



YEAR 11

# 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.

## ENGLISH

### What are we doing this term?

Pupils will continue to revise and develop exam skills using a spaced practice model, where they study a different element of the exam each lesson of the cycle. Pupils will sit mock exams in January which will consist of Paper 2 for Language (the non-fiction paper) and for Literature will consist of 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Unseen Poetry'. After these are completed, pupils will reflect on their performance and build on the skills they have been developing throughout the year in order to improve their confidence before the final exams in the summer.

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

Talk to them about ways of managing their stress - for many pupils, this will be one of the most stressful periods of their lives so far. The best way for them to manage this stress is by revising, little and often, starting from now. Encourage them to work through revision guides that they may have, and ensure that they are using Seneca and their folders to complete independent study. To support your child when deadlines are looming, ask them about the exams they have sat - can they tell you where they went wrong? Do they

know what they need to do differently next time?

### Wider reading:

At this stage, pupils should focus on re-reading their Literature texts ('A Christmas Carol', 'The Merchant of Venice' and 'An Inspector Calls') and working through all of the revision material / analysis task sheets that they have been given in their English lessons.

## SCIENCE

After some revision, mock exams and reflection upon results, pupils will continue with their GCSE content with the aim of finishing all content by Easter to allow plenty of revision time. As well as finishing the required content, teachers will continue to practice the additional skills required to achieve in science, including exam technique and practical skills.

## MATHS

We have seen a lot of improvement in our pupils attitude towards learning across the year group. We have been very pleased with their work ethic. We have spent this term completing the content of the GCSE syllabus for both Foundation and Higher tiers. Pupils have also had some practice tests in preparation for their mock exams, and they have found them very useful. It has helped them identify their weaknesses and strengths as well as offering staff the opportunity to identify the gaps and to prepare all pupils adequately. We have also started some revision sessions as well as running intervention groups. In January, we will start some more revision groups both during and after school.

We would like to use this opportunity to inform all parents that one of our Year 11 pupils, Mati was entered for the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge (Reserved for A-level pupils) and he attained a Silver

## 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

### School production

#### Legally Blonde

8 March - 10 March

12 March



### Encore Dance Show

27 April & 28 April

## BPE

Beliefs, Philosophy and Ethics

### Year 11 GCSE:

Pupils have now finished the course. They will be spending this term revising in a number of different ways including through presentations, group work and lecture style lessons. It is important that pupils ensure that they complete their homework and meet all deadlines.

## MATHS

Award. He was five points away from attaining the Gold Award.

Well Done!  
**Mati**



We will be entering some of our Year 10 and 11 pupils for the Intermediate Challenge in February 2022.

We would like to use this opportunity to encourage all pupils to continue with their positive attitude towards work in the classroom and continue with their efforts during interventions as well as completing homework.

Well done to the many of you who have been doing this regularly, but if you are not doing so, then we will advise that you start now.

## PE

Our Year 11 GCSE PE cohort had their first experience of practical sport moderations this week as we travelled to Bedford Modern school for a mock moderation of table tennis, netball and football.

During the new term pupils will have two weeks of First Aid lessons delivered in place of their core PE lessons twice a week. As a department and school body, delivering and teaching first aid to our pupils is something we feel very passionate about. Teaching First Aid helps our pupils evaluate risk and empowers them with invaluable life skills and knowledge they can use if faced with a medical emergency. We start in Key Stage 3 looking at breathing, bleeding, shock, head injuries and basic life support, meanwhile we look at choking, chest pains, bones and muscle injuries within Key Stage 4 lessons.

## GEOGRAPHY

This term, we continue with our study of Topic 5, 'Global Development' which has included learning about global differences in level of development and the causes and impacts of this. We have also considered aid and the effectiveness of different development strategies. The bulk of this topic is based on India as an example of an emerging country: how its economy and population are changing and the impact of geopolitical relationships on this.

Changes to the geography GCSE curriculum - in light of the pandemic - mean that for the remainder of the course we will focus on UK Challenges – which forms half of Paper 3. This work is focused entirely on the UK and demands that pupils use a wide range of prior learning - combining and applying this to consider challenges linked with resource consumption, transport

## GEOGRAPHY (cont...)

development, economic inequality and migration together with management of national parks, coastal areas and climate change.

We will also be learning about fieldwork - its stages, methods and use of data. We aim to give pupils some experience of fieldwork although this may be 'virtual fieldwork' for our Year 11s this year. We will make every effort to take pupils 'outside' for some investigation or may ask them to carry out some data collection more independently as a form of homework.

Together with continuing to work hard each and every lesson, pupils can support their progress and learning by:

- Revising regularly – both current work and that of last year
- Completing homework carefully and promptly
- Using BBC Bitesize – GCSE Geography – Edexcel A for regular revision
- Using Seneca – quiz platform (in addition to homeworks set on this site)
- Attending weekly revision sessions – these are run every Monday lunchtime.

## HISTORY

### What is being covered

The consultation by the DfE has confirmed that history students will sit three exams from their original four topics. These are decided before the exams. Currently, the decision is to focus on the two topics studied in Year 10 (Anglo-Norman and Cold War) and the Weimar and Nazi Germany topic begun last term (this is also the only compulsory exam that all history GCSE pupils must sit nationally).

Our Year 11 pupils will have soon finished their learning of the content for the exams. From that point on, we will be reviewing the key features of each topic and revising how to approach the exams. A key concentration on this will be development of revision skills and constant practice of the exam questions that will be encountered. External sites such as <https://www.gcsehistory.com/> and Seneca Learning [https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?](https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=History&Exam+Board=Edexcel)

[Price=Free&Subject=History&Exam+Board=Edexcel](https://www.gcsehistory.com/) will be utilised to help support this review of each topic.

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

As well as mock exams this term, assessments will be based on homework tasks (see cont....) and practice questions completed in class at least once every two weeks. To support pupils with these assessments we encourage regular revision (see cont....) and there are learning videos with a guide on how to approach each type of question and what the examiner is looking for.

## HISTORY (cont....)

### 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.

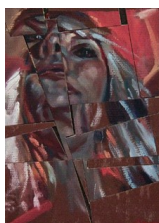
The most important homework is revision preparation. There is a lot of content and the most successful pupils prepare their revision material after each lesson. We discuss, and encourage, pupils to keep up to date with this as well as offer ideas and suggestions how to organise this material. This information is also shared on the Google Classroom for GCSE history.

## ART

### Pupil's choice

Year 11 pupils will be given the opportunity to choose their own topic for this portfolio of work as there is no exam unit this year. This is an opportunity for pupils to explore the art they enjoy and to investigate their understanding of art in a mature and independent way. If pupils feel they do not want to choose their own topic, we will provide one for them.

Throughout the project, pupils will be building a portfolio of experimental work which culminates in a final piece. In order to inform their final outcome, pupils will need to visit galleries in person or online, research different artists, techniques and processes, and use photography as an art medium and a research tool.



## HOSPITALITY and CATERING

Pupils should have completed the majority of their coursework, which amounts to 60% of the pupil's final mark. The work for this has been completed in school, on laptops, during lessons as a controlled assessment. If pupils are behind with this, it is vital that they catch up in the food room at lunch times. As part of the coursework,

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

pupils have planned a three course meal with four high skilled elements. This meal will be cooked as their final practical exam. It is helpful if pupils practice cooking the dishes at home and are as organised and prepared for the exam as possible. **More information regarding the exam will be sent out.**

Year 11 pupils also enjoyed a festive trip last term to the BBC Good Food Show. We were very proud of their excellent behaviour and we hope the experience was motivating and informative.

It remains vital that pupils remain organised and 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.**

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Pupils in Year 11 will be exploring the following over the Spring term: Complete a contextual challenge for:

- Preparing for emergencies
- Outdoor living
- Keeping fit and active.

(Due February half term)

Course content

- Materials types and their properties: Paper and board, Metals, Polymers, Textiles
- Specialist area of focus – Timber and Timber based materials
- Manufacturing Processes – Application in school and industry.

## MUSIC

### Rhythms of the world

Year 11 will be recapping learning about world musics such as: Eastern Mediterranean Music, Greek Music, Palestinian Music and Samba. This is to help with revision for their written exam at the end of the year.

### The Concerto through Time

Pupils will be recapping learning about the Concerto through time from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods and typical features of each era. This will also help with revision for their end of year written exam.

### Composition

Year 11 will work on finalising their GCSE free composition using Garageband or Cubase ready to be submitted for their final GCSE.

### Performance

Pupils will be working on finalising their GCSE solo performance, working on performance confidence, choosing a final piece and working on improving to their best ability.

## DRAMA

Pupils have just concluded their Devising Drama component of the GCSE. Following this, work begins on the second practical performance component 'Texts in Practice'. Pupils will work in groups to perform an extract from a scripted play text. In addition to Devising Drama, pupils will recall their theoretical understanding and knowledge and apply it to a written critical review of the West End hit musical '& Juliet'. We will continue to explore the production and the social, political and historical contexts in lessons over the year. Pupils will be revising key concepts of 'Blood Brothers' in theory lessons to support their theory work for the written paper.

## DANCE

Pupils will continue to work on their Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques, in readiness for their first assessment on January 17<sup>th</sup>. A performance of this will also be featured in the upcoming 'Encore' dance showcase in April. To coincide with their practical exploration, pupils will write reflective journal entries to establish the skills and techniques they have acquired throughout the unit. Pupils will also begin to complete their Unit 3: Responding to a Brief. This unit is externally set by Pearson and is their choreographic unit. This unit also features a controlled assessment. To support your child with this, you may wish to take them to watch dance performances locally or further afield. This will help them to understand different choreographic approaches and processes. Pupils are also encouraged to attend Dance Company on Tuesdays after school.

## MFL

### What are we doing this term?

#### French

Pupils are sitting the mock exam papers for reading, listening and writing at the start of this term. This will be followed by class discussion and reflection on performance in these examinations, with a particular focus on effective writing strategies. Pupils will then move on to the final topic to be covered which deals with environmental issues facing the planet and the benefits of ethical shopping. After the half-term break, the focus will be preparation for the speaking exam which forms 25% of the final GCSE grade for French and German. The formal speaking tests will take place after the Easter Holidays, before the rest of the GCSE exams begin. Thorough preparation for the speaking exam is essential: pupils will draft and practise answers for questions which cover the five GCSE themes: they can choose one theme (about ten questions/answers) as their 'chosen' topic and this is then guaranteed to come up in the General Conversation part of the speaking exam, effectively guaranteeing valuable marks for those who prepare well.

## MFL (cont...)

### German

Pupils are beginning by talking about the positive and negative impact of global events, for both sport and music. They will then move on to discussing environmental issues facing the planet and talk about how to be environmentally friendly at school and in the wider world.

After half term, pupils will discuss different aspects of working life and describe future aspirations. They will look at job descriptions and applications. Towards the end of term, they will move on to describing their dream employment and the qualities they would need to do this role, including how learning an additional language might assist them.

This term we are welcoming back Miss Vandewyer who is returning after having her baby girl. She is taking over teaching for Year 11 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, and giving valuable support with speaking skills.

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

Helping your child does not mean having to know French or German. Encouraging them to make 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 Year 11, we can see the considerable benefits in the classroom.

***Thank you for all your help behind the scenes, it makes a significant 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 form verbs, and of the past, present and future tenses. The most effective way to learn vocabulary is by practising, little and often; we recommend a good starting point of about 60 minutes per week (this could be in three sessions of 20 minutes). Some pupils prefer to use a vocabulary booklet (these are available on the Pearson website or through the school ordering system), whilst others prefer to use free language learning websites such as Memrise. All pupils should now have a Memrise account and be a member of their class group: this enables them to access courses directly linked to GCSE preparation at home and teachers can track their progress. Castle Newnham also subscribes to the Pearson Active Learn online resources: all pupils have an account and teachers may set homework on this site. Please support your child with their speaking exam preparation: rehearsing their chosen topic for the General Conversation part of the exam will really boost their confidence... you don't need to understand every word to be a sympathetic audience.