



# YEAR 7 CURRICULUM LETTER: AUTUMN 2024

Welcome to our Autumn term Curriculum Letter. There are plenty of activities for students to get involved in this term and many departments will be running exciting activities in the run up to Christmas. More general information about the curriculum can be found [here](#).

We run 2 Challenge Days during the year where the normal curriculum is collapsed and specific exciting events are put on. This term's Challenge Day will be on Wednesday 23rd October. Year 7 will be involved in a Teambuilding and Wellbeing day and more information about this will be shared soon by Mr Whittington.

## Art

Students will be completing a Cave Art project. They will develop an appreciation and understanding of Pre-Historic Cave Art, create accurate drawings of a given animal and use art department materials to produce both an individual final piece and contributing to a large class piece.

Egyptian Art - in this project students will:

- develop an appreciation and understanding of Dynastic Egyptian Art.
- further embed line, shape and proportion in producing accurate drawings of Hieroglyphs.
- produce a final piece (Cartouche) using further methods of ensuring accuracy in measuring (rulers, set square, compass).

## Computer Science

Students will develop an understanding of the Computer Systems at TGS, followed by work around E-Safety and their responsibilities. They will follow this in starting a unit of work around Computer Crime and Cyber Security. Students will complete their work Computer Crime and Cyber Security. and then move onto developing an understanding of computers and how they work.

## Careers

As part of their PSHE lessons, where they will have an introduction to the World of Work.

## Drama

'Introduction to Drama'

Pupils will use freezes, mime and movement to devise a piece of drama to a given piece of music - The Pink Panther theme tune. They will also explore improvisation and create their own Christmas stories towards the end of the term.

## English

Pupils begin their year by studying *Wonder*, using their independent reading of the novel to explore characters and experimenting with narrative perspectives through their own creative writing.

We will then move onto *Frankenstein*, the play introducing and consolidating students' understanding of key techniques by exploring the Gothic conventions and genre. Students will explore how ideas and feelings are conveyed, experimenting with interpretations, using drama and creative writing and learning to structure their reading responses.

Towards Christmas, pupils will begin their study of their class novel, Philip Pullman's *The Ruby In The Smoke*. They will immerse themselves in the dark and dangerous underworld of Victorian London and, through creative and analytical tasks, solve the mystery of the missing ruby. Through their study, they will explore how the author crafts effective characters, creates atmospheric settings and builds tension throughout the novel.

## Food & Nutrition

Students will be taught about healthy eating and the importance of nutrition. They will learn about maintaining a safe and hygienic kitchen environment. They will also learn how to safely chop food and prepare for practical work. They will be making a variety of sweet and savoury foods including flapjacks, shortbread, oven chips and quesadillas. In the second half of the term, we will learn about primary processing of foods; how to make pasta and produce certain shapes; safe knife skills: how to chop vegetables and how to use kitchen equipment.

## Geography

This term, year 7 students will be voyaging around the world investigating a range of 'fantastic places' such as Svalbard, Victoria Falls and Easter Island to help learn some core geographical concepts as well as appreciate the sheer wonder of the world!

After learning about some fantastic places, students will become polar explorers as we begin to study to Antarctica in our 'Life In The Freezer' topic where they will investigate its unique climate and wildlife, as well as seeking to understand what the future might hold for the continent.

## History

Students will start looking at Medieval England. Starting by looking at what happened when the Romans left England, students will develop an understanding of what life was like in the Middle Ages.

## Mathematics

Students will cover the following topics: Pythagoras' Theorem, Decimals, Fractions, Equations, Functions and Formulae. Analysing and Displaying Data. Angles and Shapes.

## MFL - French

In French, the first topic will contain a strong focus on phonics and French speaking and listening. Students will complete work on the geography of France and the Francophone world to develop these skill areas. After developing these skills, they will learn to:

- Greet people
- Justify how they feel
- Introduce themselves and others
- Understand numbers and give their age
- Conjugate the verb to have (*avoir*)
- Say when their birthday is

## MFL - German

After learning all the basics of German (alphabet, numbers, greetings etc.) pupils will complete a topic called: *Mein Lieblingstier*.

They will learn how to:

- Say what their favourite animal is and why
- Describe animals
- Use a bilingual dictionary to look up words
- Get the gender of a noun right
- Make nouns plural
- Use German subject pronouns
- Say 'is' and 'are'
- Make even longer sentences with 'because', 'and' and 'but'

'Animals' - students will learn to give opinions using the word 'because'. They will transfer this learning to a new context where they discuss their opinions on animals, giving justifications.

## Spanish

In Spanish, students will complete a topic named: *iVamos!*

They will learn how to:

- Greet people and have a basic conversation
- Introduce themselves
- Spell words and understand key phonics
- Explain which languages they speak
- Understand numbers and giving their age
- Say when their birthday is

They will then move onto 'El mundo hispanohablante': Students will learn how to use nouns, adjectives and connectives to describe lots of countries around the world that speak Spanish.

## Music

Students will study a topic called "Find your voice" in which they will explore the use of voice through practical tasks culminating in a year 7 concert just before ½ term.

**KEYBOARD SKILLS** This unit aims to develop core keyboard skills and an understanding of basic notation. Students will demonstrate these skills through a performance of the popular Christmas song Santa Claus is Coming to Town. There will also be more singing to build on the first half of the term.

## PE

Students in year 7 rotate every 3 weeks which gives them 6 lessons per activity. So each group will have taking part in 2 of the following:

**Dance** - Students will explore a range of dance movements using steps, gestures, formations, body shapes, contact work, and contrasts in dynamic and rhythmic patterning. Students will demonstrate creativity by exploring dance ideas of The Cog or Cartoon Capers.

**Health Related Fitness** - students will learn about their heart rate, the cardiovascular system in relation to exercise and understand and describe what happens to the body when exercising. Students will take part in circuit training sessions and record and evaluate their heart rate after every station. Students will learn about the importance of leading an active lifestyle.

**Hockey** - students will learn the basics of hockey starting with how to grip the stick and dribble the ball. They will learn how to keep control of the ball in drills and small sided games. Students will learn how to pass and receive the ball and basic tactics of how to outwit an opponent.

**Netball** - students will start by learning the different passes in netball and the basic footwork rule. Over the sessions they will be taught the rules of the game and start by playing small sided games where they will aim to outwit their opponents. Students will learn how to dodge, as well as how to defend their player and the ball.

## PSHE

In PSHE this term they will cover a range of topics including: Personal and British Values, Mental Well-Being, Basic First Aid, Personal Hygiene, Puberty, The Importance of Sleep, Body Image and the Media and Bullying.

## Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Year 7 start their RP&E journey at TGGs with a unit called "A-Z of religion" which builds on some topics that students might have studied at primary school as well as laying a foundation for future units in RP&E. It looks at a diverse range of religious, philosophical, and ethical topic from atheism to forgiveness to kosher food.

## Science

### Biology: Reproduction

Students develop their understanding of reproduction in humans (as an example of a mammal), including the structure and function of the male and female reproductive systems, menstrual cycle (without details of hormones), gametes, fertilisation, gestation and birth, to include the effect of maternal lifestyle on the foetus through the placenta

They will also explore reproduction in plants, including flower structure, wind and insect pollination, fertilisation, seed and fruit formation and dispersal, including quantitative investigation of some dispersal mechanisms. Students will be able to explain the importance of plant reproduction through insect pollination in human food security.

This unit follows the year 7 Cells unit in which egg and sperm cells were studied as examples of specialised animal cells. It is taught early in year 7 prior to PHSE lessons on puberty and relationships. Plant reproduction from Key Stage 2 is recapped as it is important that our students have a common knowledge before covering inheritance in later years.

### Chemistry:

In chemistry, they will look at the particle model of matter, and how matter can exist in different phases.

**Separating Mixtures** In this module, students will explore what pure and impure substances are and will continue to build up on their prior knowledge from primary school on separating mixtures. They will use key techniques in the lab such as filtration, evaporation, distillation and chromatography to separate different mixtures. Students will revisit this content in year 10 and 11 when studying atomic structure and chemical analysis.

### Physics

In physics, students will learn about one of the fundamental phenomena of nature and the universe, Energy, how it can be transferred and transformed in electricity that powers our homes.

Students will be developing their knowledge and understanding of energy further by investigating thermal energy transfers. They will carry out practicals exploring conduction, convection and radiation. Students will also be able to describe how to keep warm and methods to save energy by slowing these energy transfers down. They will be able to evaluate our use of energy and link it to the ideas of electricity production that they studied earlier in the term. These ideas are built upon in Key Stage 4.

## Textiles

In Textiles, year 7 students will be starting at the beginning, learning how to safely thread and sew with a sewing machines, change stitches, sew around corners and curves and they will use these skills alongside applique to decorate a festive card.

