

Key Stage 3 - YEAR 7 – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH:

In Year 7 students study a range of texts, literary and non-literary. They write in a variety of styles: stories, poems, scripts, letters, diaries, reports and character studies. They learn to analyse their own writing and that of published writers. Speaking and Listening work is monitored by continuous assessment and there is emphasis throughout the year on the writing of accurate English. The subject is broken up into a variety of modules:

	Unit of work	Assessment pieces: recommendations
Unit 1	Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autobiographical writing; biography, diaries • Book Review • Comprehension exercise • Spelling (administered by IL) • Review of basic accuracy skills
Unit 2	Imagine, Explore, Entertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry – analysis and writing (National Poetry day). Produce group/class anthology, analyse a poem, write own poem. Look at different forms of poetry. • Literary Heritage poetry – pre-19th Century (Chaucer)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative writing assessed piece.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading - pre- 19th Century text
Unit 3	Persuade, Argue, Advise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising analysis • Persuasive writing • Comparison of adverts
Unit 4	Analyse, Review, Comment Link to critical thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film review - assessed piece • Analysis of film reviews • Comparing analysis of Film reviews
Unit 5	Reading challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study text from recommended reading list • Extended written response to an element of the text.
Unit 6	Inform, Explain, Describe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking and Listening competition: story telling

Students plan and draft their work in exercise books. Best pieces are completed in assessment books and kept at school. All Year 7 students are expected to have a personal reading book with them in English lessons.

MATHEMATICS:

Our Mathematics curriculum has been designed to offer challenge and enrichment at an appropriate level to motivate all of our students. Students explore links between different topics and undertake investigations and projects of their own. Students are encouraged to think like a mathematician: creatively and logically. They are encouraged to develop clear communication and fluency of techniques. Students use ICT in lessons to enhance and support their learning experience. If any of our students need extra support, we offer a number of intervention opportunities for them.

Our scheme of work in Year 7 builds towards the new GCSE with links to other subject areas of the curriculum. Students are taught in sets upon entry to the school. Movement between sets is determined from the results of termly assessments.

The curriculum broadly covers 4 attainment objectives:

AO1 Using and Applying Mathematics

AO2 Number and Algebra

AO3 Shape, Space and Measures

AO4 Handling Data/Probability

We use an exciting range of materials provided by a variety of software packages. These enable teachers to introduce topics and consolidate learning using a wide variety of highly visual interactive resources, games and puzzles. Student participation is encouraged at all times.

Details of assessment

- Students sit an examination of two 1-hour papers in the Summer (one non-calculator paper and one calculator paper) which are equally weighted.

Useful revision websites:

www.mymaths.co.uk: We subscribe to the 'Mymaths' website which is being used very effectively to support students' home learning. Students are given individual passwords which allow each student to complete work online which can then be tracked by the class teacher. There is also the facility to use the site as a learning tool, with lessons covering most aspects of the schemes of work.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize/>; A good site for revision of specific topics.

SCIENCE:

Pupils study the following topics:-

- Science Bootcamp
- Cells
- Body systems
- Reproduction
- The Earth
- Forces
- Particles and states
- Mixtures
- Elements and Compounds
- Speed

Practical work and scientific investigations are an integral part of the course. Students are encouraged to use enquiry based learning in a safe laboratory environment to enhance scientific learning.

COMPUTER SCIENCE:

Students will study the new exciting Computer Science curriculum which includes internet safety, digital literacy, basic understanding of computer systems, hardware and software, computer networking, visual computer programming, modelling and android app development.

PE:

Students are taught in tutor groups for the first two weeks and they will take part in basketball, cross country, netball and badminton. Each activity will last for a lesson, and then they will be placed into groups for the remainder of the academic year. There will be boys, girls and a mixed group and this involves each tutor group on their half of the year.

Students will take part in games activities, swimming, trampolining and athletics in their PE lessons throughout the year.

There will be opportunities to play fixtures against other schools in sports such as football, rugby, basketball, badminton, netball, cricket, table tennis, cross-country and athletics.

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

ART:

In Year 7, students are given the opportunity to experience different approaches in Art and Craft in order to develop visual perception. The students will study the visual elements through three projects, 1) Skill building through portraits and Pop Art, 2) Patterns in Art and 3) Egyptian and North American Indian Art. They will complete work from observation and imagination, collage and mixed media. They will produce work using oil pastels, chalk, pencils and 3D materials. Students are introduced to the work of artists, designers and crafts people in order to develop their appreciation of art from different times and cultures.

DRAMA:

KS3 students have one Drama lesson per fortnight. They are taught in their Form groups. During their lessons, students will develop a range of skills which not only prepare them for further study at GCSE, should they choose this as one of their options, but also develop skills which will benefit them in other subjects. These include concentration, confidence building, learning to work with others, tolerance, problem solving and evaluation. Drama lessons involve games and activities that enhance these skills, as

well as opportunities for performance. Students have the opportunity to develop drama based around 'Silent Movies'

Those who would like to participate in more drama are welcome to join Drama Club which runs once a week during Thursday lunchtime or to participate in the school production.

FRENCH AND SPANISH:

All students will study French and Spanish throughout Key Stage 3, for 2 hours a fortnight each.

French Topics:-

- Personal information
- Family/friends
- School
- Home
- Animals

Spanish Topics:-

- Personal information
- Classroom instructions
- School
- Family
- Animals

Grammar:-

- Present tense
- Adjectives
- Possessive pronouns
- Prepositions
- Past/future tenses (brief introduction)

All skills, speaking, listening, reading, and writing will be practised.

Assessment:-

Each unit will be assessed through

- Regular vocabulary tests
- Reading/listening exercises
- Powerpoint presentations
- Oral presentations
- Translation exercises

Resources:-

- Allez 1 (French) Mira 1 (Spanish)
- www.rqshw.com (languages online)
- www.atantot.co.uk
- Kerboodle
- Kerboodle
- Duolingo

GEOGRAPHY:

Key Stage 3 students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. This allows the students to develop their relationships within their groups, and also helps to create a positive working environment, where discussion of geographical topics can flourish.

In Year 7 a new scheme of work has been introduced with input from the Royal Geographical Society. Areas of focus include 'Impossible Places', 'Adventure landscapes', 'Risky Places'; all with the intention of bringing awe and wonder into the classroom and engage enquiring minds.

HISTORY:

In year 7 students will study the following topics:

- 'What is History' - Introductory skills unit
- Medieval Life
- Tudors & Stuarts

- Industrialisation & the British Empire

MUSIC:

Students receive three Music lessons a fortnight in Year 7. They will learn how to play a range of different instruments, including keyboard, drums and guitar and will learn how to use FL Studio and Sibelius software to compose their own music. The students will develop their vocal and instrumental skills through a range of exciting performance and composition topics, including Advertising Jingles, Video Game Music, African Music and My Music Part 1, where they will learn how to play the drum kit, bass and guitar.

Students are encouraged to play an instrument at home wherever possible and are invited to take part in the wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs on offer, including KS3 Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Rock Band and Music IT Club.

RE:

All students will complete the following units:

What is RE and how do we express ourselves?

What guides our lives?

Does belief in God make sense?

TECHNOLOGY**Food Preparation and Nutrition**

At KS3 students take part in an 18 week course studying Food Preparation and Nutrition. Students develop practical and organisational skills through weekly cookery sessions. They benefit from detailed practical demonstrations of the dishes that they will make and learn the scientific principles of cooking. Healthy eating and positive lifestyle choices are discussed and reinforced.

Hygiene and safety practices are at the forefront of all of the practical food work that is covered. Some of the dishes students will make include fresh fruit salad, Fajitas and spicy apple cake.

Graphic Products:

Graphic Products is a practical subject which allows students to design, model and prototype their creative ideas, using the excellent resources within our subject. Graphic Products builds on and develops experimentation in a range of media through the design process. Currently at KS3 students are working on a skill-building project based on masks. Followed by a coin and packaging project which has been designed to develop the skills learned.

Product Design:

KS3 students undertake an 18 week course in Product Design where they study the basic theory of wood and plastics. Students work with these materials and make some exciting products. Projects include: making key rings, and clocks which incorporates computer aided design. The course also includes learning basic traditional hand skills which focuses on accuracy and health and safety in the workshop. Students benefit from a well-equipped and resourced department where learning and practical making is the key to success.

Textiles Technology:

Textiles Technology is studied by all KS3 students during an 18 week course.

The course consists of learning basic designing and sewing skills to enable the designing and making of various projects. The projects include the making of a PE bag, stuffed door stop or cube, and soft toys. Students will start with the threading of a sewing machine. They will be required to undertake a 'sewing machine driving test'. This will ensure that students are knowledgeable on the safe use and allow them to gain confidence. Basic hand sewing and embroidery is also taught so students are able to add personal touches to their work.

