Digital Technology & Business Department Newsletter

New Term!

Welcome back! This is a pivotal term as our Year 11s begin the final countdown to their GCSE exams and Year 10s work towards their crucial Controlled Assessment deadlines. Meanwhile, Year 9 students are reaching an exciting milestone, as they select their Options for the future. We know these weeks are significant for our families and we are here to support every student in achieving their best.

What we are learning

Year 7	We continue working on our Music Festival and will start exploring how HTML is used to create a simple website. Our students will be using HTML themselves, to create a simple homepage before designing a website for their music festival.
Year 8	We will be continuing the theme of Jolly Holidays with our students and they will be learning about creating animations in Blender, with the aim of planning and designing an animated advert for their holiday company.
Year 9	Now that we have finished our Augmented Reality prototypes, our students will be moving onto looking at using spreadsheets in a more complex way, before designing a self-marking quiz in Microsoft Excel.
Year 10 Business	Our students will be continuing with their marketing pitch for the burger that they designed. The students will be finishing their promotional material and then putting their presentations together.
Year 10 Dig Tech	Intermingled with improving their first piece of Controlled Assessment, the group will be also continuing to explore the use of Human Computer Interfaces (HCI's) in a range of scenarios.
Year 11 Business	We will be focusing on improving our second piece of Controlled Assessment, before turning our attention to preparing for the Business exam, with intense revision of all the topics that will be assessed in it.
Year 11 Dig Tech	We will be focusing on improving our piece of Controlled Assessment before turning our attention to preparing for the Digital Technology exam, with intense revision of all the topics that will be assessed in it.

Upcoming Dates

This term we have Year 10 Progress Evening which is on the **3rd March**. We hope to see as many of you as possible to discuss how your child is doing. We also have Options Evening on the **26th February** for Year 9, where you can find out what Option choices your child has.

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How to Revise - Blurting

Blurting is a high-impact revision strategy centred on **active retrieval**, which focuses on "pulling" information out of the brain rather than simply reading it over and over. To do this, a student spends a few minutes reviewing a topic and then immediately closes their books to write down every fact, date, or formula they can remember on a blank sheet of paper. Once they've exhausted their memory, they go back to their notes and use a different coloured pen to fill in the gaps of what they forgot. This process is highly effective, because it immediately highlights exactly what the student *doesn't* know yet, preventing them from wasting time on familiar material and building the mental stamina needed for the "blank page" pressure of an actual exam.

Careers Focus

With Year 9 about to take their Options, it is important that all students are aware of what they need when considering various careers. https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers is a really useful website that gives impartial advice and guidance about a vast array of careers. Regardless of whether you are choosing your Options or considering what to study once you leave school, it is best to try and be informed to the best of your ability to help with these tricky decisions.

Lesson 6

For our Year 10 and Year 11 students, there is an opportunity for them to work after school on a Tuesday and Friday in room A3 on their coursework. As we have an upcoming deadline all Controlled Assessment in Year 10 and Year 11, then attending these sessions will help improve their grade, especially if your child has missed any lessons.

Any other questions

If you have any questions about Digital Technology and/ or Business and would like to get in touch with the relevant teacher then please contact school:
Ms Matthews: s.matthews@aspire.fcat.org.uk
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