



YEAR 7

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?

After the Christmas break, pupils will study poetry from a wide range of cultures. Pupils will read poems from the following poets: John Agard, Benjamin Zephaniah, Tatamkhulu Afrika, Niyi Osundare, Grace Nichols, Imtiaz Dharker, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Sujata Bhatt, Tom Leonard and Moniza Alvi. The focus of this unit is to explore a variety of different perspectives and attitudes to culture, with the pupils developing their analytical writing skills in their final essay.

Pupils will be introduced to Shakespeare after half term. This unit will give pupils an overview of Shakespeare's life and times, The Globe Theatre and the different types of plays and poems that he wrote. Pupils will then study 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and watch a filmed Globe performance to support their understanding of the play.

What can you do to support your child?

Talk to them about words. Ask them about the new words that they are encountering in English lessons and in their tutor time vocabulary sessions. Encourage them to use them in conversations that you have with them.

Wider reading:

On the Key Stage 3 Bitesize website, you can read up on different poetic forms and structures, and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Follow these links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zmbj382>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxcgwmm>

Test your knowledge of a range of poetic terminology here:

<https://www.purposegames.com/game/poetry-terms-quiz-quiz>

SCIENCE

Pupils will continue studying the AQA Activate scheme of learning. This term they will cover Interdependence, Plant Reproduction, Earth Structure, Universe, Sound, Light, Variation, Human Reproduction, Energy Costs and Energy Transfers.

MATHS

At the start of the year we had a baseline assessment to help us identify pupils who needed intervention. The pupils who were identified have been attending intervention two mornings a week and we have seen an improvement in their confidence and attainment.

The Year 7s have already got through so much this year and finished last term by starting to explore the uses and intricacies of algebra.

Pupils have been completing open-book assessments at the end of every unit to help us see the progress made within the unit and if there are any particular aspects of the unit that pupils have generally struggled with.

Year 7 pupils have had their first assessment, and their outcomes were sent home in their reports.

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

3 March

9 March

School production Legally Blonde

8 March - 10 March

12 March

Castle Newnham School's award-winning
4SIXTEEN Theatre Company
proudly presents
LEGALLY BLONDE
THE MUSICAL

TUESDAY 8TH - THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2022
STUDIO ONE PERFORMANCE THEATRE
TICKETS: £7.00
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CASTLENEWNHAM-BOXOFFICE

MATHS (cont....)

This term, we will start to develop understanding of decimals and measures by giving pupils the opportunity to discuss and use measures in their work and solve problems using measurements and money. It is important that pupils are well equipped to participate fully in these lessons, so we would like all pupils to come to lessons with their protractors, rulers and calculators.

We want to re-emphasise the importance of supporting learning in school with skills focussed 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 our Key Stage 3 Lead (Mr Almen) using: malmen@castlenewnham.school

Happy New Year from the Maths Department.

GEOGRAPHY (cont....)

human response to this.

Throughout the term, pupils will learn and use a variety of geographical skills such as use of different types of map, interpretation of contour lines, how to explain a pattern or process and decision making based on a range of prior knowledge.

Homework quizzes will continue to be set every Week A on Satchel One. These quizzes are designed to help pupils remember information – and for longer. Each quiz needs to be completed at least two times and this is even more effective if attempts are spaced across a week.

Pupils can best support themselves in learning and making progress by consistently giving of their best in lessons and during homework activities.

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 Year 7s have had a great first term and have seemed to be really enjoying trying out the winter sports of netball, lacrosse, rugby and OAA. These winter sports continue into the new year, adding table tennis to their sporting experience.

HISTORY

What is being covered

Our second topic will continue our Year 7 of the study of the Middle-Ages. Now that our pupils understand the culture and society of medieval England, we are moving onto political and international events. This will cover topics such as the interactions between England and its neighbouring countries in the British Isles; European involvement in the Middle-East and the sharing of medical and scientific knowledge that had been 'lost' in Europe. We shall also investigate how diverse medieval England actually was compared to what we may think.

How, when and what pupils will be assessed on

Pupils have four assessments throughout the year. Each assessment consists of four questions: 2x 4-mark knowledge questions, a set of definitions of subject / topic words and an 8-mark question which will be either a consequence question (assessing pupil's knowledge of cause and consequence) or a narrative question (assessing pupils understanding of chronology and significance).

To support pupils with this, each pupil is supplied with a booklet that breaks down how to approach each question and what the marker is looking for in the answers. These 8-mark questions are also practiced regularly in class so that pupils can develop an awareness of how to approach these and develop the skills needed for success.

How home learning (homework) supports learning in class

Homework is set once every two weeks through Satchel One and takes the form of a multiple-choice quiz. 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

GEOGRAPHY

Our first topic this term is 'What's Beneath Our Feet?' – our study of rocks and soils. We will be learning about types of rock and how they are linked in the rock cycle, together with the landscapes they form and why. This will be followed with soil and its link with rock. Having learned about contour lines, what they tell us and how, we will apply all of our learning in a decision making exercise based on a real farm in Wales. We shall see if pupils and the farmer agree about how best to use the land!

Following this we start our topic 'Water Power' with a focus on rivers, their processes and how these shape our landscapes. This topic will end with an in-depth study of the causes and effects of flooding together with

HISTORY (cont....)

knowledge and understanding of both the topic and subject-specific skills as well as supporting their development of revision skills.

Before each assessment point, pupils will be given revision homework on the topics that will appear in the assessment. This is supported by a dedicated revision lesson in class on how to approach revision.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY (cont....)

Pupils can look forward to making healthy, home cooked meals that can be shared at home with their family for dinner. For example, pasta bake, stir fry, macaroni cheese, pizzas, bread rolls and celebration cupcakes.

CREATIVE ARTS OVERVIEW

Year 7 pupils will experience our Creative Arts subjects on a termly rotation basis, with the exception of Art, which they will study all year. Pupils will experience lessons in Food Tech, Design Technology & Textiles for a term at a time, engaging in exciting practical lessons taught by our subject specialist teachers.

ART

Insects and Natural Forms

During the second term, Year 7 pupils will be looking at the theme 'Insects and Natural Forms'. To start this topic, they will be revisiting their understanding of using a grid to accurately record a photograph of an insect; recapping the use of tonal values and visual textures. Pupils will source images of insects and natural forms such as shells, seed heads etc. to compose a mixed media title page. We will look at the work of artist Angie Lewin, using poly tiles to create prints in response to the artist.



Year 7 pupils will also look at the work of Kelly Stanford and Njideka Akunlily Crosby to inform their work. The skill of observation will be the focus of this term.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

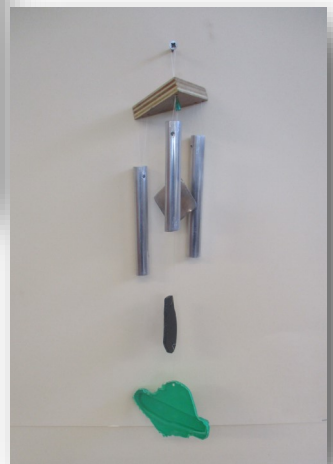
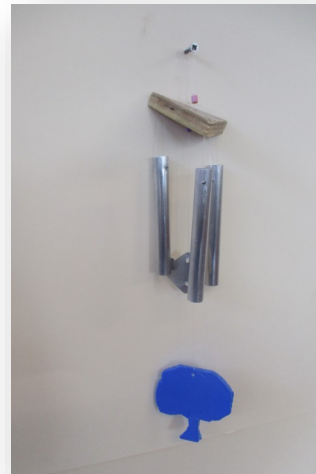
Pupils will enjoy a term of food technology. Throughout this term, pupils will be cooking for double lessons on a fortnightly basis. It is important that you check Satchel One to access the ingredients every week.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require financial support with this.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Pupils in Year 7 will be learning the following over the Spring term:

- Learning about the work of other designers
- How to cut and shape a range of resistant materials
- Look at the need of applying finishes
- The key working properties of resistant materials
- Make a functioning prototype wind chime.



MUSIC

Elements of music

Year 7 will be learning about the key theoretical elements of music and how they are used to help convey the composer's intentions for the music. They will learn how to take these elements of music and compose their own piece that portrays a chosen theme, correctly applying each element.

Four Chord Pop Song - In music technology, pupils will learn how a pop song is put together, the common 4 chord structure and the roles of the instrumentalists. They will then be using Garageband to apply that knowledge to their own composition of a 4 chord pop song.

MFL (cont....)

returns after having her baby girl. She is taking over teaching for 7KB. Mr Godber is now teaching all of 7JD's lessons, and we really appreciate his work with 7KB in the Autumn term.

What can you do to support your child?

Helping your child does not mean having to know French. Encourage them to become 'word detectives'; making links with English, and other languages that they know, will help them to guess what words mean. Ask your child to teach you something in French; having a skill that their parent does not have is a major confidence boost for pupils and can be very motivating.

Many of you are already supporting your child's learning at home and we can see the benefits in the classroom. Thank you for all your help behind the scenes, it makes a significant difference. The most effective way to learn vocabulary is by practising, little and often; we recommend a good starting point of about 30-45 minutes per week (this could be in three sessions of 15 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 7 should now have an account and be in their class group where teachers can track their progress. This 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 starting to set homework on this site. In addition to these two learning platforms, we subscribe to the Linguascope website which is useful for more general learning and practice; pupils wanting to access this site at home should ask a member of the Modern Languages team for the username and password.

DRAMA

In Year 7 drama pupils will be studying the play 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty'. We will be applying prior knowledge and skills of characterisation and conventions to portray character and storyline through scripted work. In addition, pupils will begin to explore some production elements and will be able to begin linking social context to the play's themes and main storyline.

To support your child at home, you may wish to take them to the theatre. The Place Theatre and Quarry Theatre - both local - offer a wide variety of productions at an affordable price. You may wish to support your child at home with learning lines when necessary.

MFL

What are we doing this term?

Pupils will begin by describing the school day and will then move on to talking about food and meals. The key language and grammar points for these units of work are adverbs of time and the subject pronoun 'we'. Leading up to half term, pupils can expect an end of module test, which will assess learning on the different aspects of school life: pupils started to cover this topic towards the end of the Autumn term, and will complete it in the first few weeks of this term. After the half term break, pupils will talk about how they spend their free time. The key language and grammar points for this unit are using regular verbs to describe how teenagers use computers and mobile phones, and using the different parts of the verbs 'play' and 'do' to discuss sports and other activities (this will include learning how verbs change according to subject pronouns, in particular, 'he', 'she' and 'they'). Towards the end of term pupils will find out about some of the most popular extreme sports in French-speaking countries around the world.

This term we are welcoming back Miss Vandewyer, who

BPE

Beliefs, Philosophy and Ethics

This half term pupils will be studying a topic on Christianity, specifically focusing on why Christians believe that Jesus was God incarnate. Pupils will be examining and evaluating Biblical passages and assessing their reliability. After we have completed this topic we will be moving onto a topic on Sikhism 'How are Sikh teachings on equality put into practice today'?

To support your child with their learning it is important that they are aware of current affairs e.g. by watching the news and discussing any ethical or philosophical stories.