

Faculty of English, literacy and communication

What will your child be learning?

This term, pupils will continue developing their literacy skills through the topics, 'Animal Farm' and 'Graffiti'. The first topic is based on a novel and we will look to develop our reading skills through analysis of key extracts. The second topic is a language based topic where we build our knowledge of the GCSE language style reading questions and writing tasks.

What can you do to help at home?

Encourage pupils to log on to Google Classroom to complete the homework tasks, discuss examples of graffiti/literature shorts and explore new texts to support in-school learning

Faculty of mathematics and numeracy

What will your child be learning?

During this term, your child will be comparing and ordering fractions, decimals and percentages and developing their skills by multiplying and dividing mixed fractions. Work will be completed on calculating percentages, including percentage increase and decrease using multipliers. Pupils will be finding fractions of amounts when given the total or part amount. Pupils will be finding probabilities from two way tables and recognising that practise is different from theory. Pupils will be completing compound calculations that involve speed, distance and time.

Throughout the year, learners will be working towards a financial qualification that develops 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 their entrepreneurial mindset and understanding. They will be researching local and national entrepreneurs and exploring their mindset and the skills required to start their own business. We are striving to help our students 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?

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 given and set on Google Classroom are completed by the set deadlines. Encourage them to practise their times tables and use apps/games/competitions with yourself for fun to aid faster recall.

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.

Faculty of science and technology

What will your child be learning?

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 parentmail. 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.

In design technology pupils will have the opportunity to further develop their skills in textiles 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.

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. In the second half term pupils will develop an understanding of the internet and the security for users within IT. All assessments completed within this term contribute towards the qualification.

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 learn 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

Design technology: Discuss in-school learning. Practise skills and techniques learned at home. Visit the technologystudent.com website for information on materials and techniques. Complete the interactive activities.

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 their own drive. At home they can be working on these assignments to ensure they have all the necessary ones completed to gain the qualification. All assignment details are sent to parents via parentmail and your support at home is appreciated. As a parent you can be reviewing the work with your son/daughter and providing 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: This term we will continue with the theme 'Ieuenctid' (Youth). Pupils are working on developing their grammatical and language skills whilst studying the topic of Cadw'n heini a phroblemau pobl ifanc (keeping fit and young people's problems). Pupils are developing their translation, correction, oracy and extended writing skills. Pupils will continue to work on all 3 skill areas, oracy, reading and writing whilst developing key grammatical terms and forming a range of tenses in the first and third person.

Spanish: Your child will be learning key vocabulary and structures around the topic of Eating healthy and keeping fit. They will cover key vocabulary such as types of food, drink and sports as well as reasons why eating healthy and keeping fit is important. They will start to use this new vocabulary to construct sentences in the present, past, future and conditional tenses.

Expressive arts: Your child will be exploring the theme of animal print. 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.

To begin the year pupils in year 9 take part in lots of exercises and workshops to rediscover their practical performance skills. They then study the topic of 'film' across the disciplines of music, drama, design and media studies. Pupils take part in the creation of storyboards, film workshops, the explore the use of symbols in film and film analysis. Pupils take part in an in depth study of the 'Djembe' drum focussing on polyrhythms, ensemble performance and African music. This term your child will be focussing on physical theatre and its use in performance, keyboard skills and the play 'Game Over' by Mark Wheeler.

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.wiec.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.

Expressive arts: 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. Encourage pupils to learn their lines and rehearsing for practical performance.

Faculty of life

What will your child be learning?

During term two in well-being lessons, your child will be demonstrating an effective and creative performance used in team sports such as netball, hockey, rugby, football, tennis, rounders, cricket, swedish longball, basketball, dodgeball and lacrosse. Your child will explore different ways to value each teammate's ability and understand how each person contributes to the overall goal. Team sports will help your child to develop cooperation with others, working together as a team and finding ways to win through managing the strengths and weaknesses of other players. This will help your child to develop into a supportive, understanding, patient and kind person. 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.

During this term in humanities, pupils will continue to have the opportunity to enjoy taster sessions of our GCSE subjects, in preparation for choosing their options. In health and social care lessons, your child will explore the differences between growth and development across our life span, and the factors that influence these. Whilst in history, your child will investigate the Holocaust, and in geography your child will explore coastal processes. Your child will have the opportunity to develop the techniques required to be successful in these areas as GCSE.

What can you do to help at home?

Please ensure that your child brings and wears the correct PE kit to these lessons. You could also discuss the benefits of regular physical activity 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 encourage your child to complete their independent learning tasks, as these provide the opportunity to develop and practise humanities skills, alongside extending their knowledge of topics linked to our theme. Pupils will also benefit from watching or reading the news, for example watching Newsround or accessing The Day.