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Year 7 Curriculum Information Booklet

Lent Term 2022



Faculty of RE, Geography and History

Religious Education:

Pupils will complete a unit looking at Jesus and St Paul, which will comprise of the following topics:

- Who is Jesus?
- The importance of Jesus for Christians
- The titles of Jesus given in the Gospels and key Biblical teachings
- The Story of St Paul

In the second half term, pupils will look at ideas of Human Rights, before moving on to study Paschal Mystery. The unit will include the following aspects:

- Human Rights and Education
- Hunger in the UK
- Conflict in the world
- World Poverty
- Palm Sunday and Last Supper
- Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Geography:

Geology

In this module students investigate the main rock types – igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. The module progresses to illustrate how geology effects landscapes, in particular limestone landscapes.

Tropical Rainforests

In this popular unit, students study the structure, the systems and the value of tropical rainforests. They consider how their actions can have an impact on this wonderful ecosystem.

History:

In the Lent term students will be exploring the significance of the Tudor dynasty in shaping religion and society between 1485-1603. They will carry out an enquiry, assessing each monarch to evaluate who achieved more socially, economically, politically and religiously for the country.

Faculty of Language

English:

During the Lent term, children will explore the Gothic genre as they study 'Frankenstein, the play text' and learn more about the writer's methods as they study selected extracts from the classic novel. This will allow them the opportunity to continue their analysis of language at word and sentence level. They will develop their creative writing skills as they explore the features of Gothic writing and write texts using a variety of language devices.

Languages:

In January, students will move on to the topic of Free Time (French and German) or School Life (Spanish and Italian). After half term, we will start learning how to describe and express opinions about where we live (French), School Life (German), Family and Friends (Spanish and Italian).

Throughout Year 7, students will be building their vocabulary whilst simultaneously practising their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. This will include the ability to ask and answer questions (an important new element of the new-style GCSE) and to respond spontaneously. Parents can help at home by testing their children's vocabulary, whether formally, or at other times such as when in the car. The more often students practice, even if in short bursts, the more confident they will become!

Faculty of Mathematics and Science

Mathematics:

In the Lent term, pupils will study mathematics in the context of science where they can encounter:

- BMI
- DNA
- Astronomy

Year 7 will also be studying the application of mathematics in the context of Citizenship. This will include topics from the following range:

- Statistical analysis tools
- Financial management
- Health management tools

Pupils will have in-class assessments on what they have covered in class and feedback will be given in their mathematics exercise books.

Some websites which may be of interest in helping them to further develop their understanding:

- www.mathswatch.co.uk
- www.connect.collins.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.corbettmaths.com

Science:

Lent 1 - Cells At Work

The module starts by looking at cells their organelles and functions. Pupils look at how microscopes have been developed to observe cells (that have been stained) and learn how to calculate the size and magnification is an important GCSE and A level skill which we need to start to develop with KS3 pupils. Pupils move on to looking at the role of the cell membrane as movement from the inside to outside of the cell (and vice versa) is cell as way for cells to communicate with each other. The idea of cells being a 3D shape rather than a 2D image is further developed when pupils look at the idea of surface area to volume ratio. The unit ends with making connections between cells and the topic of Digestion, absorption and food testing which allows pupils to put their ideas of the division of labour and specialised cells into action.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to write up, perform, conclude and analyse their own practical.
- Tasks where they will have to apply their acquired knowledge on cells and their organelles, calculating magnification and surface area to volume ratios and the different aspects of the digestion system and digestion.

Lent 2 - Fields In Physics

The unit moves through magnetic, electric, and gravitational fields with the aim of developing students' understanding of what a "field" in physics is. Students begin with the most tangible field, magnetic and move on to electric fields, which are less easily observable but are the most directly comparable to magnetic fields. By comparing and contrasting electric and magnetic fields students should distil out the key idea of 'opposites attract' and 'like repels'. Exploring gravitational fields will hone the students' definition of a field further to 'exerts any force' and students will have the opportunity to apply their understanding with applications to the solar system and wider universe.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to write up, perform, conclude and analyse their own practical.
- Tasks where they will have to apply their acquired knowledge on magnet, electrical and gravitational fields and apply it to different scenarios on an exam paper.

Faculty of Communication and Design

Design and Technology:

All pupils at St Paul's Catholic School follow a Design and Technology programme of study at Key Stage 3.

Design and Technology is a subject that allows pupils to be creative and encourages them to develop new skills and knowledge through practical activities.

Pupils undertake a series of focused practical tasks designed to increase their skills in problem solving, creative thinking and manufacturing. Pupils also undertake a rigorous programme of learning and assessment in the development of their understanding of the core Technical Principles related to Design and Technology.

Design and Technology courses are based around the Iterative Design Process.



Design and Technology: Routes

During the first half term, pupils will have studied an introductory course into Design and Technology, during which they will be presented with the seven different material specific areas of Design and Technology they can choose to study during KS3. Pupils will have had the opportunity to show a preference for three of the seven material specific areas which they would like to study during KS3.

The material specific areas offered are:

1. Electronic design
2. Food preparation and nutrition
3. Graphics, cards papers and boards
4. Fashion and textiles
5. Woods, plastics and metals
6. Engineering Design
7. Engineering Manufacture

Pupils will study three of the seven subject areas during Years 7 and 8, before opting for one area of study during Year 9-11.

Computer Science

Computer Hardware and Software

As part of the new Computing curriculum, pupils are required to understand the notion of computational thinking and programming. In order to complete this component of the curriculum, pupils will learn to design programs using flowcharts and then create in a programming software.

Towards the end of the term pupils will learn the various parts of a computer, they will be required to research and explain each component to show they have a solid understanding of the component and the function of each identified. In addition to this, pupils will then need to show that different pieces of software are made to do specific jobs. They will develop an understanding of how choosing the correct hardware and software is vital to do a task well. Pupils will be given the opportunity to achieve higher levels by looking at GCSE level type questions and activities.

Faculty of Expressive Arts

Art:

The students have been learning about colour theory and are applying their knowledge to a piece of work inspired by the artists Monet and Van Gogh. This will lead onto the “Bugs” project in which students will use a range of materials to draw and colour images of insects focusing on technical skills and pattern work. This unit will be inspired by the work of Karolee Clark.

Drama:

In the first half of the term Year 7 students will be using The Green Children story as a stimulus for devised improvisations. They will use skills such as still images, sound collage, thought tracking, narration, characterisation and conscience alleys. They will need to use their imaginations to adapt the narrative and consider a range of contexts in which to develop their ideas.

Secondly, the students will be using Alice in Wonderland as a stimulus. Extracts of texts will be explored in a practical way and students will develop their use of exaggerated characterisation and physical theatre interpretations.

Assessment: students are assessed on their skills of:

- Self-Awareness and Planning
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Sustained Response (performance)

Music:

Lent 1:

During the second half of the Lent term, pupils will study the topic, *Carnival of the animals*. Students will develop their understanding of orchestral instruments through listening to the music of the French composer, Saint-Saens. Students will use their understanding of notation and duration from the Advent term to compose a piece of music to represent an animal of their choice; compositions will be completed using the music software, Sibelius, GarageBand and Logic Pro.

Lent 2:

During Lent term two, students study Folk music. Students will listen to folk music from different countries and learn to play Irish folk music. The topic will include listening, performing and developing music technology skills where students will arrange their own Irish Jig using Sibelius.

Physical Education:

During the Lent term the pupils will follow a programme of study which will include team games, net games, dance, gymnastics and health related exercise. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils will work in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. During Year 7 the focus will be on pupils acquiring new skills and developing existing skills and talents. Within physical education, the pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal organisation, perseverance and development of care and concern for others.

This term there will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours, through the extended curriculum programme which features golf, snowboarding and indoor climbing, and through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, basketball, dance, trampolining and health related fitness training. Inter form fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition which includes football, rugby, netball, fitness, cricket, rounders and sports day. All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport.

At the end of year 7 pupils are given the opportunity to continue this development when opting for PE as one of two expressive arts in year 8.