

Faculty of English, literacy and communication

What will your child be learning?

During the autumn term, your child will have studied the topic, 'extreme sports' and the novel, 'Animal Farm'. They will have produced a number of reading and writing responses that focus on the literature and language skills required at GCSE level.

What can you do to help at home?

Encourage pupils to log on to Google Classroom to complete the homework tasks, discuss examples of dystopia/extreme sports and explore new texts to support in-school learning.

Faculty of mathematics and numeracy

What will your child be learning?

Mathematics and numeracy:

During this term your child will be continuing to practice their written calculations using the four rules of number on both negative and decimal numbers and, using BIDMAS to ensure calculations are made in the correct order. Pupils will be interpreting data accurately and using a variety of averages to analyse data. In geometry, pupils will be looking calculating angles in polygons and using compasses to construct accurate drawings.

Financial education and enterprise:

Throughout the year, learners will be working towards a financial education qualification developing their financial understanding. During this term they will be exploring various aspects of finance including; money management solutions, the benefits of credit and debit cards, debt management, exchange rates and understanding the sources of money.

Your child will also be completing the first part of their enterprise qualification, developing the pupils become ethical, informed citizens who are ready for all aspects of financial independence and the entrepreneurial world.

What can you do to help at home?

Mathematics and numeracy:

You can support your child by discussing the learning completed in school and apply skills learnt in lessons to real life context.

Ensure independent learning tasks that are set on Google Classroom are completed by the set deadlines.

Encourage your child to practise their times tables and use apps/games/competitions with yourself for fun to aid faster recall.

Financial education and enterprise:

For the financial education your child will have access all the material needed for the course on their Google Classroom. Included on here are all the class notes, short quizzes and mock questions.

Encourage your child to complete all tasks for the enterprise via the Google Classroom.

Faculty of science and technology

What will your child be learning?

Science:

Over the course of the year pupils will study GCSE unit 1 across the three subject areas: biology, chemistry and physics. They will study the WJEC triple award unit 1 topics across the year and will be sitting GCSE assessments. All information on the assessment is shared with the pupils and yourselves via the Google Classroom and Classcharts. Within each of the three sciences they will complete all topics within the unit 1. The units of work are:

Biology: cells, organ systems and ecosystems.

Chemistry: chemical substances, reactions and essential resources.

Physics: electricity, energy and waves.

They will then move onto the WJEC unit 2 work and will complete the first four topics for each subject. The topics covered are:

Biology: The variety of life, cell division and stem cells, DNA and inheritance and variation and evolution.

Chemistry: Bonding, structure and properties, acids, bases and salts, metals and their extraction and chemical reactions and energy.

Physics: Distance, speed and acceleration, Newton's laws, work and energy and further motion concepts.

What can you do to help at home?

Science:

There is a wide range of resources on the Google Classroom that will support and develop their understanding of the units of the GCSE at home. You will find the resources from the lesson, WJEC past papers and questions and there are even blended learning videos they can access. If you could ensure they are accessing these regularly and using them to complete the independent work which has been designed to support them at home. Speaking with them about the work is also supportive, just having a chat over what they have learned using the Google Classroom together. Below are the links to the WJEC website for each qualification, they provide support for past paper questions and resources to discuss at home

Biology; https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/biology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Chemistry; https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/chemistry-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Physics; https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/physics-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

What will your child be learning?

Design technology:

During this term, pupils will have the opportunity to further develop their skills in resistant materials and product design. Pupils will be given a problem and will need to use their skills and knowledge of the design process to come up with creative solutions to the problem. Pupils will conduct relevant research into the problem, this could include creating questionnaires to establish target market needs. They will develop their graphical communication skills when creating a number of design ideas. They will use prototyping and testing to evaluate their designs prior to making a final piece.

Information technology-ITQ:

In year 9 pupils work towards a BTEC level 2 award for IT users. Pupils will work toward their qualifications within lessons. They will gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in the IT sector or further education. They will develop functional skills and personal learning and thinking skills essential for successful performance in working life. Pupils will engage in learning which is relevant to them in terms of IT and they will be provided with opportunities to develop these skills and techniques through assessments. For example, pupils will use spreadsheets and evaluate their use within schools and the workplace. All assessments completed within this term contribute towards the qualification.

What can you do to help at home?

Design technology:

Discuss in-school learning. Practise recipes and food preparation skills at home. Discuss how much dairy you eat as a family - is it inline with recommendations?

Visit the <https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/> website and read about the eatwell guide.

Information technology-ITQ:

All assessments are started within lesson but all work can be accessed at home to complete or improve upon. The work is located on the Google Classroom and your child's own drive. At home they can be working on these assignments to ensure they have all the necessary areas completed to gain the qualification. All assignment details are sent to parents via Classcharts and your support at home is appreciated. As a parent you can be reviewing the work with your child and provide guidance on the improvement points. Talking about the work and ensuring they meet the deadlines is also important.

Faculty of language and culture

What will your child be learning?

Welsh:

In year 9 pupils start to look at the GCSE course, looking at the theme 'ieuenctid' (youth). Pupils are working on developing their grammatical and language skills. This term pupils will use a range of tenses, with a focus on the past tense, more complex opinion phrases, justifying with reasons whilst discussing gwyliau a diwrnodau arbennig (holidays and days out). Pupils will be developing their translation, correction, oracy and extended writing skills. Pupils will develop all three skill areas, oracy, reading and writing within the topic.

Spanish:

Your child will be learning key vocabulary and structures around the topic of holidays and travel. They will be covering key vocabulary such as types of tourism as well as weather and countries. They will use this new vocabulary to construct sentences in the present, past, future and conditional tenses.

What can you do to help at home?

Welsh:

Pupils should use the GCSE Pods on the Google Classroom to support the learning of topical vocabulary. They should also complete all independent learning tasks set, these will be uploaded to the Google Classroom and will support the development of skills as well as building vocabulary and improving grammatical accuracy. Pupils are also able to use free online learning resources such as Quizlet and Duolingo to build their vocabulary and gain confidence in speaking aloud.

Further information about the course, as well as blended learning tools are available at:
https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/welsh-second-language-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Spanish:

Online language learning platforms such as Duolingo and Quizlet provide plenty of opportunities for language development. Pupils can also access Spanish language television programmes, films and music to become used to the spoken Spanish language. Independent learning tasks and further revision can be found on Google Classroom.

What will your child be learning?

Art:

Your child will be exploring the theme of urban landscapes. Pupils will be researching and evaluating the work of other artists, they will create and engage with art making processes and materials, and refine their work into personal responses. Pupils will create a range of printmaking and 3d responses along with a development of drawing and painting in their sketchbook portfolios.

Performing arts:

Your child will be learning key vocabulary and structures around the topic of holidays and travel. They will be covering key vocabulary such as types of tourism as well as weather and countries. They will use this new vocabulary to construct sentences in the present, past, future and conditional tenses.

What can you do to help at home?

Art:

You can support your child at home by ensuring that all work set on Google Classroom is completed by the deadline, sketchbooks are expected to go home for tasks to be completed.

Performing arts:

You can support your child at home by ensuring that all work set on Google Classroom is completed by the deadline, including learning lines and rehearsing for practical performance.

Faculty of life

What will your child be learning?

Humanities:

During the autumn term, your child will learn about physical, intellectual, emotional and social development changes through the different life stages. During history lessons, pupils will explore the changes to health and medicine through time, exploring the significance of Hippocrates and investigating beliefs and ideas to cure disease across the time periods. They will analyse a range of sources to aid their analysis of what life was like and develop their knowledge of attitudes towards how to cure disease and reasons behind the spread of disease.

Further, your child will learn about how rivers link to the hydrological cycle, the main parts of a river and how a river changes from its source in the mountains to its mouth where it enters the sea. Furthermore, they will be learning how various named river process shape the land to produce "V-shaped" valleys and waterfalls. Finally, in this unit of work your child will consider why some rivers flood regularly, the impacts of river flooding and strategies to minimise the risk of flooding.

RVE:

During the autumn term we will be exploring what our own worldviews are, we will consider the factors that influence us and the opinions that we have. We will be exploring the 'lens' of people of religious and non-religious beliefs, and will consider the influences that their beliefs may have on their behaviours, lifestyle and opinions, making comparisons. Your child will be investigating ethical questions and exploring whether the 'lens' of religious and non religious people are influenced by factors such as social media, religious text and family. They will be undertaking research into a range of medical ethical topics, and considering what influences their own opinions and decision making.!

What can you do to help at home?

Humanities:

You could discuss milestones and development with you child and perhaps discuss the physical, intellectual, emotional and social changes that you have experienced through your life with them. Further, you could discuss the impact of disease and how we cure it. You could visit local areas to view our valleys and discuss the course that the river takes on its journey to Cardiff Bay. Additionally you might share your memories of how our local river flooded in February 2020 and the impact that this had on may people. You can support your child with the independent learning tasks they are given that are designed to support their learning.

RVE:

Discuss in-school learning and share your opinions, and consider what factors influence why our opinions may be different to each other. Support independent learning tasks, as these all support learning and progress towards the qualification.

Faculty of life

What will your child be learning?

Well-being:

During term one, your child will demonstrate an effective and creative performance used in dance, gymnastics and trampolining. As a class, we will cover a variety of sports which will be traditional and non-traditional, in order for your child to flourish under our new curriculum. Within the classroom, we will cover lessons on internet safety and online technology. The internet and online technology topic provides new opportunities for our pupils to learn and grow in a safe manner, but also investigates the variety of risks they could face online.

What can you do to help at home?

Well-being:

You could discuss the benefits of regular physical activity with your child and explain how this reduces the risk of illness both in the short and long term and how it is linked to positive mental health outcomes. You could also explore the type of physical activity that your child enjoys most and help them to incorporate that into their weekly routines. Please ensure that your child brings and wears the correct PE kit to their physical well-being lessons.