



RED HOUSE SCHOOL

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Parents of Pupils in Year 8

20 January 2017

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 spring term. A brief summary follows:

Art

Pupils will continue to make a mixed media collage inspired by mechanical parts. They will study various artists work including the machine themed work of Eduardo Paolozzi. They will develop their skills in observational drawing, creating line and form, shading, typography, photography and graphic design, as they create a collage in the form of a CD cover, book cover, wrapping paper or a poster .

Biology

Pupils will study animal reproduction genetics. They will find out how we acquire our features and why DNA was such an important scientific discovery. They will then move on to look at respiration, investigating the respiratory system and the structure of the heart.

Chemistry

Pupils will become familiar with the structure of the periodic table and use this knowledge to predict how materials will react with each other. In the second half of the term, pupils develop their evaluative skills and suggest improvements to investigations.

Computing

Pupils will learn more about the BBC:Microbit, the tiny computer they received in year 7. They will learn how to program it using online code editors. In the second half term pupils will learn how to plan and carry out a project while applying a variety of IT skills, such as 3D modelling, spreadsheet modelling and presentation skills.

English

Pupils will explore the difference between appearance and reality, by exploring stories of illusion and mistaken identity. They will then move onto an exploration of technology and how past, present and future technological changes may influence their lives. 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 be talking about personality, friendship, music, clothes and what they really enjoy doing. They will also describe where they live and talk about meals. They will consolidate the present, near future and perfect tenses; learn how to use reflexive verbs to talk about relationships;

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and practice agreeing and disagreeing giving reasons for their opinions. Other grammar points covered include: adjectival agreements, comparative adjectives; prepositions; the verbs boire and prendre; and using il faut to talk about what you have to do.

Geography

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Pupils will study coasts. They will learn about waves and tides, how waves erode the coastline and create distinct landforms. They will understand how coastlines are under threat in parts of the UK and how management of the coast can protect communities from the power of the waves.

German

Pupils will focus on topics such as food and drink, meals, healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, daily routine, excursions, giving directions, descriptions and festivals. Through these themes they will consolidate the perfect tense, look at negatives, imperatives, prepositions, modal verbs, adjectival endings, separable and reflexive verbs.

History

Following on from the Civil War, pupils will study the Restoration before discovering how foreign lands first became part of our empire back in Tudor times. The ordinary life of a Tudor will also be studied. Alongside a study of these events we aim to continue developing the writing and source skills that have been looked at in previous years.

Maths

Pupils will study equations of straight line graphs as well as rounding with significant figures and using standard form. Interpreting statistical diagrams and applying the four operations to fractions will also be studied.

Music

Pupils learn how musical intervals influence the harmony and mood of a composition. They perform and write music that explores these effects. In further composing they use the three basic chords that establish any musical key to construct their melodies. Classroom singing includes popular songs with repetitive vocal accompaniment patterns.

Physics

Pupils will complete the work on the particle model, looking at drag, and pressure in fluids.. They will then focus on temperature changes, transferring energy, power and efficiency and paying for energy. We will then make a start on the topic Earth and space.

RS

Pupils will be given an opportunity to understand and explore the Jewish community and religious life prior to, during and after the Holocaust. They will consider why this was such a momentous and defining event for the Jewish people. Their assessment will focus on the key question 'Should we commemorate the holocaust?'

Spanish

Pupils will cover the following topics; free time activities, weather and daily routine and local area. 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.

Systems Technology

All pupils will be working 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 complete 3 advanced assignments.

Technology

Pupils will use their 3D drawing skills in the design of a range of products and they will develop their computer aided design and manufacture skills by using and incorporating new technologies such as laser cutting and 3D printing into their work. Pupils will investigate the packaging of products, and create their own versions of popular packaged products.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. In team games such as football and hockey, the aim will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to gain confidence within the competitive environment. 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 aim will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to gain confidence within the competitive environment. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and gymnastics.

PSHE

Drinking and alcohol: alcohol- the facts, teenage drinking.

Contraception and safer sex: facts, rights, what is acceptable in a sexual relationship, myths.

You and your safety: Safety at home and in the street, first aid, fire.

Drugs and drug-taking: facts and fictions, ecstasy, drugs and the law.

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