



RED HOUSE SCHOOL

a foundation for life

Parents of Pupils in Year 9

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 designing and creating a costume inspired by Sci-Fi for the biennial fashion show. They will test, evaluate and refine a number of materials and techniques before constructing the final items for the catwalk.

Biology

Pupils will continue with the GCSE syllabus. We will be covering cell division and stem cells. We will then move on to look at tissues and organs, specifically the digestive system. Pupils will then begin to look at enzymes and the factors effecting enzyme activity.

Chemistry

Pupils will develop their understanding of the properties of metals and justify the use of these metals in everyday life. They will develop their ability to evaluate the risk involved in an investigation and will suggest ways to reduce this risk. In the second half of the term pupils will focus on the products available from crude oil, their uses, as well as the methods used to extract these products. They will also develop the ability to express results from investigations in an appropriate form.

English

Pupils will study a Shakespeare play. They will learn how to write a formal essay focussing on character and language techniques. They will learn technical vocabulary associated with stage drama as well as the historical context. Work on grammar and spelling accuracy will continue. There will also be role play opportunities based on the play.

French

Pupils will be describing jobs, talking about the importance of learning languages and using the imperfect tense to talk about what they used to do. They will also be discussing holidays using past, present and future tenses; using the conditional tense to describe an imaginary adventure holiday, talking about what you take on holiday and visiting a tourist attraction. Grammar covered will include using modal verbs; consolidating reflexive verbs and perfect, near future and present

tenses; introduction to the imperfect and conditional tenses; using different tenses together; asking questions using inversion; and using emphatic pronouns.

Geography

Pupils will complete their study of the first topic in the GCSE specification, 'Natural hazards', before turning to human geography and looking at the challenges of resource management. They will focus on the management of food, water and energy, with a particular emphasis on strategies to increase supply.

German

Pupils will continue to follow the new GCSE course and will look at the following topics: The advantages and disadvantages of social media, Internet safety and mobile phones. Through these themes we will cover grammatical topics including: Subordinating conjunctions 'weil' and 'wenn', direct and indirect object pronouns, the imperative, the imperfect tense, possessive adjectives and deciding when to use 'wann', 'wenn' and 'als'.

History

Pupils continue to study elements of 20th century history. Our study of World War One is brought to a close. We will look at how and why the war ended, and the arguments over the subsequent Versailles Peace Treaty. We will look at the Russian Revolution through an examination of the story of Anastasia. We will then look at the rise of Hitler and take a look at certain features of life in Nazi Germany. We continue our focus on history skills such as source analysis and communication.

Computing

Pupils will learn to use the GameMaker software to create computer games while learning about algorithms as well as planning and reviewing the creative process. They will learn about conditional statements as well as sequencing.

In the second half of the term pupils will have a brief introduction to databases using Microsoft Access to understand how large databases are created and how they operate. Pupils will learn how to create and use keys and how they apply to relationships between database tables.

Maths

Pupils in both sets will study percentages by looking at multipliers, percentage change, reverse percentages and compound interest. Work on perimeter and area will cover common 2D shapes with a greater emphasis on circles, arcs and sectors. From the algebra strand, pupils will have their first introduction to simultaneous equations. In addition to these topics, set one will also learn and apply the laws of indices, and study similarity and congruence.

Music

Pupils compare different arrangements of a popular song and compose a melody to fit the harmonies and instruments that are typical of some popular music styles. They also learn how older scales, called modes, can be used to create a typical nationalistic sound by writing a short Irish jig. Further exploration of national styles includes reggae and calypso music.

Physics

We shall be reviewing work on electricity with the emphasis on building series and parallel circuits and measuring currents and potential differences. This leads onto resistance in circuits and its calculation. In the latter part of the term we shall look at molecules and matter..

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Pupils will consider questions relating to the causes of crime and attitudes towards the aims of punishment and the treatment of criminals. They will also study the different Christian attitudes towards the death penalty. Their assessment will focus on the key question 'Should Christians support the death penalty?'

Spanish

Pupils will cover the following areas; differences in daily routine, household chores, food and meal times and life in different regions and countries. 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 which will include aerodynamics, construction technology, basic electricity, research and design, robotics, mechanisms, pneumatics, hydraulics, materials and processes, and Industrial control. The pupils will complete 3 advanced assignments.

Technology

Pupils will use their design technology ICT skills in a range of design and make tasks. The emphasis will continue to be promotion and packaging of materials, with a greater emphasis on producing commercial quality products using the most appropriate technology for the task. Pupils will refine their 3dimensional hand drawing skills.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. Pupils will be given the opportunity to play hockey and football. The aim within these games lessons will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to engage in activities with an enhanced level of understanding. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and badminton.

Girls Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. Pupils will be given the opportunity to play hockey and netball, aiming to refine skills taught in the previous academic year and to engage in activities with an enhanced level of understanding. Taster activity sessions in squash and football will also be included as part of the programme. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and badminton.

PSHE

You and your body, adolescence: identity, image, ambitions, feelings and mood swings.

Sex education: safer sex, sexually transmitted infections, AIDS, attitudes.

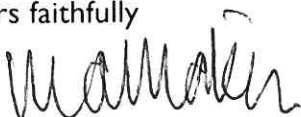
Anorexia nervosa: eating disorders, bulimia.

Drug taking: dangers, solvent abuse, drug problems, emergency action.

Choices: decisions for Year 10 and 11.

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