



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

Year 7 Curriculum Information Booklet



Advent Term 2021

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. Please read the booklet and be excited by all that you are going to learn.

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 be able to explain why each sacrament is important for the individual and 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 alongside the short story 'Sound of Thunder' by Ray Bradbury. They will 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. The assessment will develop their ability to write analytical responses to texts.

In the second half of the term, the students will explore a unit based on 'War and Conflict.' This unit of work will introduce 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.ttrockstars.com
- www.corbettmaths.com
- www.connect.collins.com
- www.mathswatch.co.uk

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 devices, 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 will be encouraged to investigate how literacy is used in science. We will then look at how data is collected and processed using numeracy skills so that they 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:

- 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.
- An End of Unit Assessment on the content the students have learnt during the term.

Revision and Support Materials

All homework will be put on the It's Learning Platform.

Links to support material will also be put on It's Learning for independent study at home.

Bulletins and contacting teachers can be accessed via the homepage of the school's website.

Half Term 2 – Building Blocks

The second half term of Science in Year 7 is all about introducing students to the foundations in Chemistry and Physics. In Chemistry students start off with structure of the atom and its influence on the arrangement of the elements in the periodic table and how chemicals are named. In addition to the structure of the atom pupils will investigate how the arrangement of these atoms and the amount of energy they have impacts the properties of the states of matter in our universe and the changes within them.

Students will be assessed on:

- The ability to collect data and apply this to their understanding of how energy influences the state of matter and show this on a graph.
- Put the understanding of atoms into practice by naming and balancing chemical equations.
- An End of Unit Assessment on the content the students have learnt during the term.

Revision and Support Materials

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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 principles of designing.



Alongside the exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments Y7 pupils will undertake a series of technical principle lessons. These technical principles 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 principle'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 Preparation and Nutrition.
3. Paper, Cards and Boards.
4. Engineering Design.
5. Engineering Manufacture.

6. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
7. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

Computer Science

Basic ICT skills/e-safety and program design using Flowol

Pupils will begin with basic ICT skills relevant to the rest of the year, for example, formatting in Word, uploading images etc.

Pupils will be next introduced to e-safety and how to protect themselves from the dangers posed from these medium.

Finally students will develop their logical thinking and planning using a program called Flowol. This will allow to create flowcharts to design solutions to common problems such as how a zebra crossing works.

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. During the Advent term pupils will develop their ability to draw in three dimensions and build on their knowledge of colour theory. 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 – All Stations to MK

In the Advent term, Year 7 will be introduced to music theory through listening, composing and performing. Students will develop an understanding of rhythm, duration and note names, and will consolidate this learning through a performance task that teaches rhythm through syllables and place names around Milton Keynes.

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. Students will further develop their listening, performing and composing skills.

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 fitness. We will be developing 4 key concepts through core PE, which include Fitness, Autonomy, Skills and Talents (the learning talents)

There will plenty of opportunities for students to extend their abilities out of normal school hours, through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, hockey, handball and table tennis. 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 developing a number of skills including organisation and leadership, understanding of fitness components and their tests, anatomy and physiology, as well as a contemporary sports research project.

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