

Summary of work for Michaelmas Term – Form 2

English

Pupils read and examine an appropriate novel which allows them to prepare for the use of GCSE type skills, in particular exploring the themes and concepts in the book and relating this, where possible, to contemporary issues. Pupils practise the skills they develop by writing their own compositions and responses to the themes being studied. There is a link with poetry and work is again facilitated with library lessons throughout the term.

Maths

Pupils study geometry (including angles and enlargements), working with numbers (including powers, roots, negative numbers and common denominators), probability, percentages, congruent shapes and the surface areas of prisms and volumes.

Science

All students in the Form 2 are following the Activate 1 and 2 schemes of work. This term they study the following topics: Forces (Physics), Separation techniques (Chemistry) and Health and Lifestyle (Biology).

Geography

Pupils investigate how geography is related to the wider world. They focus on the physical aspects of the world such as tectonic plates and the global weather and climate. There is then work on the different biomes, specifically focusing on the Mediterranean and Coral reefs, as well as investigating where their food comes from.

History

Form 2 students will start the year by looking at the transition from the medieval to the early modern world. Key themes of religion, culture, and warfare will be re-examined in a study of the motives of the Crusaders and their adversaries. As a second topic, students will then look at the transformations taking place in Europe in the later Middle Ages, with a focus on the printing press, the Renaissance, and the Reformation.

Modern Foreign Languages

French – pupils talk about a wide range of everyday subjects such as clothes, the weather, hobbies, music, sports, festivals and holidays. They learn about reflexive and regular verbs, the perfect tense, the near future and the conditional tenses.

German – pupils talk about a wide range of everyday subjects such as where we live, the weather, food and drink. In Grammar, they study regular verbs, irregular verbs, cases and prepositions.

Spanish – pupils talk about a wide range of subjects, including those relating to school days, such as telling the time, weather, daily routines and free time activities. Grammar studies include regular verb conjugations, stem changing verbs, irregular verbs and reflexive verbs.

Art

Pupils develop their observational and drawing skills using the grid method to create a drawing of a teacher's 'toddler style' selfie. Pupils learn about a variety of line drawing styles including continuous line which is furthered through creating wire drawings on the theme of winter.

Music

Pupils start the year studying, playing and composing polyrhythms using words, drums and computer software. They move onto study variation; a method of composition that has been used for centuries. They listen to variations of melodies by various composers and develop their own compositions using the techniques learned.

Design Technology

Pupils have made a personalised tool box to keep their personal aprons, masks and goggles safe from contamination. The focus in Form 2 is on different materials and their suitability in design according to properties and cost. When making tool boxes, pupils learn how to make butt joints, lap joints and finger joints, using finger joints for their boxes. They then research different metals and their properties and learn how to bend mild steel using metal working tools to make a hoop which is the basis of a Christmas wreath. Finally, they research the design of their wreath and the best natural materials to use from around the school grounds.

Drama

Pupils use a variety of subjects and engage in a range of activities to develop the skills of cooperation, control and communication. There is a particular focus this term on the use of naturalism focussing on theatre practitioner Stanislavski.

PSHE

Pupils think about rules and laws, including what they are, why they exist, and the process by which they are agreed. There is work on emotional health, including ways of dealing with feelings and supporting emotional health as part of wellbeing. They also consider peer influences and friendships. Finally, they revisit the concept of rules in relation to religion, and consider the moral side of breaking the law.

Sport

During this term, we have sought to offer as much of a complete sports package as current Covid restrictions have permitted. Activities have included athletics, rounder and tennis, which have supported pupil development, whilst also ensuring that appropriate social distancing has been observed.

Summary of work for Lent and Summer Terms – Form 2

English

Pupils consider a range of social issues through a study of a further novel and examine the use of language through this and other media. They produce a formal piece of work comparing and contrasting texts from different genres and purposes. The focus is then on exam skills: how to write analytically about language and structure, as well as practising creative writing. Students may also undertake a final half term project which revisits skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and collaborative work.

Maths

Pupils study working with numbers (including indices and standard form), representation of data using pie charts and scatter graphs, investigating correlation between bi-variate data, simplifying algebraic expressions and expanding brackets, fractional enlargement and 4 operations with fractions.

During the summer term, pupils cover solving linear equations, rearranging equations and comparing sets of data using frequency tables and diagrams. They then spend some time preparing for the end of year exams. Following this, they look at the properties of triangles, including Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry.

Science

In the second and third terms, Form 2 pupils continue studying a variety of scientific topics, including ecosystems and processes, sound and light, adaptation and inheritance, electricity and magnetism, and motion and pressure.

Geography

Pupils begin to look into the development of the world and the inequalities that are present and why this may be the case. They specifically focus on food and health inequality and have a case study on the geography of chocolate! They then move onto a case study of Africa and investigate the characteristics of Africa, focusing on The Sahara and Nigeria. Pupils examine 'World Cities' and the migration of people between different countries and different parts of a country. There will also be an aspect of 'Skills Focus' at the end of each topic where students will study a variety of required geographical skills, including: maps, satellite photos, scattergraphs, cross-sections, choropleth maps and proportional symbols.

History

Students will be able to see the impact of the Reformation when they try to understand one of England's most famous monarchs, Henry VIII. This is followed up in the second half of the Lent term with a broader look at the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In this module, the students ask whether the world really was turned upside down by the revolutions of England, America, and France.

In the summer, there is an increased emphasis on the skill of using historical evidence this term, alongside a renewed focus global history. Firstly, we study the cultures of African kingdoms through their art. This is followed by an overarching thematic enquiry looking at the importance of sugar through time - which includes an investigation into the transatlantic slave trade.

Modern Foreign Languages

French

The class covers the topic of Sport & Leisure, talking about different sports and how to use the verbs jouer/faire. This also involves looking at the use of prepositions. Pupils revise of the parts of the body in French and how to say something hurts, why and 'since when'. The next topic looks at the French speaking world, looking at French speaking countries in Africa, talking about daily routine and where we live as well as learning about the past and near future tenses. They then study the topic of healthy lifestyles. They will revise food and drink, talk about how diet and activity affects health and about resolutions to be healthier. This will involve revision of the past and future tenses. They will study quantity expressions along with pronouns and impersonal structures.

German

The class complete the topic of food, drink and shopping and start work about describing towns, what there is to do there, learning how to give directions and vocabulary about buying tickets. They will then learn about describing and buying clothes, comparing items and linking sentences using "where" and "because".

They then learn about fashion and tourism, including an introduction to the future tense and using the past (perfect) tense to describe past holiday activities.

Spanish

Pupils continue with the topic of free time, consolidating the present tense of regular and irregular verbs and using frequency words and sequences to enhance written and speaking tasks. We study the topics of house, town and region, and learn in greater detail the distinction between the verbs ser and estar along with the use of prepositions. Pupils then study the topic of food and mealtimes, learning about Spanish customs surrounding food. They talk about preferences using comparative structures and discover how to order food in a restaurant including making complaints. The present tense of stem change and irregular verbs is consolidated and the near future introduced.

Art

Pupils focus on colour theory including the techniques for creating a range of colours using different media. Pupils explore how local and international artists use colour as the inspiration for their own work.

Music

Pupils initially study jazz. Starting with listening to and playing basic blues they move on to investigate extended chords and their use in jazz. They improvise over simple chord sequences using the blues scale and modal scales, before creating their own final group compositions using the elements that have been learnt.

The Summer term is spent writing songs. The pupils work in groups to write lyrics for songs with simple structure and will then set these to music. Initially, the rhythm of the songs is analysed and notated, using MuseScore, a freely available music notation program, and then melodies are developed. Other instruments are added to accompany the melody to produce a final song.

Design Technology

Pupils research the world of chronography. They design and make their own stylish clock. They choose which method of manufacture is most appropriate to realise their design and may develop their skills and understanding of CAD/CAM as the flexibility of this project allows them to use some of our more interesting tools, such as the laser cutter and 3d printer.

Pupils model their ideas in scrap materials, such as cardboard, wood and old wheels to evaluate and modify their designs. They then mark out and shape whatever material fits their design. Additionally, they could use the laser cutter to cut and engrave their designs in acrylic sheet. There is also an opportunity to use cold rolled steel, should their designs warrant its use.

Drama

Pupils continue to develop their collaborative group skills and individual confidence, whilst being encouraged to make positive contributions to the activities. With regard to material used, the play script 'Frankenstein' allows the exploration of important themes such as family, society and isolation, while prompting discussion and thoughtful reaction, as well as the skills needed to present a script effectively.

PSHE

Pupils learn about stereotyping and discrimination, what disability is, including physical and learning disability. They learn about drugs, differentiating between legal and illegal substances, why people start taking drugs, the wider implications of using drugs with a particular focus on smoking. They explore ideas of medical ethics and how these may be influenced by personal and religious beliefs.

The concept of personal finance is introduced, and this includes the basics of financial language, different methods of financing purchases, and basic banking.

Pupils are introduced to a variety of concepts linked to why there appears to be evil and suffering in the world. Next, they look at communication in relationships, exploring behaviours which make relationships healthy and positive. They study the basics of conception and contraception, changing feelings in puberty and consider how a number of relationships in their lives will change. They revisit managing safe behaviour online in relationships and this extends into managing everyday risk.

Towards the end of the year, pupils explore how media is used to share information and develop skills in interrogating the accuracy of what they see online in social media.

Sport

During the Lent term, pupils continue to engage in hockey, netball and football, and are also able to develop their learning in basketball and badminton. Together with these sessions, we hope that we are able support pupils returning to the swimming pool, to not only progress their stroke technique, but also learn more about personal survival and water rescues.

In the summer term, pupils are introduced to a range of formal athletics disciplines, where they are taught the safe handling and execution of javelins, shots and discus, together with an opportunity to enhance their running and jumping techniques. Pupils have the chance to develop their tennis skill-set, as well as participate in a range of cricket and rounders activities.