!

Art and Design

Year 7 will be looking at the work of Moritz Escher. We will develop tessellating pattern images and then explore their graphic possibilities. As an extension to this we will also develop a block print using the same design.

Music



Year 7 pupils begin a '**Keyboard Skills**' course. Pupils will learn how to play basic tunes using a limited range of notes on the keyboard with the correct fingering. There will also be a performance at the end of the unit of work, so pupils will need to concentrate on playing accurately and in time. Once the initial notes keys and hand position are established, pupils will learn how to read the music notation in order to play from conventional music notation. This is a self-challenge course and pupils will receive a certificate to reward their level of progress. For pupils who play keyboard/piano the course has a more advanced section where pupils learn chords and how to use rhythm and accompaniments in a variety of musical styles.

Pupils also work on a project called Scaling the Heights. This project helps pupils to understand how scales are constructed and requires them to compose a short tune using the notes of the C major scale; to identify scale passages when they occur in well known pieces of music; to play a scale of C major on keyboard and to take part in a five part instrumental piece in the key of C major called *Pavane for JP*.

Technology

Around the home it is not uncommon for electrical items to stop functioning, with the cause usually being the fuse. As these items are often difficult to determine whether or not they are functioning, a fuse tester is a very useful and practical continuity tester. Pupils will be introduced to several electronic components, their function and method of assembly, making this into a novel and individual project.

Physical Education

During the autumn term pupils will be involved in the following activities; hockey, football, rugby and netball. Pupils will practise and revise their individual skills such as ball control, passing, shooting, striking and develop their understanding of team play through small sided games. Rules continue to be developed as pupils begin to play small versions of the real game. An awareness of health and safety measures is developed throughout the term. This involves warming up correctly, handling equipment correctly and being appropriately dressed for lessons.

ICT

This term the pupils will be embarking on a project to consolidate their own understanding of *e-safety*. They will then design a package of resources for year 5 children on the subject. The project will involve various stages: planning, data collection, data analysis, production of resources and evaluation.

Pupils will explore the concept of fitness for purpose when using images, text, colour and/or sound to enhance their project. They will consider how to match and adapt to a given audience and purpose. Finally, they will evaluate the suitability of their work for different audiences and purposes.

Homework

Homework is set on a more or less weekly basis in English and Mathematics; in French and Geography homework is set once a fortnight. Occasionally additional work is set in the form of reading tasks, research and the completion of class work. French homework will arise directly from work covered during lessons and will be set according to the ability of the pupils. History, ICT and Science homework is more flexible depending on the work being followed. Teachers will set homework as and when required, and will check regularly that the commitment is being met. Food and Textiles Technology and Technology set homework at the beginning and end of a project, whilst the Music department sets one homework per term with a week to complete it. There may be times when pupils will be asked to finish off Life Skills class work. Pupils are also encouraged to read at home on a regular basis and to keep a reading record in school.

Where possible, pupils will be given several days to complete tasks and the day on which they are to be completed is recorded in the student planner. The amount of time spent on each homework will vary from pupil to pupil but should generally take up to an hour.