



YEAR 10

# Secondary

Curriculum Newsletter

## Message from the Vice Principal

Welcome to the Spring term newsletter which will inform you of the subject material being taught during this term.

You can really support your child by looking at the topics covered in each subject area and discuss these with them. Please ensure you give your child support to make sure they are completing their homework regularly, on time and to the best standard they can.

who is considering English as part of their further studies. There is an excellent summary of 'The Merchant of Venice', as well as information and analysis of key characters and themes on these websites: <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/merchant/>

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-merchant-of-venice/about-the-play/stage-history>

There is a playlist of analysis videos for all of the poems (including those studied in the first half of term) here:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cAO64IBHZTFwTz2X0DD\\_Cxk](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cAO64IBHZTFwTz2X0DD_Cxk)

## Reminders/Key dates:

### Spring term 2022

4 January - 1 April

### Half term

14 February - 18 February

### Easter Holiday

4 April - 19 April

(returning on the 20 April)

### Training day

19 April

### Parents' evenings

10 January

13 January

### School production Legally Blonde

8 March - 10 March

12 March

### Encore Dance Show

27 April & 28 April

## ENGLISH

### What are we doing this term?

Pupils will begin their study of 'The Merchant of Venice' this term in preparation for English Literature Paper 1. Pupils will read the full play alongside a filmed Globe stage performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company, which will support their understanding of the play. After half term, Year 10s will be studying the remaining Power and Conflict poems from the Literature Anthology (the reset were initially studied at the end of Year 9).

### What can you do to support your child?

All pupils should have their own copy of the Literature texts at this stage. If they have their own copies, it will allow them to annotate and have more effective revision materials for next year. Later in the year, they will also need copies of 'An Inspector Calls' which they should already have, alongside 'A Christmas Carol'.

**Please can you ensure that your child has copies of these texts to allow them to fully engage with the curriculum.**

### Wider reading:

'Shylock is my Name' by Howard Jacobson is a modern interpretation of 'The Merchant of Venice', but focusing on Shylock as a sympathetic character. This could be an interesting read for anyone

## SCIENCE

At the end of the autumn term pupils completed GCSE level assessments on all GCSE science content studied so far. They will build on this knowledge base by continuing to study the content that makes up paper 1 of the AQA science course. This applies to both combined and triple. Pupils with the triple will require to learn some topics in additional detail.

## MATHS

At the end of last academic year, all pupils in Year 9 sat an assessment to help us decide the tier of entry for their GCSE. Based on this, we currently have three classes studying the Higher tier content and two classes following the Foundation syllabus.

Foundation pupils have spent some time this year to review number calculations and gone on to learn about expressions and equations. In the coming term, they will focus on ratio, direct and inverse proportion as well as indices and standard form.

Higher tier students started the year

## MATHS (cont....)

looking at Perimeter, Area and Volume of shapes and its applications. They then went on to learn about the laws of indices, surds and standard form. Pupils then sat an end of unit assessment to ascertain their understanding of those units.

Next term, we will be focusing on Algebra and data handling.

In February, some of our higher pupils will be selected to enter the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, Parents will be informed if their child is selected to take part.

We want to re-emphasise the importance of supporting learning in school with skills focused homework. Well done to the many who have been doing this regularly, but if your child is having issues getting onto 'Mathswatchvle' then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Happy New Year from all of the Maths department.

## GEOGRAPHY (cont....)

human activity. Pupils will learn about the UK's climate and how and why it varies regionally. Tropical cyclones and drought are the examples of extreme weather that are studied. Pupils will focus on two named examples for both cyclones and drought; comparing the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the USA with the impact of Typhoon Haiyan in the emerging country of The Philippines and comparing the experience of drought in California, USA and Ethiopia, a developing country.

We will start Topic 3 – Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management towards the end of term. This will include an overview of large-scale ecosystems – their distribution and characteristics together with learning about the UK's ecosystems. Pupils will study tropical rainforests and deciduous woodlands as examples of large-scale ecosystems with a focus on Madagascar and The New Forest, UK.

Throughout lessons, pupils have opportunities to learn new information and apply this in different ways together with opportunities to learn and practise a variety of geographical skills, including maths and English skills, and to experience and practise a variety of GCSE questions.

Homework will be set regularly and will be designed to help pupils remember information and apply this. Together with working hard during lessons and homework, pupils can further support themselves by using: BBC Bitesize – GCSE Geography – Edexcel A Seneca – a quiz platform – GCSE Geography Edexcel A

## PE

As our first full term has come to an end, the department have loved being back delivering our usual curriculum, returning to some sports that pupils haven't had the chance to participate in for almost two years due to Covid restrictions. During the last two weeks of the Autumn term, all secondary year groups have had the opportunity to take part in the **Winter Games**, one of our first inter-house competitions in PE and something we trialled initially last year with one group. Every pupil has had the chance to represent their house in either netball, football or table tennis against their peers from the other houses. It's been wonderful to see the pupils in a competitive environment and making the most of this opportunity.

Our 36 **leadership pupils** have had a promising start to their course. They have started the year by exploring how to plan and structure activities and full lessons, trialing these ideas on their peers both in and outside their own group. Integral to this course is the development of self-confidence as well as working together. We really look forward to seeing them put their ideas into action when delivering to the Primary cohort in the new year.

## HISTORY

### What is being covered

Our two Year 10 groups will continue to be studying a variety of topics in the Spring term. One history group will carry on being taught by two members of staff due to timetabling and so each staff member will teach a separate topic. This group will continue with their study of Anglo-Norman England c.1042-c.1088. This topic focuses on life in England before the Norman Conquest and how the Normans adapted, changed or continued aspects of English life. As well as 'big events' such as the Battle of Hastings, the rebellions against William I's rule and succession crises, we also explore the impact on the lives of everyday people. All pupils will also begin, or continue to develop their learning of, the Weimar and Nazi Germany (1918-1939) topic. This is a hugely influential period of time and focuses on the challenges faced by Germany following World War 1 and how these challenges allowed extremist political groups such as the Nazi's to flourish. We also investigate how and why the Nazi Party grew in popularity, gained power and then everyday life under the Nazi's before the start of World War 2. This topic is a source-based topic drawing upon the skills developed over Key Stage 3 in critical thinking of evidence and source analysis.

### How, when and what pupils will be assessed on

As well as mock exams in later terms, assessments will

## GEOGRAPHY

We are following the GCSE Geography (9-1) Edexcel A specification.

We continue our GCSE studies with Topic 2 – Extreme Weather and Climate Change. This begins with learning about atmospheric and oceanic circulation and how these transfer energy around Earth. This is followed with past climate change and the natural causes of this, and then how more recent climate change is caused by

## HISTORY (cont....)

be based on homework tasks (see below) and practice questions completed in class once per half-term.

To support pupils with these assessments we encourage regular revision (see below) and there are learning videos with a guide on how to approach each type of question and what the examiner is looking for.

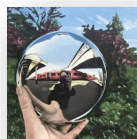
### How home learning (homework) supports learning in class

Homework is set weekly through Satchel One and takes either the form of a multiple-choice quiz or a practice exam question. This is based on either work they have covered in class or subject key terms. The intent behind this is that the pupils attempt the quiz three times with an aim of either improving their score or achieving 100%. Between each attempt, we encourage the pupils to review which questions they got wrong so that they can improve on their next try. This supports pupils by building up their knowledge and understanding of both the topic and subject-specific skills as well as supporting their development of revision skills. The practice exam question is based on the one of the questions found in the exam for the topic they are studying. As mentioned above, the Google Classroom that all pupils have signed up to includes both specific lesson resources and revision videos for all exam questions to support the pupils in achieving their best. The most important homework is revision preparation. There is a lot of content and the most successful pupils prepare their revision material after each lesson. We discuss, and encourage, pupils to keep up to date with this as well as offer ideas and suggestions how to organise this material. This information is also shared on the Google Classroom for GCSE history.

## ART

### Reflections

Year 10 pupils will continue their investigation of the theme 'Reflections', further developing their understanding of a range of media, techniques and processes.



They will be encouraged to research artists who interest them, finding inspiration from gallery visits, online presentations and books.

Pupils will use their investigations, experimentation and development of ideas to plan and complete a final piece; a personal response to the topic. At this point in the GCSE we will moderate the work, giving verbal and written feedback to all pupils on how they can improve their portfolio of work moving forward.

## HOSPITALITY and CATERING

Pupils have now completed the first of four exam units for their Hospitality and Catering qualification. This term we plan to start the second unit, 'Understanding how

## HOSPITALITY and CATERING (cont....)

food can cause ill health'. We will also be completing practical cooking lessons, to build up the essential practical skills that pupils need to master this year. Some of the skills we will cover are filleting a fish, portioning a chicken, blind baking & setting with gelatine.

It is vital that this year, pupils remember their ingredients every week. Ingredients list will be posted on Satchel One. **Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require support with this.**



Revision book that you may like to purchase online to support pupils over the next two years

## Design Technology

Pupils in Year 10 will be learning the following over the Spring term:

- Investigating primary and secondary data sources
- Designing around the work of others, focus on two designers and two design companies
- Explore design strategy to create a piece of copper enamel jewellery or art piece
- Communicate ideas through a variety of strategies
- Consider material management and marking out
- Work within tolerances and allowances of materials
- Consider the selection of materials and components for purpose
- Investigate specialist tools, equipment, techniques and processes to create an injection moulded product.



## MUSIC

Year 10 will be looking at Area of Study 1, 'Forms and Devices,' from the new EDUQAS GCSE course.

Pupils will be learning about different musical structures throughout historical and current genres of music. They will be using this knowledge to help further their composition experience and ability by creating their own piece of music following a chosen form. They will also get the opportunity to perform pieces as solo and ensemble whilst exploring the topic of 'Forms and Devices.'

## DRAMA

In practical lessons, pupils will be introduced to the devising drama component of the GCSE and will begin a 'mock' run through of the devising process. Pupils will work as either a performer or designer and create a devised piece in small groups.

In theory lessons, pupils will be continuing to explore 'Blood Brothers' as the set play. In addition, pupils will be doing some work around '& Juliet' and reviewing the performance we went to watch in November.

## DANCE

In Dance, Year 10 will continue with their Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts coursework centred around 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' the musical. A performance of this featuring the Year 10 dancers will be performed and assessed in our upcoming dance show 'Encore' in April. We will also begin to explore group choreography and working from a brief in preparation for Component 3: Responding to a Brief. To support their performance and choreographic work, pupils are encouraged to attend Dance Company on Tuesday after school.

## FILM STUDY

Pupils have finished their study of 'Skyfall'. We are now moving on to the Component 2: Global English Language Film set text, 'Slumdog Millionaire'. This unit will focus on the social, political and historical contexts surrounding the film. If your child has missed any viewings of either 'Skyfall' or 'Slumdog Millionaire', it is their responsibility to catch up with this outside of lesson time. To further support your child, they are encouraged to revise 'film form' by looking on the British Film Institute's website. Film Studies pupils are also highly encouraged to become a part of the Production Club, assisting with the backstage elements of the school productions.

## MFL

### What are we doing this term?

#### French

Pupils are beginning the term by looking at different aspects of holidays and travel. Pupils will talk about holidays using the past, present and future tense, and will then move on to describing their ideal holiday using the conditional tense (saying what they 'would do'). Leading up to half term, they will learn how to book a room in a hotel, in French, how to order a meal in a restaurant, and how to describe their visitor experience, giving both positive and negative feedback. After half term, the topic will be travel, and talking about modes of transport as well as buying tickets. Towards the end of the term, pupils will describe holiday disasters using different past tenses.

This term we are welcoming back Miss Vandewyer who is returning after having her baby girl. She is taking over teaching for the Year 10 group which was taught by Mr Godber in the Autumn term (including pupils from 10AW, 10VC and 10EG). We thank Mr Godber for his work with this class last term, and welcome him to his new group of 10NV and 10ER pupils.

#### German

Pupils will begin the term by preparing for the assessment: this will cover the topics of home life and technology. They will then start a new module which looks at different aspects of holidays and travel. Pupils will talk about modes of transport and buying tickets. Leading up to half term, they will then learn how to book a room in a hotel and describe problems associated with accommodation. After half term, pupils will practise their speaking and listening skills on the topics of ordering a meal in a restaurant and shopping for souvenirs.

This term we are welcoming back Miss Vandewyer who is returning after having her baby girl. She is taking over teaching for Year 10 German. We thank Mr Godber who taught this group in the Autumn term. Miss Vandewyer is joined by Miss Gürtler (our exchange teacher from Bamberg, Bedford's twin town in Germany) who will be supporting in German lessons, deepening pupils' knowledge of German-speaking culture and the German language.

### What can you do to support your child?

Helping your child does not mean having to know French or German. Similar to the advice in English, encourage them to become 'word detectives'; making links with English and other languages that they know will help them to guess what words mean.

Many of you are already supporting your child's learning at home and, particularly in Years 10 and 11, we can see significant benefits in the classroom.

***Thank you for all your help behind the scenes, it makes a considerable difference to both attainment and confidence.***

In order to achieve a good pass and the higher grades at GCSE level, that is, Grades 5-9, it is essential that pupils have an understanding of how to use verbs, including how to form past, present and future tenses. The most effective way to learn verbs and vocabulary is by

## MFL (cont....)

practising, little and often: we recommend a good starting point of about 45-60 minutes per week (this could be in three sessions of 20 minutes). Some pupils prefer to use a vocabulary sheet, whilst others prefer to use free language learning websites such as Memrise. All pupils in Year 10 should now have a Memrise account and be a member of their class group: this enables them to access courses

directly linked to what they are learning in school and teachers can track their progress. Memrise is an ideal resource for preparing for end of module assessments. Castle Newnham also subscribes to the Pearson Active Learn online resources: all pupils have an account and teachers will be sharing login details with their classes and may set homework on this site.

## BPE

Beliefs, Philosophy and Ethics

**Year 10 CORE:**

Pupils will be looking at what makes us unique and individual; as part of this pupils will be studying issues surrounding the existence of the soul. We will be using the film 'I Robot' to support with this. Towards the end of the half term we will move on to study different Philosophers, particularly focusing on ancient Greek philosophers.

**Year 10 GCSE:**

Pupils will be starting Paper 2: 'Themes' this half term. They will start by looking at Relationships and Family, where they will be examining issues surrounding marriage, divorce, contraception and sex before marriage. They will then move on to 'Religion and Life' which looks at topics around creation, environment, abortion and euthanasia. For each of these topics they will be looking at these from both religious and non-religious perspectives. It is important that pupils ensure that they complete their homework and meet all deadlines.



Castle Newnham School's award-winning  
**4SIXTEEN Theatre Company**  
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**TUESDAY 8TH - THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022**

**SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2022**

EVENING PERFORMANCES 7PM

SATURDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCE 3PM

TICKETS: £7.00

[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CASTLENEWNHAM-BOXOFFICE](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CASTLENEWNHAM-BOXOFFICE)

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