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Parents of Pupils in Year 9

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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 continue on from their studies of pop art and the creation on a mood board by developing a collage based self portrait inspired by Andy Warhol and Roy Liechtenstein. Pupils will draw and refine their ideas in order to create a successful and individual self-portrait inspired by Pop Art.

Biology

Pupils will continue with the GCSE syllabus. We will be concentrating on the structure and function of the digestive system. We shall be looking at how enzymes are used to break foods down and also the factors that affect enzyme activity.

Chemistry

Pupils will apply their practical skills to the extraction of metals. Pupils will independently plan a range of investigations and will begin to complete detailed risk assessments. During the practicals students will focus on working accurately, ensuring their results are reliable by increasing sample sizes.

English

Pupils will move onto preparing for their summer exam. This will be a GCSE Paper One comprehension paper based upon a fiction reading source. They will also complete a creative writing task. In addition, pupils will write an essay on GCSE literature poetry. A revision booklet has been given to all pupils to help them revise and practise their skills at home.

French

Pupils will start on the new GCSE, starting with Theme 1, and concentrating on the topic of family and relationships.

Geography

Pupils will complete the first Physical Geography component of their GCSE, 'Natural Hazards' by learning about the evidence for, and the causes, effects and management of, climate change. Following this, they will then begin to focus on Human Geography, beginning with global patterns

of urban change. This will involve investigations in a city in a newly emerging economy (Lagos, Nigeria) and a study of urban change in a UK city (London).

German

This term pupils will look at a selection of Grimm's fairy tales with the aim of writing their own 'Märchen'. We will also explore countries and look at laws and age limits. Pupils will then have the opportunity to create their own country and legal system. Grammatical topics such as tenses, word order, comparatives and superlatives will be covered in order to prepare pupils for the GCSE course.

History

Having completed their work on World War Two, pupils will turn their focus to end of the war and the Holocaust. The term will then conclude with an introduction to the GCSE course focusing on crime and punishment in Saxon/Norman England.

Computing

Pupils will study for the ECDL for Schools qualifications. This involves four exams: PowerPoint, Word, Excel and a scenario based exam called Improving Productivity in which pupils will need to decide which of the three applications to use to get different parts of a job done.

Maths

Pupils will focus on some of the key topics from the GCSE course. In set two pupils will look at probability, ratio and volume and surface area of 3D shapes. Pupils in set one will also study 3D shapes but other topics will have a greater algebraic emphasis, such as inequalities, quadratic equations and rearranging formulae.

Music

Pupils explore the use of technology in modern compositions and performances. They hear and compose music using recorded sound samples and loops in club dance style. Additionally, film and TV music is used as another focus for listening and composing.

Physics

Distance/time and velocity/time graphs will be studied. Pupils will then examine in more detail Newton's laws of motion and their implication to the natural world. Later in the term time will be devoted to investigative work in which pupils will practise analytical and evaluative skills.

RS

Pupils will conclude their work on the problem of evil and suffering. They will study the Irenaean and Augustinian theodicies in addition to Hick's 'vale of soul making' theodicy.

Spanish

Pupils will study the following areas: a review of leisure, well-being and healthy lifestyles, future plans and environmental issues. Within these contexts the following grammatical concepts will be covered and consolidated; present, past and future tenses, expressing opinions and justifying them and developing work in line with GCSE criteria.

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 advanced assignments.

Technology

Following an investigation into the work of a range of graphic designers, pupils will work on the promotion and packaging of a range of popular items. They will be rebranding their favourite CD, DVD or game, before investigating cinema advertising and creating a free standing cartoon character.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the summer term. Pupils will be given the opportunity to play cricket and tennis. The aim within these lessons will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and participate in activities with an enhanced level of understanding. In athletics, pupils will engage themselves 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. Pupils will be given the opportunity to play rounders and tennis. The aim within these lessons will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and participate in activities with an enhanced level of understanding. In athletics, pupils will engage themselves 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 the Law; young people and crime; Aims of punishment; Types of punishment; Crime reduction; How to reduce crime; Youth Pressure Groups; Human Rights; What are Human Rights; Human Wrongs; Freedom of thought; Freedom of Expression; Women's Rights; The rights of Women; Women's rights around the world; You and the world of work; Investigating careers.

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