

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, we continue to work on developing the curriculum in each of our subject areas, and want to ensure you are regularly informed as to the topics and key knowledge and skills that your child is studying. Not only does this give you an overview of what they are working on, it also helps you in supporting your child in their learning at home.

Please find below the summary of what your Year 7 child is working on during Term 2 and the topics and skills that this builds onto in Term 3. This will also include reference to any key events that are taking place within the subjects.

Subject	Content
English	This term students are continuing their study of Frankenstein and analysing the language that Shelley uses to present certain characters and themes. Their contextual knowledge from last term regarding the gothic genre will help with their understanding of why Shelley has used certain language to present character. Their understanding of the theme of conflict, internal and external, from Frankenstein will aid them next term when they study a Clashes and Collisions anthology of poetry.
Maths	This term in Maths, Year 7 are covering the unit of work Place Value and Proportion. In this unit, students have explored integers up to one billion and decimals to hundredths. Using and understanding number lines is a key strategy explored in depth, and will be useful for later work on scales for axes. Rounding to the nearest given positive power of ten is developed, alongside rounding to one significant figure. Topics from last term such as sequences and equations, will be interleaved into this unit. Later this term they will be applying these skills to Fractions, decimals and percentages. After the Christmas break Year 7 will be starting a unit of work called Applications of number. In this unit we will be developing problem solving skills using all four operations. Problems will be drawn from the contexts of perimeter, money, interpreting bar charts and tables, and looking at frequency trees.
Science	This term, Year Seven will begin to understand the building blocks of the world around them. In Biology this begins by looking at the organs that make up humans and how these work together to build organ systems. In chemistry, We will look at elements and atoms, and in physics we will explore the particle model. Alongside this, Year seven will focus on building their sociability by looking at how they can work together effectively in teams and pair work. Next term we will study the beginnings of circuit electricity, and explore how magnets work. Students will then move on to their first Project, Called “ The Science of Hastings” In this project students choose their own topic to research further based on the science in and around Hastings. Underpinning all of this learning will be a focus on developing student’s self-belief and courage
Modern Foreign Languages	In French and Spanish this term, students have continued to extend their skills and knowledge of the language as well as developing their awareness of the French and Spanish Culture. In French the focus has been on learning colours, to tell time, express opinions on school subjects, talk about their school uniform and their school day, learning about a typical French school. In Term 3, pupils will be extending that knowledge in order to talk about their free time, leisure activities and discover sports in French speaking countries. In Spanish, the topic of ‘leisure and free time’, students have been consolidating their pronunciation of key Spanish sounds, expressing opinions and talking about leisure activities.

	In Term 3 this knowledge will be extended into discussing school subjects, and how to discuss break times and describe their schools.
Design Technology	In year 7, Design Technology and Food Technology are taught in rotation. This means that in Term 2 and Term 3, students will focus on different topics dependent on their class. DT1) Clacker. Students will make a noisy rattle according to given instructions. Students will learn to use more hand tools and use the pillar drill with more confidence. Students will customise their Clacker with a laser cut decoration using more CAD skills. DT2) Wriggle-Wobble Toy. Students will research, design and make a wooden toy with moving parts, inspired by animal skeletons. Students will learn how design often mimics nature. FT1) Introduction to Food Technology. Students will learn about the importance of healthy and varied diet. Students will learn to use basic food preparation tools and equipment. FT2) Great British food. Students will learn about the importance of energy balance and how to use nutritional information. Students will extend their skills and will use the hob and oven to prepare traditional British dishes.
History	Students will continue working on 'what is history?' in term 2. They will also move onto a study of 'The Romans'. This period of history will be completed in term 3. All students will continue to develop their understanding of key concepts (change & continuity, cause & consequence, chronology) and skills (analysis and interpretation).
Geography	During term 2, students in Year 7 will continue their exploration of UK and European Geography by looking at how settlements first came about in England, and their evolution into the cities we know today. Students will focus their attention on London, and look at what factors influenced its growth and how we are still adapting the city today. After this, students will look at key skills. Next term, students will look at Indonesia, where they will study tropical rainforests and conservation. Students will learn about the structure of the rainforests whilst working on their map skills and exploring how the effects of deforestation are felt worldwide.
Art	Across the next two terms, Year 11 students will be completing their units on Urban Change in the UK, delving into the regeneration of Liverpool. Students will explore how the city has changed and developed over the last 50 years and the impacts these developments have had on the UK economy. Homework this term is on Seneca learning. Next term, students will look at preparing for their January mocks by doing some revision workshops and then beginning a unit on resource management after their exams. Please remind your child that we are running revision sessions every Thursday after school until 4pm in F10.
Dance	Our year 7s have been introduced to dance by exploring the 5 basic body actions, the students got involved in a variety of different group tasks creating choreography around these. We have looked at the meaning of dynamics in dance and by channelling their inner James Bond the students have been working collaboratively to create their own choreographed piece focusing on the use of dynamics and levels with a 'secret agent stimulus'. After Christmas we will look at the characteristics of Spanish Dance, a genre that will help us develop our rhythm in learning a set routine based on Spanish dance. The students will draw inspiration from this to create clapping rhythms which will be developed into movement and action.
Drama	Our year 7 Drama students have been looking at pantomime, exploring the roles and characteristics of the stock characters and adding them to and embellishing a Cinderella script. There are some budding actors in this year with lots of fantastic group work. We can't wait to see their final performances at Christmas. In Term 3 year 7 will be working on Melodrama and creating over the top archetypes using 3 areas of acting: face, body and voice. Students will be working on a scripted end of term melodramatic performance and beginning to use the technique of counterpointing.

Music	The year 7s have been exploring the elements of melody and rhythm through the performance of two songs, New Order - Blue Monday and the Soundtrack to Stranger Things. In pairs they worked on their performance skills learning the many melodic layers within Blue Monday and creating their own arrangement of the piece. Alongside this they also worked on their production skills using DAW software to record the kids theme from Stranger Things. All the melodies learnt have been through basic western notation which prepares them for some exciting composition tasks after Christmas.
PE	In term 2 and 3, the weather conditions become far more challenging and students need to be prepared for this when allocated an outdoor activity such as football or netball. In Term 2/3, we introduce and develop fundamental skills in the next set of sports in the learning journey. The main focus sports are basketball, gymnastics, and football. In the PE department, we have created a new holistic assessment system with Sport England, which looks at physical and mental abilities in sport.
PSHE	In Term 2 year 7 students will be starting to think about future careers, exploring lots of different pathways to work and we will be encouraging them to have high aspirations. In term 3 they will be learning about equality, discrimination and bullying, to increase their awareness of all forms of inequality and how to address these.

Should you have any questions, then please do feel free to contact us directly.

M Feeley



Vice Principal