



RED HOUSE SCHOOL

a foundation for life

Parents of Pupils in Year 7

20 January 2017

Dear Parents

I thought that you might like to know some details about what your child will be studying over the next term. A brief summary follows:

Art

Pupils will continue their preparation for the biennial fashion show by designing and creating an underwater themed hat. Pupils will test, evaluate and refine a number of materials and techniques before constructing the final items for the catwalk.

Biology

We will be studying the heart; movement and the skeleton (hydro-, exo- and endo-); coordination of movement by the nervous system; sense organs (ear, eye, tongue, nose and skin); the role of hormones (thyroxine, insulin, adrenaline and sex hormones).

Chemistry

Pupils will continue develop an understanding of how to separate compounds and mixtures. They will develop their practical skills and suggest ways of improving practical methods. In the second half of the term pupils discover the states of matter in which most materials exist. Pupils extend their practical skills with a focus on controlling variables.

Computing

Pupils will deepen their understanding of computer programming by using the simple program editor Scratch. They will learn about algorithms and flowcharts for creating programs as well as how to use variables and repeat code using loops. In the second half term pupils will learn how the Web works, how to be safe and responsible online, gain an understanding of ethical issues surrounding the use of the Web and also look at security risks and how they can be prevented.

English

Pupils will explore science fiction writing, with a view to investigating advanced technology, cloning, superheroes and aliens. They will then move on to look at travel writing. Spellings of high frequency words will continue to be tested periodically to ensure accuracy. Pupils will plan their own writing in various forms and they will complete an assessment at the end of each half term.

French

Pupils will talk about their hobbies; using computers and mobiles; the sports they play and the activities they do. They will also use *aimer* + the infinitive to say what they and others like doing. They will talk about their town/village; learn to give and understand directions; talk about where they go; invite someone to go somewhere; and talk about what they can do in town. Grammar covered includes consolidation of regular -er verbs; using *aimer*, *vouloir* and *pouvoir* + the infinitive; and using *a* + the definite article.

Geography

Pupils will study Africa. They will study an overview of the physical and human geography of the continent. Then they will learn about the Horn of Africa, looking at the countries located here and the challenges they face in the 21st century.

German

Pupils will focus on topics such as sports and freetime activities, technology, school, telling the time, descriptions and giving opinions. Through these themes they will look at word order, qualifiers, expressions of frequency, possessive adjectives and prepositions.

History

Pupils will continue to look at different aspects of life in medieval England. Pupils will study the relationship between the crown and the Church and we will focus on the murder of Thomas Beckett. In addition we will look at health issues such as the Black Death and living conditions in towns. Ideas of medieval justice will also be considered. Alongside an examination of these events, we also aim to continue developing skills of communication, whether written or verbal, and source analysis.

Maths

Pupils will be introduced to algebraic methods and graphs. They will also be working with parts of a whole and making predictions with probability. Shape work includes properties of polygons.

Music

Pupils hear music that uses repetitive rhythmic or melodic patterns as a building block. They learn about the importance of a steady pulse and compose rhythms for a small percussion ensemble. Classroom singing includes pieces with a steady beat. Pupils also learn how to balance small steps and larger leaps between notes when writing a melody.

Physics

Pupils will continue the work on energy with the emphasis on renewable energy. Conservation of energy will be a prime focus. The remainder of the term the pupils will concentrate on electricity and will discover what an electric current is, be able to give examples where electricity is used and be able to make simple circuits.

RS

Pupils will consider contemporary issues of human rights and social justice and their relationship with religion and belief. Pupils will focus on Christian practices to promote human rights and will study the life of Martin Luther King as an example of conflict between personal conviction and the laws of a country. Their assessment will focus on the key question 'Why is justice important to Christians?'

Spanish

Pupils will study the following areas: talking about pets, saying where you live, giving your nationality, describing yourself physically and your character and school subjects. Within these contexts the following grammatical concepts will be covered; possessive adjectives, singular and plural of nouns, adjectival agreements, the present tense of regular and irregular verbs full paradigms, irregular verbs in the present tense and how to make your writing more interesting.

Systems Technology

Pupils will work on a number of different modules this term, such as, aerodynamics, construction technology, basic electricity, research and design, robotics, mechanisms, pneumatics, hydraulics, materials and processes, and industrial control. Pupils will attempt 3 advanced assignments.

Technology

Pupils will continue to develop their practical skills through working with wood, metal and plastics in a range of different design contexts. Pupils are encouraged to combine hand skills with computer aided technologies to create more demanding, challenging and higher quality outcomes. Pupils will investigate, and work with, a range of complex mechanisms, as well as developing 3dimensional drawing skills.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. In team games such as football and hockey, the emphasis will be on refining basic skills and increasing the understanding of match play. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and gymnastics.

Girls Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. In team games such as netball and hockey, the emphasis will be on refining basic skills and increasing the understanding of match play. Taster sessions in football and rugby will also be included to add some variety to the games programme. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and gymnastics.

PSHE

You and your body: growing and changing, becoming a woman / man, feelings about body changes.

Eating and exercise: healthy diet, food diary, unhealthy diets / lifestyle, exercise, risks of dieting – to include peer-pressure concerned with losing weight, conforming to stereotypes.

Drugs and drug-taking: What are they? What is drug abuse? Why do people start taking drugs, Attitudes, how to find help.

Smoking: the facts, the cost, attitudes towards smoking, why do people smoke?

You and your money: you as a consumer.

I hope that this information will be useful to you so that you might support your child in their studies.

Yours faithfully



M A Makin
Director of Studies