

YEAR 7: AUTUMN

Welcome to our Autumn term Curriculum Letter. There are plenty of extra-curricular activities for students to get involved in this half term and many departments will be running exciting activities.

More general information about the curriculum can be found here.

The departments that teach your child have contributed below to let you know what students will be studying this term.

ART

Year 7 have been introduced to the basics of line, shape and proportion through the theme of Still Life – themes that we re-visit in different guises throughout both Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, as it is such a central and fundamental tenet of Art, Craft and Design. As we move past October half-term, pupils in will begin to focus on producing a final piece – in some cases this will be based upon the shoe paintings and drawings of Lisa Milroy and Andy Warhol to Pop Art pieces inspired by Roy Lichtenstein.

COMPUTING

Year 7 have learned how to work with the school systems and are now learning about how computer systems work.

DRAMA

Vocal Skills and Improvisation
In this exciting unit, students develop their confidence, creativity and communication skills through the world of drama. They explore how actors use their voices to bring characters and ideas to life, experimenting with volume, pitch, pace, pause, accent, projection and tone. Through practical drama games, students also develop their ability to listen, trust one another, work as a team and respond creatively to new ideas.

Students discover the joy of improvisation, creating scenes in the moment and learning how to accept and build on the ideas of others. They use imaginative stimuli such as props, music, pictures, sentence starters and real-life events to inspire their performances. As the unit progresses, students become increasingly confident in creating characters, working collaboratively and making bold creative choices, culminating in an assessed improvisation performance.

ENGLISH

Pupils begin their year by studying Powerful Women. This unit has been crafted to encourage pupils to articulate their opinions and consider texts and characters in context. Through the study of both Literary and Historical females, pupils are encouraged to explore how powerful these women are, what differences they have made, should they be a role model and even if they use their power for good. We cover time periods that will support their learning of other texts in both KS3 and KS4. The topic ends with letter writing to express their views to the Head of English.

Students then explore the text 'Frankenstein' in the form of the play but also with supportive extracts from the novel. The analytical task cements their ability to secure their understanding of the What, How, Why form and whole essay structure. The linked imaginative task builds upon the Wonder Bridging unit, allowing students to see the progression within their writing skills.

GEOGRAPHY

In geography have been learning about the human and physical features of Fantastic Places around the world and will be moving on to a topic about Antarctica where they will explore the climate, eco-system, landscape and threats. These topics will develop many skills including extended writing, research, map skills and graphicacy.

HISTORY

Pupils will continue their study of the Norman Conquest, beginning with the rival claimants to the English throne in 1066 and exploring the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings. They will examine how William the Conqueror secured his victory and established Norman control over England. Their learning will then focus on the impact of the Norman Conquest, including the Domesday Book, medieval kingship and the development of Norman castles as a means of demonstrating power, authority and control. As part of their learning, pupils can take part in a house competition to design and build their own castles, applying their understanding of Norman defensive architecture and the features of medieval fortifications.
Alongside their historical knowledge, pupils will continue to develop essential historical skills. They will explore how to analyse historical sources, focusing on identifying bias, making inferences and evaluating the usefulness and reliability of evidence. They will also develop their extended writing skills, learning how to construct well-developed PETAL paragraphs and to communicate clear, supported and analytical historical arguments.

MATHEMATICS

Students will develop fluency and confidence across key areas of number and algebra, strengthening their skills with integers, fractions, decimals, percentages, powers and roots. They will learn to round and estimate accurately, perform calculations using positive and negative numbers, apply written and mental calculation methods, and use BIDMAS correctly. Building on prior learning, students will calculate with and convert between fractions, decimals and percentages, investigate factors, multiples, prime numbers, HCF and LCM, and solve problems involving percentage change. In algebra, they will develop their understanding of algebraic notation, simplifying expressions, expanding brackets, factorising, using and deriving formulae, and substituting values into expressions. Throughout the term, students will apply these skills in a range of problem-solving contexts, developing mathematical reasoning, accuracy and confidence.

MFL: FRENCH

This half term, Year 7 students will study Les vedettes francophones (French-speaking celebrities). Using a range of famous personalities from across the French-speaking world, pupils will develop their ability to understand and communicate information about other people in French. Students will learn vocabulary to describe physical appearance, use larger numbers to give and understand ages, and express likes and dislikes. In grammar, pupils will focus on third-person verb forms, enabling them to talk about what other people do and like. They will also learn how to form and use negative structures. By the end of the unit, students will be able to give simple but detailed descriptions of French-speaking celebrities, understand information about them, and express opinions with increasing accuracy and confidence in French.

MFL: SPANISH

This half term, Year 7 students will study El mundo hispanohablante (the Spanish-speaking world), exploring countries where Spanish is spoken. Students will learn a range of geographical vocabulary to describe Spanish-speaking countries and their key features. They will also build their knowledge of adjectives and connectives, enabling them to give more detailed descriptions and link their ideas together. In grammar, students will focus on the gender of nouns, learning to identify and use masculine and feminine nouns accurately. They will also develop their understanding of adjective agreement, ensuring that adjectives match the nouns they describe. These grammatical foundations are essential for future success in Spanish. By the end of the unit, students will be able to describe Spanish-speaking countries using a range of vocabulary and simple connected sentences, while demonstrating an understanding of key grammatical rules and the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world.

MUSIC

In Year 7, students will be developing their musical skill by exploring Keyboard skills, working towards a festive performance!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 7 pupils have made a fantastic start to their PE journey at TGGS, experiencing a range of sporting activities whilst being introduced to our Head, Heart, Hands approach to assessment and learning.

Throughout the term, pupils have been developing their fundamental sporting skills and components of fitness (Hands), building their understanding of rules, tactics and decision-making (Head), and strengthening essential personal skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership (Heart). Each class follows a rotational programme, meaning the activities covered this term have varied between groups. Any activities not yet completed will be covered during the Spring Term, ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to experience the full curriculum.

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Students are continuing their exploration of the A-Z of Religion, investigating a wide range of religious and non-religious beliefs and how these influence the lives, values and actions of individuals and communities. Through discussion, debate and enquiry, they will consider different viewpoints, develop their understanding of key beliefs and evaluate a variety of arguments about religion, morality and identity.

SCIENCE

Biology:

Our KS3 Curriculum is designed to develop inquisitive scientists that can apply scientific literacy throughout their everyday lives to become critical thinkers. Our curriculum, practical's and extra curricular activities all aim to inspire curiosity within our students about the world and potential issues. Through discussions, hands on activities and group work, we aim to upskill and empower our students to be true global citizens. So far this term they have been studying about cells and cell structure. We are now moving onto reproduction and will be covering animal reproduction, puberty and plant reproduction.

Chemistry:

Students will be studying core practical techniques in this topic through separating mixtures. Students will develop their skills in carrying out the techniques of filtering; distillation and chromatography. They will explain how these techniques work through their learned knowledge of dissolving, solubility and physical changes.

Physics:

This term, Year 7 students will be studying Energy in Physics. They will explore different forms of energy, renewable and non-renewable energy resources, power, and the cost of energy. Some groups may also begin the next unit, Thermal Energy Transfers, before Christmas, investigating how thermal energy moves between objects and materials.