

Faculty of English, literacy and communication

What will your child be learning?

During the autumn term, your child will have studied the topics, 'extreme sports' and 'Graffiti'. During both of these topics, we will be focusing on language skills through a variety of reading questions and writing tasks. We will also complete a paired discussion linked to extreme sports in schools and look at the importance of P.E in schools. During our graffiti topic, we will look at a range of different graffiti artists and the impact that their work can have. These topics use key skills required at GCSE level.

What can you do to help at home?

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

Faculty of mathematics and numeracy

Mathematics and numeracy

What will your child be learning?

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 as well as 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 properties of shapes and calculating angles in polygons

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 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

What will your child be learning?

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 where they will explore how money can be safely stored and the benefits of these different methods. They will also explore the difference between credit and debit cards. This will support your child in becoming ethical, informed citizens who are ready for all aspects of financial independence.

What can you do to help at home?

For the financial education qualification, your child will have been given a username and password to access all the material needed for the course. Included on here are all the class notes, short quizzes and mock questions; all of which can be accessed at home via the website www.tlm.org. Please encourage your child to complete all tasks on 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. Within each of the three sciences pupils 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.

Pupils 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 pupils' 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 your child 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

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 you 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 Calsscharts 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 Languages

What will your child be learning?

Welsh:

In year 9 pupils start to look at the GCSE Core Cymraeg course. 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' (holidays). 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.

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

What will your child be learning?

Art:

Your child will be exploring the theme of Pattern. 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.

Drama:

Your child will be developing performance skills as well as looking at the way theatre is made, directed and designed.

Music: In music-based lessons, year 9 pupils will be exploring the world of film music. They will learn how leitmotifs are used to represent characters, settings, and emotions, and will develop their understanding of musical theory through analysis and performance. Pupils will also begin to create their own film-inspired music, using key compositional techniques to build atmosphere and enhance storytelling.

Media and film:

What can you do to help at home?

Art, media and film:

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

Drama and music:

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 the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social changes that occur throughout the different stages of life. In history lessons, pupils will explore the development of health and medicine over time, examining the significance of figures such as Hippocrates and investigating historical beliefs and practices used to cure disease. They will analyse a variety of sources to deepen their understanding of what life was like in different periods, and how attitudes toward disease and its treatment have evolved. In geography, your child will study rivers and their connection to the hydrological cycle. They will learn about the main parts of a river and how a river changes from its source in the mountains to its mouth at the sea. Pupils will explore key river processes that shape the landscape, including the formation of V-shaped valleys and waterfalls. The unit will also cover why some rivers flood regularly, the effects of flooding, and the strategies used to reduce flood risk.

RVE:

During the autumn term, we will be exploring our own worldviews, considering the various factors that shape our opinions and perspectives. Pupils will examine the 'lens' through which people with religious and non-religious beliefs view the world, comparing how these beliefs can influence behaviour, lifestyle, and decision-making. They will investigate ethical questions and explore whether influences such as social media, religious texts, and family impact both religious and non-religious perspectives. As part of this work, your child will research a range of medical ethics topics and reflect on the factors that influence their own values and choices.

What can you do to help at home?

Humanities:

You could discuss milestones and development with your child and 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 many 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 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. A variety of traditional and non-traditional sports will be covered so that your child may flourish under our new curriculum. Within the classroom, we will cover lessons on internet safety, online technology and the importance of sleep and healthy eating. The internet and online technology topic provides new opportunities for our pupils to learn and grow in a safe manner whilst investigating the variety of risks young people can face online. Sleep and healthy eating lessons will highlight the importance of these issues and provide the pupils with tools to make positive choices.

What can you do to help at home?

Well-being:

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. Discuss how regular physical activity 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 this into their weekly routines.

Please ensure that your child brings and wears the correct PE kit to their physical well-being lessons.