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Dear Parents

Year 9 Subject Summaries: Spring 2020

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

Year 9 pupils will study a range of different artists and techniques, broadening their understanding of art and artists from different movements, cultures and genres. Lessons are planned to use a range of materials and media that are easily accessible at both school and home.

Biology

The pupils will continue to follow topics from the new GCSE specification. They start by studying the structure of the digestive system. We then move on to look at enzymes and how they work. In the second half term we will look at the heart being part of the circulatory system and the transport of substances in plants.

Chemistry

The pupils will use their knowledge of atoms and electrons to predict the type of bonding in compounds and try to explain how these compounds would react with each other. Pupils then develop their ability to form and balance chemical equations. In the second term we will be applying our knowledge of the types of bonding to predict the properties in a range of products.

Computing

Year 9 will be studying some of the issues of cyber security. Data is big business so protecting that data is essential. We will look at what companies who hold our data can do to protect it; as well as what they do with it also, how companies can build an accurate picture of us without ever having met us.

English

In the first half term pupils will re-visit English Language Paper One, which will be the focus of their summer exam. In the second half term pupils will study the GCSE English Literature play 'An Inspector Calls'. Pupils will complete a timed GCSE paper for both topic areas at the end of each half term.

French

Pupils will study the topics of technology and its pros and cons; the risks of social media and issues for teenagers. Pupils will revise adjective agreement and position; use impersonal structure and practise using modal verbs. They will also learn how to form and use the imperfect tense.

Geography

Pupils will continue to study the first topic in the GCSE specification, 'Natural Hazards'. They will complete the tectonic hazards element with a focus on understanding how the effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions can be reduced. They will then start to study the weather hazards part of this unit where they will learn about global atmospheric circulation, tropical storms and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

German

Pupils will follow topics from the GCSE specification. During the spring term we will look at identity and culture. In this unit we will focus on relationships with family and friends, marriage and partnerships. Through these themes pupils will be encouraged to use a variety of tenses and more complex structures to talk about their own personal views and experiences. Opportunities will be given to read more challenging texts with the aim of developing comprehension skills.

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 Treaty of Versailles Peace Treaty. 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

This term we will learn the basics of web development. Pupils will learn about HTML and CSS and will design and create a website using Microsoft Expression.

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 will hear songs from musical theatre and consider how they tell a story or the characters' moods. They will identify features that distinguish some styles of world music. Pupils write a conventional pop song melody to fit common chords. They are encouraged to explain their listening preferences using musical vocabulary.

Physics

We continue with the GCSE specification. The focus this term will be on energy resources and how they are used to generate electricity. Work will include analysis of the daily and annual energy resource mix in the UK, as well as consideration of the most suitable options for the future of electricity generation. Towards the end of the term, we will move onto studying electrical circuits.

Religious Studies

Pupils will be examining the questions: 'Why is there suffering? Are there any good solutions?' They will explore this question from a Christian, Buddhist and non-religious perspective. In the assessment this term pupils will consider and evaluate how far religious answers to the question of suffering are universally useful.

Spanish

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the Spring Term: going on holiday; describing events in the past; talking about what you did when you were younger and talking about days out. Within these contexts we will use a variety of present, past and future tenses. The past simple tense and the imperfect tense will be studied in more detail.

Design Technology

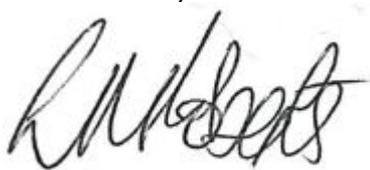
Year 9 will complete the project that is combining their Design Technology and English studies. They will design and make a theatre set based upon 'Romeo and Juliet' and then use the completed set to present a number of scenes to their classmates. As the term progresses, pupils will then undertake a series of design challenges where they are tasked with the redesign of established products to suit different end users.

Physical Education

Pupils will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of physical activities during the remote learning period. They will have a menu style programme for them to choose a range of indoor and outdoor activities. The aim is to maintain their fitness levels, as well as participating in sports specific skills to improve their coordination and agility. This will be great preparation for their return to school where pupils will have the chance to showcase their skills in games such as hockey, rugby (boys) and netball (girls).

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lara Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Lara Roberts
Head of Teaching & Learning