

Summer Term 2017**English**

This term in Year 7, we continue the transition into KS3 with the introduction of comparative elements in our study. Students will build on the knowledge they gained about Shakespeare in studying "The Tempest" by learning about the different ways in which Romeo and Juliet has been adapted on stage and in film. Students will look at the broader context in which the play was written and set and enjoy creative writing and non-fiction writing based on the themes and characters of the play. Assessment will be by a comparative piece of analytical writing.

In the final term of this year, we will look at poetry in a variety of creative ways. We will study some of the poems that are likely to be eventual GCSE texts, as well as building a love of poetry through its imagery and the ideas that it can create in our minds. Students will be encouraged to write their own creative ideas.

The best revision in English is reading properly edited printed writing – newspapers, magazines and books are all great as they broaden vocabulary and improve spellings. Reading aloud, with a particular emphasis on following the punctuation, is especially valuable.

Unlike other subjects there are very few free websites for additional work but your English teacher would be delighted to recommend a revision book to buy. If you need somewhere online to go at home to do some extra practice, we would suggest the following:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv

Maths

Summer 1: This term, Year 7 will take their first look at algebra. This is a topic that students often find challenging but it is the favourite topic of the Maths Faculty to teach! Understanding of this topic is vital to success at GCSE so it is important that students approach it with a positive attitude. We will learn to simplify expressions, expand brackets and factorise expressions. We will also look at coordinates and graphs. More able students will begin to expand double brackets and solve equations.

Summer 2: In the last term of the year, we will begin to look at Handling Data. This will involve students collecting data and showing this data on a variety of charts and graphs. Students will then start to analyse their data using various measures of average including the mean, median, mode and range. More able students will look at more complex graphs such as box plots, cumulative frequency and histograms.

If you need somewhere to go at home to do some extra practice, we would suggest the following websites:

www.mrbartonmaths.com

www.corbettmaths.com

www.numeracyninjas.org

www.mathswatchvle.com

Science

Due to the practical nature of the way science is taught at the academy and subsequent demand for practical resources, classes rotate through the different schemes through the year with only two classes completing the same topic at any one time. A KS3 support book can be purchased from the usual retailers and the following link provides support from BBC Bitesize.

www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p

Year 7 topic rotations that will have been covered are:

- **Big Barn Farm:** Biology topic. Students gain an understanding of photosynthesis, structure and function of the leaf and reproductive organs of the plant, the consequences of toxins in the food chain and deforestation.
- **Fireworks:** Chemistry topic. Students investigate the properties of different chemicals, looking in more detail at the differences between elements, compounds and mixtures. This also includes the use of indicators and the properties of acids and alkalis.
- **BRIT Spark:** Physics topic. Students investigate electrical circuits, developing their understanding of current, potential difference and resistance, completing calculations into the cost of electricity. Topics that classes may have already started and will be rotated through during the summer term are:
 - **Junior Doctor:** Biology topic. Students use the microscopes to examine basic cell structure of plant and animal cells. They learn about specialised cells and organ systems. The reproductive system of both plants and animals is covered in detail. This is then extended to look at DNA, genes and inheritance.
 - **Survival:** Physics topic. Students investigate the physics of heat transfer and apply this learning to methods of reducing heat loss. Students also investigate the effectiveness of different fuels at transferring heat. The scheme encourages independence in collecting and analysing data to enable conclusions to be explained.
 - **Fun Chem:** Chemistry topic. This builds on the fundamental chemistry introduced in the Fireworks topic. It encourages student independence in forming a hypothesis and planning to investigate their thinking. Students apply and build on previous knowledge to investigate chemical reactions further looking at metal reactivity, oxidation and reduction, endothermic and exothermic reactions, conservation of mass, and balancing equations.

All students will have an exam at the end of Year 7 that not only assesses the content learned but also skills of scientific investigation used throughout the year.

Geography

Pupils will be completing a topic about Africa. The key questions they will answer are:

Where in the world is Africa?

How many countries make up Africa?

What physical features are found across Africa?

What types of climate and vegetation can be found across Africa?

What is life like in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

What are conflict minerals and why do we care?

For the final half term Year 7 students will undertake an independent small scale study of the school grounds. They will learn about the features of an ecosystem consisting of plants, animals and micro-organisms (biotic) and non-living physical (abiotic) factors of the environment. Students will learn about soil types and that it is essential for life, in the sense that they provide the medium for plant growth, habitat for many insects and other organisms, act as a filtration system for surface water, carbon store and maintenance of atmospheric gases.

They will then work in groups and test soil types at different areas of the site and complete a microclimate survey. To do this they will use pH kits, sampling charts and weather recording instruments, some of which they will design and build themselves. Once all data is collected, they will analyse and present their data and decide which area will be the best site to grow their chosen vegetables using their data to justify choices made.

Helpful websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/geography

www.geographyalltheway.com/ks3

History

Once the work on Medieval Castles is finished we will move on in time to look at the Tudors. We will study the following topics.

- Henry VIII – The man, the marriages, the Break with Rome
- Edward VI and the “Nine day queen”
- Life for Rich and Poor in Tudor times
- Crime and Punishment in Tudor times
- Elizabeth I
- Mary, Queen of Scots
- The Armada

We will end the term with a small project on Witchcraft.

Helpful websites:

www.historylearningsite.co.uk and www.bbcbitesize.co.uk - KS3 History

French

Our priority for this term is school! We learn the key language we need to survive 'au collège', including school subjects, our timetable, and describing a typical school day. We develop to learn how to give our opinions about the subjects we study.

We move forward with numeracy in French, learning to tell the time and consolidate our numbers in French to 60. We learn how key and common verbs work in the present tense and discover we can understand more extended written texts. We finish by describing what we wear to school, revising and extending our knowledge of colour and other adjectives.

And we celebrate our success at the end of the term with our final assessments in Year 7 for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. There's plenty to look forward to!

Language learning at The Taunton Academy is strongly supported with some great websites:

www.linguascope.com for vocabulary games and revision at elementary, beginner and even intermediate level on all of the topics we are covering this term.

www.duolingo.com - 100% free and fun language learning from just 5 minutes per day.

Art

Students will explore the Impressionist period in Art, studying the artists Monet, Degas and Renoir. Students will experiment with Painting techniques and be encouraged to view the landscape with Impressionist images in mind. Students will then complete a painting of a photograph they have taken, using the techniques of the Impressionists as a starting point. Students may also (weather permitting) make pastel works outside on the fields using the style of Degas.

For the second part of the term, students will move on to study the History of Portraiture and experiment with drawing media and techniques and oil pastels.

Design Technology

Students will be completing 10 week rotations in three different DT subjects: Food, Textiles and Product Design. Groups will rotate the week starting Monday 24th April.

Product Design - students continue to develop skills around 3D sketching and the presentation of our ideas. Additionally they will look to improve the depth into which we discuss the main attributes of ideas and demonstrate how we can use feedback to improve them. Practically, students will complete a mobile phone stand which we are making from pine. Students will use hand tools to mark out, cut housing and mitre joints. Homework will mainly focus on developing sketching and designing skills.

Textiles - students will continue to build on their skills using hand sewing/ machine sewing and basic textile skills such as fabric paints/pens and applique. The work will culminate in a finished cushion cover based around the students chosen character.

Food - they will be learning 'Skills for Life' cooking 9 different recipes during the rotation and completing theory work in class and as homework activities to support their understanding of food hygiene and safety.

Useful website: BBC/Food/recipes

Students can see homework tasks and ingredients required for each lesson on Show My Homework or on windows outside the Food Room. The Food Booklet containing all ingredients, recipes and worksheets can be accessed on the school website under [iAcademy/DT/Food/Year7](#).

We would like to thank all parents/carers for supporting the department by providing ingredients for students in their food lessons.

At the end of the final rotation all students will sit an End of Year test which will cover all knowledge learnt in all DT areas over the year. Students will be given feedback on their test and will use this information to target set for next year.

Music

INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA - This unit develops students' understanding about orchestral instruments and families/sections of orchestral instruments. Students learn about the construction, sound production and timbres of different orchestral instruments using Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* to enhance their learning. Students are introduced to the modern symphony orchestra and learn about its layout, grouping and the instruments which belong to each section including their individual and characteristic timbres. Students will join together to play a class orchestra piece to gain an understanding of what it is like to perform as part of a larger group and the role of individual parts to the overall texture of the music.

Element Focus - Pitch, Texture, Timbre & Dynamics and Melody & Harmony

Drama

Drama this term begins with a series of lessons on Scripted Plays. After developing their acting skills throughout the year, they will get the chance to apply what they have learned to some short plays that they produce in groups. They will need to learn lines and this will be part of their homework. They will have the chance to perform to a class other than their own – this will really put their skills to the test! It would be great if they were encouraged to learn lines with family members at home when the time comes.

PE

During the summer term in Year 7 students follow a programme where they will be taught the basis of Athletics, Striking and Fielding games (these include Cricket, Rounders and Softball) and Tennis. We teach the students the basic skills and tactics for these games, building on any past experiences they may have gained. We look to develop these skills and facilitate progress and enthusiasm and encourage them to take their skills further through extra-curricular clubs or external community clubs. During this term, all students will be tested on their practical skills in all areas of summer PE. This information will then be used to help with target setting.

PHSRE

In this half term the focus returns to religious education and we aim to develop students' knowledge of Sikhism. We will study the Ten Gurus, analysing who they were and their impact on Sikhism. Students will then spend time understanding the importance of Guru Nanak as well as Guru Gobind Singh and the The Khalsa. Following this students will complete a mini depth study of the Five K's of Sikhism as well as looking at religious texts and like inside a Gurdwara, the Sikh holy building. This unit will allow students to develop a greater insight into how others around our world live and how religion has an impact on daily lives.

SEND

All of our students are supported with their learning at a personalised level. Quality first teaching supports students with special educational needs. We understand our students' individual needs

well and support all students in the classroom to maximise their learning. Where students require a more bespoke curriculum we are able to accommodate students as to ensure their learning needs are met. Please contact Mr Keitch for more information if required.