



## Welcome



I am delighted to bring to you our final Teaching and Learning Newsletter of this academic year. In this edition, I have asked some Subject Leaders to look back on some of the key Teaching and Learning developments that they have been working on over the term, and to assess their impact as well as giving you, the parent or carer, some advice on how you can work in partnership with the school to support your child. Our focus has been largely about encouraging our students to become better independent learners and to provide them with the tools to achieve this. We will continue to hold this theme central to our plans for next year. As always, if you have any comments or questions, then I would love to hear from you.

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## A word from your Year Leader

Well, Year 10 have had the most fantastic year! It has been full of successes and great achievements. Behaviourally, Year 10 have gone above and beyond with over 110 students in the year group not receiving any negative behaviour points for the last half term and there have been thousands of positive points given across the year group.

We have recently celebrated how Year 10 have been brilliant leaders and are role models for so many students across the school. Awards have been given to one member of each tutor group who has shown fantastic leadership both in lessons and around our school campus. These awards were given to: Emilie Hackforth, Darcey Kinnear, Oliver Prior, Spencer Edenbrow, Lizzy Potter, Matt Negrillo, Lucy Platt and Andrew Fox. It is so lovely to see so many students excelling and showing how to be good leaders within our school.

Year 10 have also taken part in a variety of activities which has shown them to have huge talent. We were lucky enough to see so many Year 10 students compete in Battle of the Bands, where there were some truly brilliant songs! We had so many win Sports Awards at the celebration evening and many are currently taking part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. We also have Sports Day arriving at the end of this month which Year 10 will be able to participate in and enjoy!

Upcoming events for Year 10 include 2 weeks of PPEs (pre- public examinations) which allows us to give students a flavour of what it will be like to sit their real GCSEs. This is a brilliant opportunity for students to gauge what level they are currently working at and to understand how exam pressures can feel; it also allows us to give students some tools for how to deal with these next year so that they are fully prepared for the reality of GCSEs.

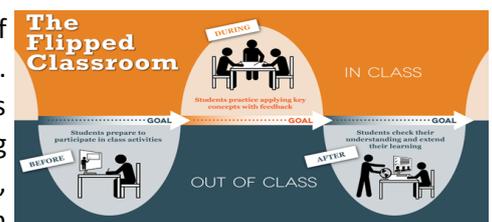
Miss Morgan

## Spotlight on....

### Geography

The Geography department has been trialling flipped learning with the aim of making it the recognised way of working from September 2018 for all year groups. We have seen the benefits with classes at key stage 3 of learning content 2 weeks ahead and then freeing up lesson time for the higher order application tasks using this acquired knowledge. This also reflects the shifting focus at key stage 4 and 5, where more of the marks in exams are awarded for application and evaluation than for knowledge.

You can continue to support your child by encouraging them to access the guided independent learning materials available via the school website. We will begin to shift away from using Padlet to our own Sharepoint site. We would always welcome your views upon this new site, to help us to build it in a way that best supports our students.



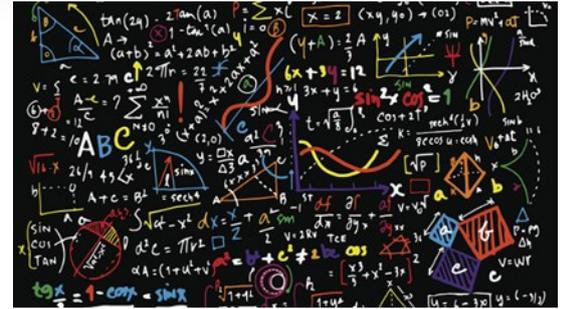
## Spotlight on.....

### Maths

We are now in the second year of the new GCSE Maths qualification. The department have worked hard to make the transition as seamless as possible for all year groups. The students have reacted well and taken it in their stride. A clear scheme of work that allows students to study each topic and then judge their own strengths and weaknesses alongside teacher feedback is now fully implemented and allows for students to take ownership of their own learning.

Home learning will play a key part in this and will be much more personalised in the coming academic year, this will allow each student to work on the topics relevant to their needs and combine both independent and home learning together.

Year 10 are now in their second year of GCSE study for Maths, this term they will focus on probability, algebra recap, sketching graphs, linear and quadratic equations. At the end of June, students will be completing 3 GCSE style papers that will inform teachers and students as to their progress.

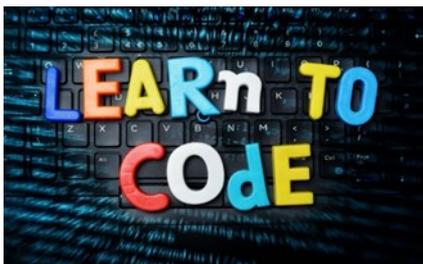


### Computing

This has obviously been an unusual year for the Year 10 Computer Science students and I am impressed with the level of independence and focus that the students are developing, as there is a significant amount of knowledge that students have to develop for themselves as they work their way through the course. The use of memrise to test their knowledge has been remarkable, with many students from across the ability spectrum competing for the highest scores.

We're beginning to make more progress with home learning resources to again equip the students to learn and bring their learning to school; more of this will be implemented over the rest of the course. Most of the exam theory has now been covered. Once networking has been completed, we need to focus on computational thinking and particularly develop their coding knowledge since next year will include the coding project which forms part of the course. Consequently, we hope to be able to dedicate a day, or even two, to developing their coding ability so that they are freer to play with it and develop their ability with computational thought.

With coding, it is wholly beneficial to simply tinker to persevere with understanding. Students will want to have Python at home to play with. IDLE is a free Python IDE (development environment) which can be run on most operating systems, it would be beneficial for students to be able to access this at home. It would also be beneficial to encourage students to think through their solutions before attempting code.



## Religious Education

In RE this year, we have been working with students on developing the key skills of independent learning through developing some simple flipped learning strategies which encourage students to improve their knowledge through self-directed tasks carried out on their own. A few ways we have done this is through exploring the application of GCSE Pod, an excellent resource which allows students to access short clips based around key topics at GCSE. We have also been encouraging students to learn ahead of what we are covering in lesson, in order to have key knowledge when they enter the room; we can then spend more time exploring this in depth and developing our own opinion on these key topics.

In RE, we feel it is incredibly important to spend time looking after ourselves and in particular our mental health. We explore how the different religions around the world offer support through difficult times, and how faith can support those in crisis.

In order to support your child in their studies in RE, you could engage them in conversations around current issues in the world, to get interested in current affairs and to explore their own beliefs, whatever these may be. If they complete their home learning within the allotted time, you may also encourage them to explore GCSE Pod, or to spend some time on the BBC World Faiths website, exploring different issues and religions which may interest them, they can then bring this into lesson to lead discussions or ask questions around the topics. You may also wish to encourage them to attempt the more difficult tasks on their home learning task sheet to extend their learning.



## Science

Students in Year 10 have been using their revision guides across the year and all students will use these right up to the Year 11 summer exams. These books are a great resource that are tailored to the AQA specification and cover all of the key information in a concise manner. Students bring these revision guides to lessons and use them in class to help them solve problems or to support their knowledge of key facts.

The revision guides are useful in a number of ways, for both home study and independent learning. Students can find answers and guidance on homework and past paper questions, and can read ahead of the lesson to see what is coming in future lessons. Students in Year 11 have found the questions on each page a useful way to test their knowledge using the answers in the back to check they are making good progress. The end of chapter questions, provide a useful knowledge checklist before end of topic tests. Another advantage is the lack of distractions that may be encountered when searching for revision content online, students (and particularly boys) are often far more productive with a concise book than with the vast expanse of the internet at their fingertips.

In support of flipped learning, Year 10 students will gain access to GCSE Pod, an online resource that allows students to watch quick video clips that summarise topics and relate key information in a clear and concise way. Teachers will be setting questions, and students will be able to complete assignments using this resource. Year 10 students will use this as they prepare for the end of year exams.

## Summer Term Topics and Assessments

Year	Topic Title	Main Assessment Task	Deadline
English	Rhetoric	To prepare and perform a persuasive speech about a topic of your choice. This is for the separate GCSE speaking and listening qualification which will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction.	
MFL	French & German: Where I live, social and global issues.	PPE exams: Speaking in w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> June Listening, reading and writing in early July	
Art	The theme of food explored through Art	Final piece produced in PPE and supporting work portfolio work	June
Business	Revision for Theme 1 – Investigating small business  Theme 2.1 - Growing the business. This will be started after the PPE examination	The main assessment task will be the PPE examination which will cover all the content from Theme 1. An investigation task on mergers/ takeovers will conclude assessment for this academic year.	PPE date 27/6/2018
Drama	Blood Brothers and Response to Live Theatre	PPE Drama exam: Performance and Response.	W/C 18 <sup>th</sup> June
Geography	Ecosystems, Tropical rainforest and Hot deserts	PPE: Paper 1 Hazards; tectonic, weather & climate change. Ecosystems; TRF & hot deserts.  Paper 2 Urban challenges	8 <sup>th</sup> June 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
History	Power and the People breadth study	PPE Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918; Germany Democracy and Dictatorship	June
Music	Performance	Final coursework performance - solo or ensemble	
P.E	Physical Training	PPE exam - The students will be examined on all of the year 10 content. They have been given sample questions and a review sheet to aid the process	27th June  1hr.45mins (90 mark paper.)
R.E	Christianity: Practices	GCSE mid unit and end of unit assessment	Mid June
Technology	Textiles Mini NEA Challenge Graphics Mini NEA Challenge Resistant Materials Mini NEA Challenge  Food Styling and economy	Investigation, Design, Make and Evaluate  To organise and stretch knowledge-applying economics with presentation	15th June  End of year

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