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Parents of Pupils in Year 7

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to another school term. I thought that you might like to know some details about what your child will be studying during the summer term. A brief summary follows:

Art

Continue with the theme of 'seashore'. Pupils will expand on their key skills in pattern and texture through ceramics. They will develop and experiment with mark making through relief building, incision and indentation techniques. Pupils will produce a ceramic 3D fish utilizing all these taught skills.

Biology

Pupils will study the variety of living things; the distribution and abundance of organisms including world habitats and adaptations; photosynthesis as the origin of all food, food chains and webs and decomposition; plant growth including the action of plant hormones; population changes and regulation, factors affecting population size (space, food availability, disease predators and the physical environment).

Chemistry

Pupils will apply their practical skills to the topic of solids, liquids and gases. Pupils will independently plan practicals and will begin to complete detailed risk assessments. During the practicals pupils will focus on working accurately to ensure their results are reliable by increasing sample sizes.

English

Pupils will move onto preparing for their summer exam. This will be a comprehension paper based upon a fiction reading source. They will also complete a creative writing task, which will require a particular style of writing, for example, writing to argue or describe. The exam paper will be in the same format as the new AQA GCSE English language paper and will act as a stepping stone towards the skills required for more advanced study of the subject. Pupils will also prepare for a test on SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar). A revision booklet will be given to all pupils to help them revise and practise their skills at home; this will be essential preparation for their English exam.

French

Pupils will talk about their town/village; discuss weekend activities; invite people out and talk about holidays. They will also learn how to use reflexive verbs in the context of getting ready every day for school. Finally, they will learn how to order drinks and snacks in a café and will be taught how to form the near future tense, which will then be used in the context of discussing future plans and dreams.

Geography

Pupils will continue to study the topic 'Africa', however they will move onto an in-depth study of one region; The Horn of Africa. They will learn about the physical features, the climate, economic activities including farming and salt mining and the problem of piracy in the seas off the coast of Somalia.

German

Pupils will cover the topics of school and holidays. Through these units we will focus on school facilities, rules, descriptions, currency, buildings and developing detailed opinions. It will also give us an opportunity to compare schools in German speaking countries to those in England. Grammatical topics such as word order, possessive pronouns, negatives, the future tense and prepositions will also be covered.

History

Pupils will continue their study of life in medieval England. We will look at life in villages and towns in addition to a study of the origin of the English language, knights and tournaments. We will finish the term with a summary of medieval crime and punishment, the Wars of the Roses and Richard III.

Computing

Pupils will create a website learning about the elements that make up a web page as well as how the internet itself works. In the second half term they will try their hand at app development.

Maths

Pupils will be studying some very important topics during the summer term. They will have their first introduction to solving equations using the balance method. They will also study the links between fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio and how to convert from one type to another. Towards the end of term, focus will move towards shape topics including reflection, rotation and tessellations.

Music

Pupils learn how the smallest musical distance, a semitone, affects mood in jazz and classical styles. They play and compose melodies incorporating semitones. Pupils respond visually by drawing an interpretation of orchestral music by Debussy. Alongside this they learn about several orchestral instruments.

Physics

Pupils will conclude the work on electricity which was started in the previous term. The wave nature of sound will then be studied and connections made between pitch, frequency and wavelength as well as amplitude and loudness. Associated topics will look at ultrasound and hearing ranges in animals as well as the construction of the ear.

RS

Pupils will explore examples of how Christians have responded to social injustice. They will focus on Martin Luther King and the development of liberation theology in South America.

Spanish

Pupils will study the following areas: school life and uniform, comparison of schools in different countries, the time, free time, the weather, daily routine, home and local area and directions. Within these contexts the following grammatical concepts will be covered; adjectival agreements, regular and irregular verbs present tense, reflexive verbs, 'ser' and 'estar', opinions and justifications.

Systems Technology

Pupils will be working on a number of different modules. These will include aerodynamics, construction technology, basic electricity, research and design, robotics, mechanisms, pneumatics, hydraulics, materials and processes, and industrial control. There will be 3 introductory assignments.

Technology

Pupils will be developing 3D drawing skills before they embark on a range of design and make tasks where they will work with a range of materials such as wood, metal and plastic. They will be encouraged to use the new technologies now available to enhance the complexity and challenge of their work.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the summer term. In games such as tennis and cricket, the emphasis will be on refining basic skills and increasing the understanding of match play. In athletics, pupils will be given the opportunity to improve in a variety of individual events and their performances will be recorded and monitored. There will also be some preparation work for sports day which takes place at Middleborough Sports Village this term.

Girls Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the summer term. In games such as tennis and rounders, the emphasis will be on refining basic skills and increasing the understanding of match play. In athletics, pupils will be given the opportunity to improve in a variety of individual events and their performances will be recorded and monitored. There will also be some preparation work for sports day which takes place at Middleborough Sports Village this term.

PSHE

The following modules will be covered: You and Your values: Rules, Conscience, The Right Thing, Manners, To tell or not to tell: You and the Community: Neighbours: Vandalism: You and the Media: Television and its influence/The power of television: Every picture tells a story: Viewpoints matter. You and the world of work: Developing a product: Attitudes to work.

I hope that this information will be useful to you so that you might support your child in their studies as well as revision for the internal examinations which begin on Monday 22 May.

Yours faithfully



M A Makin
Director of Studies