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Dear Parents

### **Year 7 Subject Summaries: Spring 2020**

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**

This term pupils will further develop their skills in Batik and produce a final outcome inspired by their current project theme of 'Under the sea'.

#### **Biology**

Pupils will be studying respiration (aerobic and anaerobic) and the respiratory system; movement and the skeleton (hydro-, exo- and endo-); coordination of movement by the nervous system; sense organs (ear, eye, tongue, nose and skin).

#### **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**

Year 7 will focus on IT skills in the first half term learning about word processing, spreadsheets and presentation software and how to apply each one to given scenarios. We will also look at aspects of e-safety. In the second half term we will program the BBC Microbit, a tiny computer, to further develop programming skills.

#### **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 continue to work on the themes of personality, family, schools and friends. Having described their family members and friends, they will learn how to give opinions of school subjects, make comparisons between themselves now and how they used to be and use the present tense of regular -er verbs. They will also learn how to conjugate irregular verbs such as aller, faire, avoir and être. Finally, they will talk about school, where they live, discuss leisure activities and describe animals.

## **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 Becket. 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 pupils' skills in communication whether written or verbal, and course analysis.

## **Maths**

Pupils in Year 7 begin the term by studying the different types of averages and a variety of ways in which data can be displayed. The next unit of work will give many pupils a first experience of algebra and expressions whilst our number work will look at how to work with fractions. Later in the term, pupils will apply their algebra skills to draw straight line graphs and how to substitute numbers into expressions and formulae. Our shape work this term introduces pupils to angle properties formed within parallel lines.

## **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**

This term we will complete the work on speed, friction and pressure. For the remainder of the term pupils will study energy, energy from food, energy changes, fuels and renewable energy resources. Skills will include a research project, planning an investigation and summarising information.

## **RS**

Pupils will complete work on the development of the Abrahamic religions. The remainder of the term pupils will study the religion of Islam covering the different branches of Islam, beliefs about God, prophethood and revelation.

## **Spanish**

Pupils will be covering the following topics throughout the spring term: Describing yourself and others; Talking about free time and weather. We will also consolidate the use and structure of the Present tense of regular and some irregular verbs; possessive adjectives; adjectival agreements and an introduction using if and when clauses.

## **Technology**

During this term, Year 7 will complete the investigation of the properties of textiles materials. They will be looking at different types of textiles products, both natural and man-made, relating this back to their earlier practical task. The textiles project will be followed by a timber based module where pupils will look at the sources and environmental impact of timber-based

products. Pupils will continue to be encouraged to combine hand skills with computer aided technologies to create more demanding, challenging and higher quality outcome.

### **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.

### **PHSE**

During the Spring Term, Y7 will discuss their rights and responsibilities within the topic of 'relationships'. They will consider their personal values as a citizen and their roles and responsibilities around bullying. Pupils will investigate the importance of a positive self-esteem upon their relationships and also devise techniques to manage disputes. They will learn about being a responsible digital citizen and develop skills to manage online friendships.

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

Yours sincerely



Lara Roberts  
Head of Teaching & Learning