

YEAR 10: 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 10 have been investigating some experimental drawing, printing and painting techniques to challenge their preconceptions about image-making. Pupils are about to embark upon a visit to the Tate St. Ives and Barbara Hepworth Museum on 6th November. They will have an introductory talk on the work of seminal figures within the St. Ives group and will take drawings, sketches and photographs of work seen, including a brand-new retrospective of the work of Wilhelmina Barns-Graham. Pupils will produce a sketchbook submission of the visit to act as a literal and visual diary of their experiences up until Christmas.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Year 10 have made a strong start to the Edexcel GCSE Business course this term. They covered Topic 1.1, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, and Topic 1.2, Spotting a Business Opportunity, and are congratulated on winning the Hymid Manufacturing and Enterprise Challenge, where they showed real creativity and teamwork.

DRAMA

Practitioners and Set Text
This term, Year 10 students will explore two contrasting theatre practitioners, Bertolt Brecht and Frantic Assembly, developing an understanding of how their distinctive approaches can influence performance. Through practical workshops, students will experiment with Brechtian techniques and explore Frantic Assembly's physical theatre style, including learning and performing chair duets. These practical activities will encourage students to develop their physicality, movement, focus, trust and ability to communicate meaning through performance.

Students will also begin exploring their GCSE set text, Things I Know to Be True, considering its characters, relationships and key themes. They will combine practical exploration with discussion and analysis, experimenting with how movement, voice, staging and characterisation can bring scenes to life. The term will provide students with a strong foundation in both the practical and analytical skills they will continue to develop throughout their GCSE Drama course.

ENGLISH

To begin their GCSE course, students will focus on their first English Literature text: Macbeth. They will consider how Shakespeare crafts characters and structures the play to impact the audience as well as his use of language choices and figurative language. We will consider how historical contextual factors such as the Gunpowder Plot, the ascension of King James to the throne as well as fear of the supernatural, witch hunts and gender stereotypes impacted the play's production and reception. They will also consider the concept of tragedy, understanding the Ancient Greek traditions from which it stems, as well as moral and social questions such as the role of fate, responsibility and pride in our decision making, and what makes us human.

Students will have the opportunity to watch a range of productions and consider directors' choices as well as taking on the role of actors and directors themselves, considering how staging, costumes and acting decisions can affect the audience's perception of characters and events.

After half term, students will begin their study of their 19th Century Literature set text - A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens - building their analytical skills in response to short extracts and developing a critical understanding of the writer's presentation of key ideas/characters/themes across the whole text.

GEOGRAPHY

Students have been learning about Atmospheric Hazards, exploring global atmospheric circulation, the formation, hazards and management of tropical storms and an in-depth look at climate change and how we can manage it. Students will move on to our Urban Issues and Challenges topic where they explore themes of urban change and the opportunities and challenges it creates, completing an in-depth study of Rio de Janeiro. They will build upon their skills in interpreting and analysing a wide variety of maps, graphs and sources as well as developing exam technique and revision skills.

HISTORY

During the second half of the Autumn term, students will study the Medieval and Renaissance periods as part of the Medicine Through Time unit.

We will begin by exploring medieval medicine, including the causes and cures of illness and disease, the Black Death and public health in 14th-century London. Students will examine contemporary understanding of anatomy and physiology, the continued influence of ancient ideas from Galen and Hippocrates, and the role of medieval healers and hospitals.

We will then move into the Renaissance period, examining the contributions of key individuals such as Vesalius, Pare and Harvey. Students will explore changing ideas about the causes and treatment of disease, including a depth study of the Great Plague, as well as the development of healers and hospitals. Throughout, we will consider the extent to which medicine changed and continued from the Middle Ages.

Alongside developing their historical knowledge, students will continue to strengthen their exam technique, particularly 12-mark extended writing questions and 16-mark essay questions, focusing on explanation, analysis and reaching supported judgements.

MATHEMATICS

Students will further develop their algebraic and graphical skills by studying quadratic, cubic and reciprocal graphs, learning how to draw, interpret and use them to solve equations and model real-life situations. They will build on their understanding of algebra by solving increasingly complex quadratic equations through factorising, completing the square, using the quadratic formula and graphical methods. Students will also extend their knowledge of simultaneous equations, solving them algebraically and graphically, including problems involving both linear and quadratic relationships, and will learn to solve and represent inequalities. In probability, students will calculate the likelihood of combined and mutually exclusive events, use sample space diagrams, tree diagrams, Venn diagrams and set notation, and apply conditional probability to more complex situations. Throughout the course, students will strengthen their reasoning, analytical and problem-solving skills while making links between algebra, graphs, probability and real-world applications.

MFL: FRENCH

This half term, Year 10 students will continue their study of the GCSE topic Mes vacances (My Holidays), developing the language and skills needed for success at GCSE level. The unit will focus on communicating confidently about holiday experiences, preferences and travel arrangements in a range of real-life contexts, expanding their vocabulary through work on the role-play element of the GCSE speaking exam, and learning key language for asking and answering questions in practical holiday situations. They will also develop language related to hotel reviews, including describing positive and negative experiences, and expressing opinions about an ideal holiday.

In grammar, they will develop their understanding and use of the conditional tense to describe what they would like to do, where they would like to go, and what would make an ideal holiday.

By the end of the unit, students will be able to discuss holiday experiences and preferences with greater confidence, accuracy and detail, while further developing the communication skills required for GCSE French.

MFL: SPANISH

This half term, Year 10 students will complete their study of the GCSE topic La vida sana (Healthy Lifestyles) before beginning Mi gente (Friends and Family). Pupils will develop their ability to discuss personal wellbeing, future aspirations and relationships, while continuing to build the skills needed for GCSE success.

As part of La vida sana, students will learn to talk about future plans for a healthy lifestyle, including exercise, diet and wellbeing. They will then move on to Mi gente, building on prior learning to describe people's appearance and personality and discuss relationships with family and friends in greater detail.

In grammar, pupils will focus on the simple future tense, si clauses and the present continuous tense, which they will use to describe actions taking place in a photo.

Students will complete a range of GCSE-style questions at the end of the La vida sana topic. There will also be a particular focus on the GCSE photo card task, using vocabulary from Mi gente to develop detailed and confident photo descriptions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Year 10 GCSE PE pupils have made a positive start to their examination course, beginning to develop their understanding of the human body and how it functions during physical activity and sporting performance.

9X Mixed Fitness Suite Netball Table Tennis & Badminton Rugby

9X Aesthetics Trampoline Fitness Suite Dance Aerobics

9X Games Football Badminton Hockey Volleyball

9Y Mix Volleyball Gymnastics Table Tennis & Badminton Trampoline

9Y Games Hockey Netball Rugby Fitness Suite

Throughout the Autumn Term, pupils have explored the skeletal and muscular systems, learning about the structure and functions of bones, joints and muscles, and how they work together to produce movement. They have begun applying this knowledge to practical sporting examples, analysing how different muscles and joints contribute to specific movements and actions across a range of sports.

A key focus has been developing pupils' ability to make links between theoretical knowledge and practical performance.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students are completing their study of Jewish Beliefs before beginning their Relationships and Families unit. They will investigate religious and non-religious attitudes towards issues including sex before marriage, contraception, marriage, adultery and family life. Through a range of discussions and exam-focused activities, students will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding while practising the full range of GCSE question styles, including evaluative 12-mark responses.

SCIENCE

Biology:

After a few weeks consolidating year 9, the students finished unit 2 Organisation. This included the heart and plant organs. We are now moving onto a big unit on health and disease which will take us through to Christmas. This covers defences against disease (e.g. skin), immunity, vaccinations, antibiotics and drug testing.

Chemistry:

Combined - Students will be studying the process of electrolysis and its application in extracting metals from their ores. Students will develop their understanding further through studying electrolysis of aqueous solutions of ionic compounds, including, carrying out practical work and making predictions about the outcomes. In addition, students will study the properties and reactions of acids and bases, including the preparation of a metal salt. There will be a strong emphasis on practical work throughout this topic.

Triple - Students will be studying the process of electrolysis and its application in extracting metals from their ores. Students will develop their understanding further through studying electrolysis of aqueous solutions of ionic compounds, including, carrying out practical work and making predictions about the outcomes. An application of electrochemistry will also be investigated. Students will study the chemistry of electrochemical cells and their application in developing hydrogen fuel cells; devices that convert the chemical energy of hydrogen directly into electricity without combustion. In addition, students will study the properties and reactions of acids and bases, including the preparation of a metal salt. There will be a strong emphasis on practical work throughout this topic.

Physics:

Combined - This term, Year 10 students will begin with Nuclear Physics, studying nuclear models, radioactivity and half-life. They will develop their understanding of key definitions and equations, practise describing nuclear processes and apply their knowledge through calculations. This will be followed by Electric Circuits, including three compulsory practicals investigating the resistance of a wire, resistors in series and parallel, and the current-potential difference (I-V) characteristics of three different circuit components. Students will aim to complete these topics and practicals by Christmas, strengthening both their theoretical knowledge and experimental skills in preparation for their GCSE Physics exams.

Triple - This term, Year 10 students will begin with Nuclear Physics, studying nuclear models, radioactivity, half-life and their applications, as well as the highly energetic nuclear processes of fission and fusion. They will develop their understanding of key definitions and equations, practise describing nuclear processes and apply their knowledge through calculations. This unit will be followed by Electric Circuits, including three compulsory practicals investigating the resistance of a wire, combinations of resistors in series and parallel, and the current-potential difference (I-V) characteristics of three different circuit components. Students will aim to complete these topics and practicals by Christmas, strengthening their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in preparation for their GCSE Physics exams.