





Curriculum Overview Half Term 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

In the following booklet you should find an overview of what your child will be studying this half term in school. We've included key details on what they will be looking at in each subject, how they'll be assessed and what they might do to further develop their understanding. The aim is for this to make it easier for you to work with the school supporting your child with their work.

All lessons last for one hour. In Year 13, students spend 5 hours per week on each of their subjects. They also attend lessons in Preparation for Higher Education on a rotational basis.

The information for each subject is categorised as follows:

Topics / tasks:	This is the overview of the topics Year 13 students will be covering this half term.
Content and skills:	This explains what areas students will be looking at, and the skills they will be developing during the half term.
	This explains how students will be assessed on their understanding of this topic.
Stretch and challenge:	This gives suggestions of how students can explore this area in more detail if they wish.

Exam Boards

Please use the table if you wish to know which exam board the school uses for each qualification.

Subject	Awarding Body	Subject	Awarding Body	Subject	Awarding Body
Art	OCR	Ethics and Philosophy	OCR	Media Studies	Eduqas
Biology	OCR	French	AQA	Music	AQA
Business	Edexcel	Geography	AQA	Physical Education	AQA
Chemistry	OCR	German	AQA	Physics	OCR
Computer Science	AQA	Government and Politics	AQA	Product Design	AQA
Economics	Edexcel	History	OCR	Psychology	AQA
English Language	AQA	Latin	OCR	Sociology	AQA
English Literature	AQA	Maths	OCR	Spanish	AQA

Art

Topics / tasks:	Students will be continuing their Personal Investigation projects with guidance by their class teachers in their 2 double lessons. In the single lesson, students will focus on the Related Study element of their A Level coursework.	
Content and skills:	This will depend on the nature of projects being created and the individual student's strengths and interests, with guidance by the class teacher.	
Assessment:	Their practical work will be reviewed and commented on regularly by their class teachers. Technical skills will be assessed in conjunction with the imaginative and creative element of their work, as a higher level of fluency in being able to articulate their ideas using visual language is to be expected at A Level. This will also be expected where written language is used.	The Assessment Objectives (OCR exam board) will be referred to throughout the process.
	Regular verbal feedback by the class teacher and a program of written self-assessment as part of creating the portfolio.	
Stretch and challenge:	Extending their work through a greater degree of sophistication including the creative content of their work and the exploration of techniques, materials and processes being used.	Students will be expected to gather independent research for their Related Study which will also inform their Personal Investigations. This could include further 'reading' around their chosen subject to provide a wider context and more in depth understanding of their ideas. A higher level of critical thinking will be evident in their annotation and extended analysis.

Biology

Topics / tasks:	Module 6 – Photosynthesis and respiration. Module 5: Homeostasis and excretion.	
	KnowledgePhotosynthesis	 Skills Investigating photosynthesis and respiration using a variety
Content and skills:	 Respiration Homeostasis, negative feedback and temperature regulation Role of the liver and kidney in excretion 	of different methods • Chromatography of photosynthetic pigments
Assessment:	AS content assessment in September. Assessment of Module 6 from summer term and topics taught this term by continual past paper questions. Mock in November.	
Stretch and challenge:	Preparing for the British Biology Olympiad in February.	

Business

Topics / tasks:	The importance of consolidation of Year 12 (Themes 1 & 2) work – recommendation 1 hour per Year 12 Theme per week. Q & A / review 3.4 Theme 3: Business Strategy.
Content and skills:	 3.1.1 Corporate Objectives 3.1.2 Theories of Corporate Strategy 3.1.3 SWOT Analysis 3.1.4 Impact of external influences 3.3 evidence-based decision making: investment appraisal, time series analysis, decision trees and critical path analysis. 3.4 Interpretation of financial statements and ratio analysis. Re-enforcement / reminder of: The expected approach / standards. Exam board requirements & assessment overview. Content + use of context + structure / technique. A more synoptic approach to exam technique.
Assessment:	Q & A in class. Terminology tests. Past exam questions - exclusively time-constrained - building up in time covered. Much more synoptic assessments (4 themes into 3 exams).
Stretch and challenge:	Taking a topic and leading our 'what's in the news' insight / class discussion into contemporary issues - relevant to previously studied areas of the course e.g., Network Rail use of CPA (critical path analysis), HBR (Harvard Business Review) / Forbes articles.

Chemistry

Topics / tasks:	Redox Titration Lattice enthalpy and Carbonyls Chemistry	
Content and skills:	 Redox Titrations Review redox reaction using oxidation number from year 12, link redox reaction with titration to complete complex unstructured titration calculations. Lattice enthalpy Review Hess's law from year 12 then construct Born-Haber cycles to calculate lattice enthalpies. Enthalpy and entropy calculation Build on understanding of enthalpy from year 12 to calculate Gibbs free energy 	 Carbonyl Compounds Investigate reactions of Ketones and Aldehydes, including different conditions for their production and how to reduce carbonyls. Chemical test for Carbonyls and how to prepare a pure dry sample of an organic solid. Carboxylic acids and esters Reactions of Carboxylic acids, production of esters and different conditions for the hydrolysis of esters.
Assessment:	Topic tests for Redox, Lattice enthalpy and Carbonyls	
Stretch and challenge:	Preparation for the RSC Chemistry Olympiad	

Computer Science

Topics / tasks:	Coursework completion (Design) Object-Oriented Programming Recap Stacks and Queues, Graphs and Trees Backus-Naur Form, Regular Expressions and Reverse Polish Notation Big-O Notation
Content and skills:	Students will complete the Design section of the coursework and also start begin coding their project Students will apply OOP principles and learn the "good practice" techniques when using it Students will understand the need for Abstract Data Types in programming and apply these to real programming scenarios Students will create Regex definitions to define a valid String, use a BNF tree to check for valid syntax/semantics, and convert infix expressions to post-fix Students will measure the time complexity of algorithms and compare them using Big-O Notation
Assessment:	Coursework Review Test on Regex, BNF and RPN Test on Stacks and Queues, Graphs and Trees
Stretch and challenge:	OOP: Look into "Association Aggregation" and "Composition Aggregation" and its importance to OOP modelling Look into the A* algorithm and its application to Graph models Investigate the million dollar "P = NP" problem, and its relevance to intractable problems

Economics

Topics / tasks:	Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
Content and skills:	 Sizes and types of firms Business growth Demergers Business objectives Revenue, Costs Economies and diseconomies of scale Normal profits Suppernormal profits and losses Efficiency Perfect competition Monopolytic competition Oligopoly Monopsony Contestability Demand for Labour Supply of Labour Wage determination in competitive and non-competitive markets. Use of basic and advanced economic terminology, mastering chains of reasoning, application of economic knowledge to different situations, quantitative and qualitative economic analysis and evaluation of case study material.
Assessment:	Past Paper Questions. Multiple choice.
Stretch and challenge:	Use of textbook. Online material - follow @econdj on Twitter, stay up to date with current affairs - Financial Times, guardian, BBC. Wider reading - see reading list.

English Language

Topics / tasks:	Paper 1: Language, the individual and society Section A: Meanings and Representations Section B: Child Language Acquisition	Paper 2: Language diversity and change Section A: Global English	
	Non-exam assessment: Language in Action		
Content and skills:	 Developing an understanding of how children acquire the English Language. This will include a study of phonological, lexical, pragmatic and grammatical development regarding speech acquisition. Evaluate different theories, views and approaches as to how children acquire the English Language. Practising writing essays by examining exemplars and producing their own paragraphs/essays. 	 Develop and understanding of global English and discuss the impact of American English, Pidgin and creole. Evaluate different theories, approaches and views on Global English. Practising writing essays by examining exemplars and producing their own paragraphs/essays. 	
	Exploring and analysing language data independently and de	veloping and reflecting upon their own writing expertise	
Assessment:	Writing Paper 1 Section B essays(1 hour)Writing Paper 2 Section A essays (45 minutes)Marking and grading of their investigation (10%)		
Stretch and challenge:	 Read 'Language Development' (Cambridge Topics in English Language) Conduct personal research on a case study, such as Genie Wiley. Read 'Child Language' (Matthew Saxton) Read 'How Language Works' (David Crystal, Penguin Books) Conduct personal research into their personal investigation of the statement of the stateme	 Research topics and attitudes on 'EngLangBlog'. Read 'Attitudes to Language' (Cambridge Topics in English Language) Condict personal research into one area of Global English. 	

English Literature

Topics / tasks:	Paper 1: Love Through the Ages Section A: <i>Othello</i> NEA: Independent Critical Study (coursework)	Paper 2: Texts in Context Section C: Comparing Revolutionary Road with either Skirrid Hill or A Streetcar Named Desire.
Content and skills:	 Developing understanding of the aspects of love explored in Othello such as jealousy, duty, etc. Exploring the dramatic methods used by Shakespeare to present the relationships in the text. Continuing evaluating how far contextual factors affect the portrayal of love for example social conventions, attitudes to race, etc. Practising writing essays by examining exemplars and producing their own paragraphs/essays. Evaluate first drafts of NEA (coursework) and work upon targets identified. 	 Exploring the context of <i>Revolutionary Road</i>. Analysing the narrative methods used by Richard Yates to structure the text and develop layers of meaning. Evaluating how far <i>Revolutionary Road is affected by 'Modern Times' themes such as isolation, gender issues, etc.</i> Comparing <i>Revolutionary Road</i> to <i>Skirrid Hill and A Streetcar Named Desire.</i> Practising writing essays by examining exemplars and producing their own paragraphs/essays.
Assessment:	Writing a full Section A: <i>Othello</i> exam (1hr) First full draft of NEA (coursework)	Writing a full Section C: Comparing Revolutionary Road with Skirrid Hill or A Streetcar Named Desire exam. (1hr)
Stretch and challenge:	Reading other Shakespearean tragedies such as Hamlet and Antony and Cleopatra. Reading critical materials such as AC Bradley's Shakespearean Tragedies.	Reading critical materials about <i>Revolutionary Road</i> and other literature from 1945 onwards.

French

Topics / tasks:	The topic of diversity (les aspects positifs d'une société diverse) The topic of contemporary politics Short stories by Maupassant -Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre Their IRP (individual research project)	
Content and skills:	 Learning specific vocabulary, practising speaking about the topic, reading and listening tasks on the topic. Understanding the historical setting of the stories; analysing key characters 	
Assessment:	 Vocabulary tests, extended writing on the topics, grammar exercises. Short character study of Boule de Suif or another main character 	
Stretch and challenge:	 Reading more on the topics; looking at the positive aspects of diversity in French speaking countries and changes in the political system in the fifth republic. Researching the author Maupassant 	

Geography

Topics / tasks:	Hazards	Global Systems and Global Governance
Content and skills:	Students will learn about the differences between a disaster, hazard and risk and examples of geophysical, atmospheric and hydrological hazards. Students will learn how and why the magnitude and frequency of hazard trends has changed over time and the correlation between vulnerability, hazard exposure and capacity to cope/adapt. They will examine why people live in hazardous places around the world, the factors that affect peoples' perception of hazard risk and the reasons why people respond in different ways to hazards. Students will learn how natural hazards are managed and the stages and usefulness of Park Response Model and the Hazard Management Cycle. Students will examine the structure of the earth and assess the evidence for plate tectonic theory and different theories of plate movement.	Students will learn about the dimensions of globalisation including social, political, economic and cultural globalisation. They will examine the different factors and catalysts of globalisation and how the patterns of production and consumption have changed over time. Students will learn about flows of labour, capital, materials and products. They will then examine a range of trade blocks and assess the pros and cons of membership. Students will examine global systems and inequality.
Assessment:	A range of exam questions and tests including multiple choice, 4 mark, 6 mark, 9 mark questions and 20 mark essays. There will be opportunity for peer and self-assessment using mark schemes as well as formal teacher assessment.	
Stretch and challenge:	Reading widely around the topic using the guide provided at the start of the year e.g. Flipboard magazines, Geographical magazines, Wider World magazines, World Economic Forum Website, BBC News, The Economist, Popular volcanics' <u>http://popularvolcanics.weebly.com/episodes</u> etc. Go to the AQA A level Geography website and download past copies of A level paper 1 and paper 2, practise exam questions and check answers using the mark schemes.	

German

Topics / tasks:	The topic of Immigration The topic of Germany and the European Union The literature text "Der Besuch der alten Dame" Their IRP (individual research project) Grammar
Content and skills:	Students will be consolidating their knowledge of areas taught in Year 12 German and moving on to the A level German course. Students will study the topics of Immigration and Germany and the European Union. Students will be developing their listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, translation and summarising skills. Students will learn new vocabulary and grammar to support their speaking and writing skills. Students will reinforce their vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Students will prepare their IRP for the speaking exam and prepare to write an A Level essay about the literature book "Der Besuch der alten Dame".
Assessment:	Demonstrating their knowledge in vocabulary and grammar tests as well as an assessment in writing.
Stretch and challenge:	Learning more advanced vocabulary, practicing German grammar, complete in depth research on the IRP and write additional essays on the literature book topic.

History

Topics / tasks:	Civil Rights in the USA, 1865-1992: African American civil rights	A topic of their choice related to 20 th century British history
Content and skills:	Students will investigate the ways in which African Americans fought for their civil rights in the USA following the end of the American Civil War. They will be learning to construct historical theses, examine and evaluate interpretations of key periods and demonstrate thematic change over time.	Studying, researching and drafting a 4,000 word essay on a topic of their choosing, supported and guided by teaching staff.
Assessment:	Planning and writing essays that cover change across and within the 127 year period of study; writing evaluative analyses of differing interpretations of key moments in the struggle for Civil Rights.	Engaging in academic supervision from staff.
Stretch and challenge:	 Reading (general): Hugh Brogan, The Penguin History of the USA Andrew Reynolds, America: Empire of Liberty Reading (African American Civil Rights): Adam Fairclough, A Better Day Coming C. Vann Woodward, The Strange Career of Jim Crow Carson, Garrow et al., Eyes on the Prize: Civil Rights Reader 	Reading: Once a topic has been chosen, students can ask teachers for recommendations related to their chosen field.

Maths

Topics / tasks:	Differentiation Sequences and series Trigonometry Statistical distributions Integration
Content and skills:	Review and extension of AS topics. Applications and modelling. Examination technique Problem solving Self-evaluation and study skills.
Assessment:	Autumn Mock exam
Stretch and challenge:	UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Maths Olympiad for Girls Problem solving on <u>www.maths.nrich.org</u>

Media Studies

Topics / tasks:	Component 2 Set Texts and Exam Structure	Revision of key theorists : learning how to evaluate and apply theory to set texts
Content and skills:	 Students will study the following Component 2 Units and set texts this half-term, as well as revising Component 1 set texts ready for mock exams. Section B: Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media – The Big Issue and Vogue. Editing NEA film coursework Students will be taught how to answer questions on their set texts for 4 main areas: Language, Representation, Audience and Industry.	 Students will be revising key media theories this half term and will be taught how to evaluate these specifically for Component 2 exam texts. Use and reflect critically upon a range of complex theories of media studies and use specialist subject-specific terminology appropriately in a developed way Debate critically key questions relating to the social, cultural, political and economic role of the media through sustained discursive writing Construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning which is coherent, relevant, substantiated and logically structured in an extended response.
Assessment:	Timed exam questions for each set text. Mock exam next half – term. Ongoing class tests/Teams quizzes on key theorists and terminology.	
Stretch and challenge:	Use the Media Studies Teams Component 2 section to access further exam questions, exemplar responses and extra reading links for each set text.	Use the Media Studies Teams Key Theorist section to watch the videos for every theorist studied and follow the links suggested for further reading.

Music

Topics / tasks:	 <u>History & Analysis</u> – Romantic Piano (Chopin) <u>History & Analysis</u> – Art Music (Shostakovich) <u>History & Analysis</u> – Review of Baroque & Jazz <u>Composition</u> – Free composition and advanced harmonic techniques <u>Performance</u> – Refining recital programme
Content and skills:	 Continuing to develop aural perception skills Assimilating advanced harmonic techniques into chorales and free composition Refining performance technique
Assessment:	 Undertake some further reading in the areas of 'Romantic Piano Music' and 'Art Music Since 1910' Revisit previous content and written work, improving in response to teacher feedback
Stretch and challenge:	 Regular exam-style listening questions Longer passages of written prose analysis 4-part harmony exercises Performance reviews

Politics

Topics / tasks:	3.2.1. Government and Politics of the USA
Content and skills:	 3.2.1.1. The Constitution of the USA 3.2.1.2. The Legislative 3.2.1.3 The Executive 3.2.1.4. The Judiciary
Assessment:	Written assignments
Stretch and challenge:	Reading a textbook or teacher notes; Reading a broadsheet newspaper (Guardian, Times, Telegraph, Independent); picking a book from the reading list handed out at the start of term; using www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/ or www.aqa.org.uk to look for past papers to practice.

Physics

Topics / tasks:	Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics			
Content and skills:	 Module 5.3 - Oscillations Simple harmonic oscillations Damping and resonance 	 Module 5.4 - Gravitational fields Point and spherical masses Newton's law of gravitation Planetary orbits Gravitational potential and energy 	 Module 5.5 - Astrophysics and cosmology Object in the universe Life cycle of stars Hertzsprung-Russell diagram 	 Module 6.1 - Capacitors Capacitors in circuits Energy stored by capacitors Discharging and charging capacitors Uses of capacitors
Assessment:	Test on Module 5.1 (circular motion, studied last term) In-class assessment, homework assignments.			
Stretch and challenge:	Completing relevant exercises on Isaac Physics website.			

Physical Education

Topics / tasks:	Physiology, psychology and socio-cultural topics
Content and skills:	In socio-cultural lessons they will focus on elite sport and the personal qualities and external support required to achieve success. In psychology students will study information processing systems. This will include response time, memory models and decision making. In physiology students will examine energy systems, demands in relation to performance and developing ideas of advantages and disadvantages of each system.
Assessment:	Everlearner checkpoint test and a long answer question on each area.
Stretch and challenge:	Use PE journals and internet sources to read beyond set A level text books. Also keep up-to-date with current sporting issues.

Product Design

Topics / tasks:	Exam Theory & Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)
Content and skills:	Exam Theory (see textbook): 1. Design Methods and Processes 2. Design Influences, Styles and movements 3. Designers and their work, NEA: Continue with Final prototype
Assessment:	Exam: (50% of final grade) Students will receive exam questions and feedback during lessons. Mock exam end of half term. NEA (50% of final grade): Students are given formative feedback throughout the design process to complete their design portfolio.
Stretch and challenge:	 Students have been provided with a textbook of the course. This can be used to: Revise content already completed. Read ahead into content that has yet to be covered. Complete the independent revision tasks in each chapter. Work on improving and completing NEA.

Psychology

Topics / tasks:	Topic 1 - Gender Topic 2 - Schizophrenia
Content and skills:	 Topic 1 - Sex and gender. Sex-role stereotypes. Androgyny and measuring androgyny The role of chromosomes and hormones Atypical sex chromosome patterns Cognitive explanations of gender Freud's psychoanalytic theory of gender Social learning theory of gender The influence of culture & media on gender roles Atypical gender development: gender identity disorder Topic 2 - Classification & symptoms (positive & negative) Diagnosis: reliability & validity Co morbidity, Gender, Culture bias, Symptom Overlap Theories/Explanations: Biological (genetics, dopamine, neural correlates) Psychological – Family dysfunction Psychological – Cognitive theory inc. dysfunctional thought processes
Assessment:	Written assignments, multi choice questions and a mock assessment of Topic 1.
Stretch and challenge:	Using the text book: Chapters 6 & 8

Religious Education

Topics / tasks:	Philosophy - Christian understanding of the nature of God. Ethics - Meta Ethics. Christian Thought - Gender and Society, Gender and Theology.	
Content and skills:	Philosophy - Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to developments in the understanding of the nature of God and the different possibilities presented by the key thinkers, including: whether or not it is possible, or necessary, to resolve the apparent conflicts between divine attributes; whether Boethius, Anselm or Swinburne provides the most useful understanding of the relationship between divinity and time; whether or not any of these thinkers are successful in resolving the problems of divine knowledge, benevolence, justice, eternity and human free will; whether the attributes should be understoad as subject to the limits of logical possibility or of divine self-limitation. Ethics - Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to meta-ethics, including: whether or not what is meant by the word 'good' is the defining question in the study of ethics, whether or not ethical terms such as good, bad, right and wrong: have an objective factual basis that makes them true or false in describing something reflect only what is in the mind of the person using such terms; can be said to be meaningful or meaningless; whether or not, from a common sense approach, people just know within themselves what is good, bad, right and wrong. Christian Thought - Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to Christian responses to changing views of gender and gender roles, including: whether or not official Christian teaching should resist current secular views of gender; whether or not secular views of gender equality have undermined Christian gender roles; whether or not motherhood is liberating or restricting; whether or not the idea of family is entirely culturally determined. Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to God, gender and feminist theology, including: a comparison of Ruether's and Daly's feminist theologies; sexism and patriarchy in Christianity, as it has developed in the mainstream Churches; whether or not a male saviour can	
Assessment:	Students have essays to prepare for each strand of their A Level work.	
Stretch and challenge:	Philosophy - Vardy, P. (1999) The Puzzle of God , Harper Collins, Section 4 Macquarrie, J. (1966) Principles of Christian Theology , SCM Press, Chapter 11. Ethics - Moore, G.E. (1903) Principia Ethica , Chapter II • Ayer, A.J. (1936) Language, Truth and Logic , London: Victor Gollancz, Chapter 6 • Mackie, J.L. (1977) Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong , London: Penguin Books, Part 1.3. Christian Thought - Tong, R. (2013) Feminist Thought , Routledge, Chapter 1 • McGrath, A. E. (2010 5th Edition) Christian Theology , Wiley-Blackwell, pages 88–89, 336–337 Messer, N. (2006) SCM Study Guide to Christian Ethics , SCM Press, Chapter 8. Phyllis Trible, P. (1984) Texts of Terror , Fortress Press, Introduction and Chapter 2. Wilcockson, M. (2010) Social Ethics , Hodder Education, Chapter 2.	

Sociology

Topics / tasks:	Sociology of Global Development	
Content and skills:	Theories of global development, Globalisation, Trade and Aid, Industrialisation, Urbanisation, Environment; Agencies of development, War and conflict, Education, Health, Employment, Demographic Change, Gender	
Assessment:	Written assignments	
Stretch and challenge:	Use the textbook and read relevant sections; Read a broadsheet newspaper to find social commentary on these issues; Listening to 'Thinking allowed' on BBC Radio 4 and using their archive; Looking at 'TED' talks that are relevant to sociology; Looking at LSE blogs on social political commentary https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/	

Spanish

Topics / tasks:	The topic of Multiculturalism The topic of Political life in the Hispanic World Presenting their findings based upon research on a variety of topics studied following AS internal exams. Study of play "La Casa de Bernarda Alba" by Fernando Fernan-Gomez
Content and skills:	Students will present to the class about their opinions and ideas about the film studied in year 12, the Spanish Civil War and dictatorship & research on the play-wright Fernando Fernan-Gomez. Students will present ideas about the prologue of the play and the synopsis. The students will then begin the new yr 13 topics within the broad topic of Multiculturalism including immigration, racism & integration They will concurrently be studying Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world, discussing the importance of politics to young people, unemployment and societal ideals. Students will work on oral fluency and spontaneity. Students will learn how to present confidently on a variety of topics and themes, and this will build confidence for IRP & speaking exam and be good revision of year12 topics for speaking cards and essay content.
Assessment:	Speaking questions & speaking cards in general lessons and speaking lessons. They will be graded on oral fluency, accuracy & spontaneity. They will be given grammar & translation& summary tasks and be graded according to A2 Criteria. 2 essays will be given at the end of the half term to revise film study & as an introduction to the play.
Stretch and challenge:	Reading ahead in the literature. Listening to Spanish news and current affairs. Using Kerboodle interactive to consolidate grammar and vocabulary. Making essay plans for film studied in year12 to be used for revision at the end of Year 13.