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10 September 2021

Dear Parents

Year 8 Curriculum Information: Autumn Term 2021

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 autumn term. A brief summary follows:

Art

This term pupils will be researching the theme of 'Day of the Dead', they will develop their understanding of the symbols and traditions of the Mexican festival and collate their work into their sketchbooks. The aim is that all pupils will produce an individually designed skull in mixed media.

Biology

Initially the pupils will study health and well-being. They will look at diet and exercise, moving on to drugs and alcohol and the effects on the body. Pupils will then study microbes and disease and how microbes are grown in a laboratory. Finally, we will look at how diseases are spread and the methods we use to prevent and treat them. Assessments will be taken at the end of each topic.

Chemistry

As part of the recovery curriculum pupils will review the topics of acids and alkalis whilst developing their practical skills. They will plan and carry out a range of practical activities before developing their knowledge by looking at the formations of 'salts'. Pupils will further develop their understanding of the apparatus used and will be able to give reasons for their choices. Pupils are given a revision guide that can be used independently to further their studies as well as the support material on Teams. Pupils will sit an assessment in November and end of topic assessments during the course.

Computing

This term we will take an in depth look at the Python programming language. Building on programming work from previous years, we will learn to create applications in a typed programming language and draw comparisons with graphical based languages used previously. Pupils will learn to assign variables from user input as well as using selection and loops to perform more complex operations.

English

In the first half term pupils will explore stories about great detectives and baffling mysteries. They will develop their skills as readers, learning from some of the masters of the genre. Pupils will write their own mystery story to 'publish and sell online'. In the second half term pupils will find out how poems, particularly First World War poetry, create impact, rouse different emotions and make people reflect on human behaviour in time of war. Both units of work will culminate in formal end of unit written assessments. In addition, pupils will study a class reader to reflect the composition of the group.

French

Pupils will learn to describe a town, say what you can do at different places, ask for and give directions as well as arranging to go out. Later on this term, they will learn to talk about clothes and give opinions on style, describe the weather and say what they wear for different occasions. In terms

of grammar, pupils will work on the present tense of regular -er verbs, learn the present of faire, use reflexive verbs and revise the position of adjectives.

Geography

This term pupils will study ecosystems. Initially, they will focus on food chains and food webs and develop an understanding of how small changes to these have an impact on the entire ecosystem. They will then focus on the tropical rainforest ecosystem. They will learn about their vegetation, climate, animals, the causes of deforestation and how we can use these forests in a more sustainable way. A written assessment will take place after half term.

German

During the first term the topics 'House and Home', 'Holidays' and 'Media' will be covered. Through these themes pupils will be encouraged to express and justify their opinions. As well as consolidating and extending their use of the present tense, pupils will be introduced to the imperfect and perfect tenses. In addition qualifiers, prepositions and adjectives will be revised. End of unit assessments will take place every half term covering all skill areas.

History

Pupils start the term by looking at the Reformation and religious changes in Tudor England, including the "Religious Roller Coaster", the reign of "Bloody" Mary, and Elizabeth's Religious Settlement. They also spend time on other aspects of Elizabeth's reign such as the Armada and the relationship with Mary, Queen of Scots. The Stuarts follow and we study the gunpowder plot and the causes and course of the English Civil War. Alongside a study of these events we aim to further develop the writing and source skills that have been covered in previous years.

Maths

Pupils will study three distinct areas of mathematics this term. Their number skills focus on negatives, factors, multiples and percentages. In the geometry section the focus will be on angles, transformations of shapes, constructions, volume and surface area. They will also learn to apply probability to a range of real life situations. Assessments will take place at the end of each half term.

Music

Pupils compare arrangements of dance music in classical, jazz and pop styles. They listen to 'The Skater's Waltz', focusing on its structure and instruments. Pupils compose their own minuet and waltz melodies and learn how to add an accompaniment using basic chords. Classes explore the main features that typify music written in the Classical era. Time will also be given to learning songs for the Christmas events and this year's production.

Physics

Pupils will study light and how we see objects. They will also investigate the laws of reflection and refraction; this will include drawing ray diagrams for mirrors and glass blocks. They will then compare the eye and the camera as well as discovering why objects appear different colours. Pupils can continue to use Seneca Learning to support their work. Pupils will sit an assessment in November and end of topic assessments during the course.

Religious Studies

Pupils will investigate the unit question 'If God is Trinity, what does that mean for Christians?'. They will explore Christian beliefs about God focusing on the different language used, the concept of the Trinity and how these ideas are expressed. An assessment will take place after half term.

Spanish

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the autumn term: Describing Our House; Our Local Area; Our Dream House; Helping Around the House. Within these topics we will consolidate the use of the present tense of regular and irregular verbs, give more complex opinions and justifications as well as the use of 'ser' and 'estar'. Listening, reading & writing assessments will take place mid-November.

Design Technology

Initially, Year 8 will further develop 3D drawing skills with an introduction to perspective drawing. This will add to their existing 3D drawing skills which will allow pupils to incorporate high quality 3D drawings in to their design work which will enhance its finished value. Pupils will be encouraged to further develop their computer aided design and manufacturing skills by using and incorporating these and new technologies into their work. Pupils will be assessed on their drawing skills mid-way through the unit, and then again at the end.

Boys' Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered. The focus on team games will be rugby, the aim will be to refine 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 involving basketball and health related fitness.

Girls' Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Autumn Term. In the team games such as netball and hockey, the aim will be to refine 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 involving basketball and health related fitness.

PHSE

Pupils will examine the topic of 'Health & Well-being' focusing on self-esteem, personal health and the use of drugs in society.

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

Kind regards



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