



Teaching and Learning Newsletter for Year 7

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our third edition of the Teaching and Learning Newsletter and the 2nd half of the Spring Term. I hope you have found the previous editions useful in terms of keeping informed of what your child is learning, how they are learning and how you can best support. The focus for this edition is Independent Learning. We are keen for our students to be independent learners that are in charge of their own learning. Of course, this does not mean that they are left on their own but rather work in partnership with their teachers to develop skills of organisation, self-evaluation, resilience and resourcefulness. This is not an exhaustive list but merely a starting point on our journey together. In particular this term, we have been working with the students and teachers on Flipped Learning which is where students prepare for the lesson in advance by building up their knowledge of the topic which then allows dynamic, challenging and engaging activities to take place in lesson time so as to take the learning deeper. In addition to this, Home Learning is continuing to develop so as to give students more choice of home tasks which will be more tailored to their current level of ability and progress. This will be more prevalent higher up the school but I expect it to be evident across all years. As always, I would be interested to hear your comments and views on how your son/daughter is finding this. I do hope you enjoy the following pages and find them useful in helping to support your child over the next 6 weeks or so.

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From your Year Leader

Just before half term, we celebrated the amazing achievements of our students in our celebration assembly where lots of our year 7s were recognised for their achievement. This half a term we have awarded 26 prizes for students who have continued to impress. These included 16 students to go bowling, £10 Amazon voucher, £5 Amazon voucher and 8 bars of chocolate. There were many more 'well dones' throughout the assembly with examples of student work being shown on screen and a number of teachers highlighting different students. What an excellent way to end the term.

As we find our feet in year 7, we hope we can now move forward to a more advanced way of learning. This will push the students further and make them better learners, finding education more accessible. One particular style of learning we are developing this term is Flipped learning. This encourages the student to spend time on reading up, researching, picking out information and watching videos prior to the lesson so they can move onto more advanced content and activities in the lesson. This is not a new way of learning. However, research has found that students that use this effectively make faster progress and can spend more time on deeper content. This will also help students to be independent, which is something I want year 7 to establish.

Dates for the diary

February 23rd - Bowling reward trip

Feb 26th - 12th March (trial for new school timings)

March 8th - Year 7 Parents evening

April 26th - Sports presentation evening (invite only)

Mr Howes

Subject	Topic Title	Main Assessment Task	Opportunities to learn away from the lesson.
PE	Volleyball, Gymnastics and Rugby/ Football	Students are assessed every 4 weeks in the sport that they are currently doing	Netball: Monday lunch, Tuesday after school Boys football, Tuesdays after school and Girls football on Wednesdays Badminton, Tuesdays after school Basketball, Wednesdays Volleyball on Thursdays
Music	Performing skills	Ukulele and singing performance OR Keyboard performance	Practice ukulele, singing or keyboard in a practice room at break/lunch. Listen to/watch different performers and describe why they are successful.
Art	Formal elements of art-Colour	Colour mixing, still-life collage	Research the work of Henri Matisse.
Drama	Bullying	Create an anti-bullying advert. Develop and explore ideas using improvisation Evaluate the effectiveness of their own Drama work, and the work of others.	Selected use of television

PSHE	<p>Friendships, why they're important, what to do when there's conflict, body image (see link below) and learning to love yourself, diet and making healthy choices. A document designed for parents to support them in encouraging positive body image.</p> <p>http://mediasmart.uk.com/application/files/7314/9676/3356/Media_Smart_A_Guide_for_Parents_and_Guardians_Body_Image_and_Advertising_v2.pdf?dm_i=1PLJ,5H2NC,OUZBJA,L7PG8,1</p>
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Subject	Topic Title	Main Assessment Task
MFL	French: My hobbies German: My school	Unit assessment in reading and writing
RE	Who are the People of God?	Formal assessment with use of H/W project.
English	Identity (predominantly poetry)	AQA KS3 question on an unseen poem
Geography	Extreme climate	Examination style short answer type questions on topics so far
History	The Power of Medieval Kings	Did the Magna Carta bring freedom to all English people?
Textiles	Personalised Tester Project	Design and making of final product
Graphics	Fuse Tester Project	Design and manufacture of a fuse tester product and
Resistant	Animal Mobile Phone	Design and making of final product
Food and	Food ingredients	Organisation and working together

Science

This term, students will be working on a biology topic ('Movement of the Human Body'), a physics topic ('Heating and Cooling') and two chemistry topics ('Simple Chemical Reactions' and 'Fuels and Burning'). The content of KS3 BBC Bitesize is very useful and if you were looking to purchase a book to support student's learning at home further, we would recommend the KS3 Science Complete Study Guide & Practice Book by CGP.

Students have been issued with a science proficiency card to track when they successfully show evidence of the investigative skills acquired during the Autumn term. Students are currently working towards their Bronze Award which upon completion will also result in 20 credits being awarded. Students should clearly log practical work completed and let their teacher know when they have a full proficiency card.

Maths

This term students will be exploring angles, perimeter (area and volume), ratio and proportion and sequences. Lessons are pitched to ensure that all students are stretched and challenged. The main assessment point for year 7 will take place just before Easter.

Computing

Students will be looking at learning how to program a BBC Micro-bit. These miniature computers can be programed on any computer with internet access and then, if you have one, transmit the code via bluetooth to see it run for real. The Micro-Bit was a new invention last year and can be programmed using a block editor (similar to scratch, which the students are all familiar with) or, for the most able, in Python. Even without a Micro-bit to hand, the online programming allows students to write and test some code on the virtual device and then we can test them in school.

Outside of the classroom, we would hope that students would access the micro-bit website to play with it themselves and see what they can come up with. There are all sorts of sample code and 'teach it yourself' examples of code on the website which are lots of fun and teach students that coding is not as complicated as many think.

Website: microbit.org



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