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Parents of Pupils in Year 8

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to another school year. 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

Pupils will develop research of the theme 'mechanical' to create a mood board incorporating primary and secondary source material. They will develop an abstract design and develop a 3D relief clay sculpture.

Biology

Pupils will study plants and ecological relationships. They will find out how plants create their own food and how we use plants for food. We will then study ecological relationships, looking at habitats and how different organisms are able to live in ecosystems with others. We will end the year looking at reproduction in animals.

Chemistry

Pupils will apply their practical skills to the topic 'rocks and materials and their properties'. Pupils will independently plan a range of practicals and will begin to complete detailed risk assessments. During the practicals pupils will focus on working accurately ensuring their results are reliable by increasing the 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 where they live and where they would like to live using part of the conditional tense. They will also describe their house, discuss meal times and shopping for food and drinks. They will continue to use both the near future and the perfect tense but this time, within the context of a talent show.

Geography

Pupils will continue to study the coasts topic in the lead up to the summer examination, with a focus on completing a decision making exercise about coastal management strategies on the Holderness coastline. Later in the term there will be a fieldtrip to Robin Hood's Bay, where they will study the sea defences implemented here and complete a beach profile exercise to develop their fieldwork skills.

German

Pupils will focus on entertainment and fashion. We will look at topics such as going out, clothing, style, arguments for and against school uniforms. Through these themes we will cover grammatical topics such as the present, past and future tenses, forming questions and using 'wenn' clauses.

History

We have just begun our study of Britain in the period 1750-1900. We will study the agricultural, industrial and transport revolutions of the 19th Century. Nineteenth Century crime and punishment will be studied and then the term will finish off with a study of the Napoleonic Wars.

Computing

Pupils will create a story using sound effects. They will explore how computers store, use and process sounds and use it to tell a story.

Maths

Pupils will be finding the area and circumference of circles, solving progressively more challenging equations and rearranging formulae. In preparation for starting the GCSE course in year 9, they will look at work on direct and inverse proportion.

Music

Pupils learn how music can be built around layers of melodies, partly through composing and singing rounds. They play and compose music using the three main chords that form the basis of many different styles. African music and the blues are used to illustrate this

Physics

Pupils will continue to work on power and efficiency, look at saving energy and examine how we pay for electricity. The term will conclude with practically based investigative work.

RS

Pupils will consider how the holocaust should be commemorated. They will also study religious teachings on prejudice and discrimination.

Spanish

Pupils will study the following areas: food, meal times, healthy choices, holidays, transport, accommodation, making reservations, buying food and holiday activities. Within these contexts pupils will learn to develop their written work and spoken word accordingly, review and consolidate present and future tenses and consolidate all grammatical concepts seen to date. They will also be introduced to the preterite tense of regular and common irregular verbs.

Systems Technology

All pupils will be working on a number of different modules this term, such as, Aerodynamics, Construction Tech, Basic Electricity, Research and Design, Robotics, Mechanisms, Pneumatics, Hydraulics, Materials and Processes, and Industrial control. There will be 3 intermediate assignments.

Technology

Pupils will develop their 3D drawing skills at the start of the term, before moving on to refine their hand skills. Later in the term, pupils will carry out a series of designs and make activities where they will work with wood, metal and plastic. Pupils will be encouraged to use computer aided design and manufacture to enhance the appeal and quality of their work.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the summer term. In team games such as tennis and cricket, the aim will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to gain confidence within the competitive environment. 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 team games such as tennis and rounders, the aim will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to gain confidence within the competitive environment. 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 topics will be covered: You and Your values: What influences how you behave: Idols and Heroes: You and the Law: Police duties and powers: Helping the Police: Reprimands and prosecutions: What do you think of the Police?; You and the Media: The influence of advertising: Advertising and children: The Commercial Break: You as a Citizen: The European Union: How does the EU affect you: Should Britain join the Euro?: The EU and the environment: The local environment: Changing the way we live. You and the world of work: Employment and unemployment: Understanding business.

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

Yours faithfully



M A Makin
Director of Studies