



Welcome to our Spring 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](#).

This half-term, students will take part in our 2nd Challenge Day. Year 10 will participate in a Codes and Cyphers Day on January 31st.

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

ART

Students are continuing their investigation into the work of the St. Ives' artists after a visit to Tate St. Ives. They have already completed a substantial sketchbook submission for this. We now move into the phase where they will be working on preparatory sheets and on into compositional 'thumbnails' for possible final pieces. The final piece itself will be done in the Y10 Mock Exam (10 hours over 2 days).

BUSINESS STUDIES

Making the business effective, Understanding the external environment.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will be developing their theory knowledge on Computer Networks and Network Security & Systems software. Alongside this they will be completing work on Algorithms and then moving on to Programming in preparation for the practical paper.

DRAMA

Physical theatre (Frantic Assembly), Stanislavski, Live theatre visit and Devising pieces (course-work).

ENGLISH

Pupils have begun 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. We will then begin our study of the English Language GCSE, focussing on AQA Paper 1 in which pupils respond to a fiction extract from a modern novel and complete a piece of creative writing. Pupils are encouraged to pay particular focus to their writing skills and accuracy as well as exploring how different authors craft texts using language and structural devices to impact the reader.

GEOGRAPHY

Urban Issues and Challenges.

Coastal Landscapes.

GEOLOGY

Students will be studying Dynamic Deposition, where they will look at sedimentary rocks, water & oil and will then move onto Magma on the Move, where they will study igneous rocks & volcanoes.

HISTORY

Students are continuing their work on GCSE Medicine, building on their knowledge of the Medieval Period and analysing the Renaissance, 19th Century and Modern Medicine, with an in depth focus on the British Sector of the Western Front 1914 - 1918.

MATHEMATICS

Bounds - Using their knowledge of error intervals to allow them to answer upper and lower bounds questions within lots of different contexts.

Trigonometry - This is advancing onto non-right-angled trigonometry, using the sine and cosine rule to calculate missing sides, sides and the area of scalene triangles.

MFL: FRENCH

[La vie saine:](#)

Food and meals.

What makes a healthy diet.

Sports (comparing past and present).

How to have strong physical and mental wellbeing.

Illness and injury (role play focus).

MFL: GERMAN

Pupils will complete the topic Tourism in the German speaking world. They will:

- Learn about popular tourist destinations in Germany.
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of tourism.
- Using transactional language in the following situations: finding your way, being ill, booking something, phone calls, complaining, shopping.
- Utilise this language in role-play scenarios.

MUSIC

Composition 1, AOS Exploration - exam preparation, Ensemble Performance 1.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

[Core PE:](#)

Students are offered a range of activities that develops their personal fitness and promotes an active, healthy lifestyle. They are able to choose 2 per week which they then develop skills in for half a term. They are taught to use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in either hockey, badminton, volleyball, handball, rugby, netball, or football, depending of which of these they choose.

They can choose more aesthetics options like yoga or trampoline or they can choose to work on their own fitness in our fitness suite.

[GCSE PE:](#)

Applied Anatomy and Physiology (Paper 1: Fitness and Body Systems)

Structure and function of the cardiovascular system

Arteries, capillaries and veins

Vascular shunting

Components of blood and their significance for physical activity

Respiratory system - composition of air; lung volumes

Location and roles of principal components of respiratory system

Structure and function of alveoli

Energy sources; aerobic and anaerobic exercise and short term effects of exercise
An introduction to using a PEP to develop fitness, health, exercise and performance
PARQs; warm ups and cool downs
Components of fitness
Fitness tests - theory and practice (i)
Fitness tests - theory and practice (ii)
Fitness tests - theory and practice (iii)
Principles of training

PSHE

Year 10 has two strands this year: looking at the wider world including what is citizenship, human rights, role of the media, first aid, managing money. The other strand deals with RSE such as impact of cyber bullying, good mental health, healthy/unhealthy relationships, pornography, self examination to stay healthy, fertility and pregnancy

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Jewish beliefs - In this unit, we look at some key Jewish beliefs including beliefs about God, covenants with God, key moral principles, the problem of evil, life and death and the sanctity of life.

Human Rights and Social Justice - In this unit we study religious (primarily Christian) and non-religious views on social justice, human rights, discrimination (racial, gender, positive), wealth, poverty and exploitation.

SCIENCE

Biology:

Students are finishing the Unit 3 Health Topic and after this we are starting bio-energetics which consists of respiration and photosynthesis.

Chemistry:

Structure and bonding: types of bonding; changes of state; properties of ionic, metallic, and covalent substances; nanoparticles.

Periodic Table: development of the periodic table; Group 1 properties and reactions; Group 7 properties and reactions.

Physics:

Combined Science:

Electricity in the home

Forces as vectors

GCSE:

Electricity in the home (end)

Forces as vectors

Motion

Forces and motion

