



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

Year 7 Curriculum Information Booklet



Advent Term 2018

INTRODUCTION

Starting a new school can be scary. Making new friends is one concern most people have, and people also worry about what they are going to be learning. But don't worry as by the end of the first couple of weeks you will wonder what you worried for!



In this booklet teachers have outlined all that you will be learning in September. In some subjects like PE and DT the teachers have written down all that you will learn next year. This is because classes will all do different things at different times. Please read the booklet and be excited by all that you are going to learn. Some teachers have given you some ideas of things you might like to do before you come. You don't have to do these things and no-one will tell you off if you don't, but we thought you might enjoy some of them.

Finally, please share this booklet with your parents. They might like to know what you are learning so that they can help you.

FACULTY OF RE, GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

RE

In RE pupils will be learning about the Christian Community, exploring what it means to be part of the Christian community through receiving the sacraments and focusing on the Eucharist as an expression of the Christian community.

Pupils will also study the topic 'Forgiveness and Reconciliation', looking at Coventry Cathedral as a case study for forgiveness and reconciliation. This will also involve a school trip to visit Coventry Cathedral to explore how the Cathedral expresses forgiveness and reconciliation.

Homework will be set on a regular basis throughout both half terms. Homework tasks will be stuck in their book at the beginning of each term.

Geography

Amazing Places

This module aims to inspire students with different locations showing them the awe and wonder of Geography. Amongst the places studied they consider the wonders of Svalbard, investigate the sliding rocks of Playa and research issues facing The Great Barrier Reef. They learn how human and physical processes shape the landscape whilst improving their locational knowledge.

History

Year 7 will begin their study of History at St Paul's by investigating claimants to the throne in 1066 and exploring why William won the Battle of Hastings. Their first assessment will be writing two paragraphs explaining these reasons in detail.

After half term they will be exploring life in a medieval village. Their focus will be on the Black Death and the impact of this on the feudal system in the short and long term.

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE

English

Year 7 begin their time at St. Paul's with a Reading and Writing unit themed around the adventure genre. They will start by reading extracts from adventure stories and learn how figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features, presents meaning. Pupils will be taught to write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information. They will also learn how to review their writing skills and write an extract from an adventure story. In the second half of the term, the students will explore a unit based on 'War and Conflict.' This unit of work will explore war poetry with a selection of poems from World War 1. With these texts, children will develop their skills of inference and understanding of cultural literacy which will be vital for their GCSE study at Key Stage 4.

Languages

Pupils begin their secondary studies of one of French, German, Italian or Spanish. This is usually a continuation of their studies at KS2. In all languages, students will quickly learn new vocabulary by playing games, talking, singing, listening to extracts of people speaking the Target Language and lots of other challenging and engaging activities, all of which have been carefully designed to help your child develop the skills and knowledge they will need in their GCSE exams.

How can you help your child to make fantastic progress in languages?

Because practice is so important when it comes to learning language, if you can encourage your child to speak the new words they're learning, this will have a real impact on their results. A little practice every day, even if it's just 10 minutes, will make all the difference! And a pocket dictionary will also help your child to become more independent and more creative. In September, we'll be advising your child about which one to buy.

French

This half term, students learn all about the things that matter to them – the things they love, like and hate, their friends, their personal survival kit and their personality (and their friends!). Finally, they we learn how to talk about our favourite musician! After half term, we're back at school, learning how to express our opinions about all aspects – from the teachers to the food in the canteen!

German

This half term, we learn how to talk about our world and the things close to us! Whether it's telling someone how old you are or what you're like, or maybe talking about where you live or the your favourite possessions, you'll be well equipped to make some German friends if you get the chance! After half term, we go into a little more detail about our family and pets.

Italian

This half term, we'll learn how to introduce ourselves in Italian and make to make sure that we can have a simple conversation about what we're like and what we like and dislike. After half term, we learn how to discuss the things we love to do in our free time, whether it's the TV programmes we watch or the music we listen to, we'll have fun expressing our opinions!

Spanish

Not only will you be introducing yourself and learning how to tell someone about important things such as your age, personality and family members, you will also learn how to talk about your pets. Finally, we will be creating a text to put in a time capsule so people in the future will know all about our lives! After half term, we'll go into more detail about how we spend our free time, whether it's playing video games, singing karaoke or getting sporty, we'll start really getting to know our classmates' interests.

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Maths

In the Advent term, Year 7 will be learning about the application of Mathematics in the following subject areas:

- Language
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Information and Communication Technology

We do encourage pupils to enjoy mathematics outside of lessons; the following websites may be of interest:

- www.mymaths.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.trockstars.com
- www.corbettmaths.com
- www.connect.collins.com

Pupils may also like to take advantage of the mathematics homework support club which takes place on Monday afternoons from 3pm until 4pm in J111. Pupils have access to iPads, mathematics textbooks and mathematics teachers, they can work on homework or can ask for additional support on topics which they would like to explore in more depth.

Science

Half Term 1 – Practically a Scientist

In this unit, students will be introduced to the key skills all scientists need to be successful and effective in the lab. The pupils are encouraged to investigate how literacy is used in science to produce a strong argument. We will then look at how data processed using numeracy skills can reveal patterns in data from practical's that are completed in class. The final part of the module involves using the skills previously acquired to produce a write up of their own findings from a practical they have planned themselves.

Students will be assessed on:

- A task where they will have to interpret written text and then use information from the text to produce an argument.
- Tasks where they will have to use numeracy skills to process data, represent it in graph form, and then describe the patterns within it.
- A task where they will select the correct equipment and techniques for an experiment, carry it out, process the data and then describe it.

Half Term 2 – I'm a Particle, Get Me Out of Here

The first half term of Science in Year 7 is all about Big Ideas on a small scale. Students will learn about the particle model and explore how the model can be used to describe and explain

processes such as change of state and dissolving. We will then discover what atoms are, what happens when we build them up and what happens when we break them apart!

Students will be assessed on:

- A task to explain their own method to purify water.
- A practical to investigate what happens to the mass of elements when they combine to make a compound.
- An end of unit test on the content they have learnt.

Revision and Support Materials

The It's Learning Platform will be available for students to find homework, lessons, future assignments, bulletins and contacting teachers. This can be accessed via the homepage of the school's website.

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is one of the subjects in the National Curriculum. 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 new and exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments that enable them to become more competent in expressing their creativity and skilled in the manufacture of their design solutions.

The Design and Technology course is based around the three principals of Designing.



Alongside the exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments Y7 pupils will undertake a series of technical principal lessons. These technical principals are the underpinning theoretical knowledge which pupils will need to have mastered by the end of Y7 and culminates in the sitting of a technical principal's exam.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY ROUTES

Pupils at St Paul's follow a carousel of 3 subjects during Years 7 & 8; the idea is to give them a grounding in the specific skills and knowledge relating to Design and Technology. Year 7 pupils have already opted for the 3 areas they wish to study.

The specific areas offered are:

1. Electronic Design.
2. Food Nutrition and Preparation.

3. Paper, Cards and Boards.
4. Engineering Design and Manufacture.
5. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
6. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

Computer Science

Scratch

Students will start the year by studying visual programming through Scratch. Students will develop programming skills which they will develop further throughout their Computer Science lessons at St. Paul's. Students will expand their logical thinking and use their skills to write small programs and develop games and animations.

FACULTY OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Art

Throughout Year 7, pupils will work on projects aimed at broadening their knowledge and experience of a range of styles and techniques within Art and Design, based on given titles. The first title pupils will explore is the theme, 'Natural World'. Pupils will be introduced to and experiment with a variety of different media, research a range of artists and art movements as well as build on essential practical core skills. Key vocabulary will be built on to help with evaluation of pupils' own work as well as the work of others. Creative problem solving will be explored, where pupils will be encouraged to be creative and to explore ways to resolve their ideas both independently and collaboratively.

Homework will be completed in sketchbooks and will involve pupils researching specific artists and art movements as well as practising and expanding on their practical skills.

Drama

In Drama, students will be focusing on mime skills and using silent movies as stimuli for improvisation pieces. The students will also be introduced to Learning Talents in Drama and will particularly be using their collaboration skills in the first half term. They will be able to recognise key mime techniques and be able to use subject specific vocabulary. There will be plenty of opportunities for solo, paired and group mime work with exploration of body language and what changes in posture, gesture and facial expressions can communicate to an audience.

After half term, Yr7 Drama students will be exploring the issue of bullying by using a range of drama techniques and strategies. They will use a range of different stimuli for their improvisations including extracts from novels and plays. For their final assessed performance the students will need to learn a small number of lines and develop their piece by use of flashback and multi-characterisation.

Assessment: students are assessed on their skills of:

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

Music

Advent 1 – Introduction to Notation

In the Advent term, Year 7 will be introduced to some music theory and will use this knowledge and understanding to play some fun pieces on the keyboard. Students will develop an understanding of rhythm, note duration and note names. They will develop and consolidate these skills through performance on the keyboards, and singing during lessons.

Advent 2 – Major and Minor

During this half term, students will build on their knowledge and understanding from the first half term and learn to play pieces of music that are in major and minor tonalities. Students will be introduced to major and minor scales and will learn about harmony and tonality.

Physical Education

Pupils will be following a physical activity programme which will include a range of sports including team games, net games, striking games, dance, gymnastics, athletics, and exercise and training, working sometimes in mixed gender groups, sometimes in single gender groups.

There will plenty of opportunities for students to extend their skills out of normal school hours, through the extended curriculum programme which features golf lessons at Abbey Hill Golf Club, snowboarding and climbing, and through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, volleyball, handball, athletics, cricket, rounders, basketball, dance, trampolining, exercise and training. Intra-class fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition every term in selected sports.

At the end of year 7 pupils will be given the opportunity to select two out four expressive arts. If they decide to choose PE they will have an extra double period alongside their Games lesson in Year 8. This will involve pupils taking half termly written exams as well as being graded in their practical ability. They will also have to undertake a group based research project which will be presented back to the group.

All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport.