

Year 7 Subject Overviews

Art

In Year 7, Art and Design students develop their understanding of the formal elements. Students are working within a set theme to explore line, shape, tone, texture, pattern and colour. This year students are studying Nature and Colour, where they will be focused on developing their observational skills and confidence experimenting with materials. In the second term, students will be exploring Everyday Objects and learning about the artist Michael Craig Martin. In the final term students will investigate Doodle Art and reaffirming skills learnt through the course that year.

Design and Technology

In Year 7, Design & Technology students undertake approximate 12-week rotations across three key areas. In Food and Nutrition students learn about hygiene, health & safety in the kitchen, healthy eating and how to make dishes such as tortilla wraps and a pasta salad. In Resistant Materials students learn about health & safety in a workshop and use the iterative design process to make an acrylic clock. In Textiles students learn about health & safety with sewing machines and design and make a bag from mixed materials.

Drama

In Year 7, students are given an introduction to Drama. Students develop an understanding of some Dramatic techniques and begin to explore how to develop and present a narrative structure in performance. Throughout lessons students work practically to explore a range of topics from African Storytelling to Evacuees.

English

In Year 7, students are introduced to the different demands of English at Key Stage Three. They explore a range of texts spanning from Shakespeare to the Nineteenth Century and on to modern day fiction and non-fiction. Students work as word detectives to analyse language and find evidence in texts. Over the course of the year, the use of quotation is frequently revisited so that students can confidently write extended analytical responses to text.

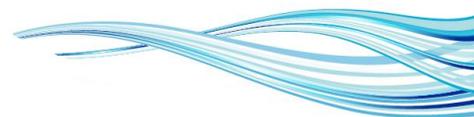
Creative written tasks are taught both as separate units and attached to reading in class. The Accelerated Reader programme is used throughout the year to monitor and encourage independent reading. Assessments occur each half-term to monitor each student's progress.

Geography

In Year 7, pupils are introduced to the skills they will need in geography lessons as they move up through the school. They cover a range of human and physical geography and will build skills including description and explanation. They cover map skills and study the geography of the UK, look at the issues and benefits of fair trade and study Antarctica and the challenges and opportunities in cold environments. Students also study the physical processes that operate in rivers and the human impacts of flooding.

History

In Year 7, all pupils study British history from the Viking invasion to the Medieval period. They focus on the Norman invasion, the development of castles, the influence of religion as well as revolts and plagues. They develop their knowledge of the wider world through the study of the crusades and British influences on Native American Indians.



Maths

In Year 7, students study a range of topics that build on and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills that they developed in Key Stage 2. There are 3 schemes of work designed to support students at an appropriate level and challenge them accordingly. Topics studied include Number, Algebra, Probability, Geometry, Ratio and Statistics. There is a focus on developing reasoning and problem-solving skills, which form a key part of the new GCSE Mathematics examination in Key Stage 4.

Music

In Year 7, students are given an introduction to Music. Students develop an understanding of musical elements and begin to explore how to develop performance, composition, listening and evaluative skills. Throughout lessons students work practically both individually and in groups to explore a range of topics from Orchestras to Popular Hooks and Riffs. Some instruments such as voice, ukuleles, keyboards and hand percussion are introduced and use of music technology is used for composition.

PE

In Year 7, students cover a range of different invasion games such as football, rugby, and netball, along with creative activities, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Students also cover health related exercise (HRE), this includes understanding how their bodies respond to exercise. Within all activity's students are assessed on their abilities to perform skills in an isolated practice, in a conditioned practice, and in performance. Students are also given opportunities to take on the role as an official or coach where appropriate.

Philosophy and Ethics

In Year 7, students begin their studies with sharing, investigating and reflecting upon the importance of studying religion, philosophy and ethics today. Students learn key terminology that enable students to understand the main divergent views that are held throughout the world. Students' progress to learning about the variety of ancient myths and evaluate the significance of these stories as part of world history. The various aspects of spirituality, worship and art are covered, alongside with an introduction to the beginning of Christianity and the importance of collective values, especially in the most challenging situations.

Science

In Year 7, students will be covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics units following the AQA Activate Science syllabus looking at topics such as; the human body, the structure of the Earth, food chains, forces, circuits, ecosystems and space. Students will also complete the bronze CREST award in the summer after their end of year exam and will be certificated with this internationally recognised qualification if they complete the work inside and outside of lesson.

Spanish

In Year 7, students cover the topics of personal details, pets, free time/sports, the weather, school, describing family and yourself, describing your town, ordering in a café and saying what you are going to do at the weekend. Grammatically, the focus is on gender, connectives, regular and irregular verbs in the Present Tense, using a, some and many, possessive adjectives and the near future tense. As a cultural element, students will cover Spanish festivals and their significance. Equal emphasis is based on the four skill areas Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These are all assessed at the end of each unit.