

Year 7 Subject Content

Art

In Year 7, pupils explore a variety of disciplines and techniques over three projects. In the 'Identity' project, pupils explore drawing and painting skills (including proportion, shading techniques, colour mixing and methods of application). Pupils also study work by a range of artists from different time periods and cultures to help develop their own ideas and outcomes. In the 'Mexican Day of the Dead' project, pupils research the Day of the Dead festival and study artefacts and artworks from Mexico to design and construct their own 3-dimensional ceramic souvenirs. In the final project, 'Healthy Eating Packaging', pupils study existing packaging and how design changes to appeal to different age groups. Pupils then develop their own designs, exploring typography, composition and rendering techniques to create outcomes that will encourage young people to eat or drink healthier.

Drama

The beginning of the course focuses on building foundation skills, establishing a drama terminology and fostering a spirit of trust, listening, collaboration and participation. In addition, Drama aims to develop physical and vocal skills, building confidence in public performance, whether as an actor or presenter and enhancing critical thinking, collaborative and evaluation skills. Year 7 students are introduced to basic skills of performance and the subject specific terminology is used from the outset, as with other academic subjects, in order that it is understood and can be easily utilised by the students should they choose to study Drama at GCSE or A level. In terms 1 and 2 students are introduced to the core foundation skills of performance such as use of vocal and physical skills and stage spacing. They experiment with sound, voice, silence, movement and stillness.

In terms 3 and 4 the students work from an existing script to create original and entertaining comedy characters. They study this text using role play, status, dialogue and context. They learn how to break down a script into units of action and shape scenes for dramatic effect. They learn to bring the characters on the page to life using the playwright's stage directions and dialogue whilst using drama techniques to explore characters and situations.

In terms 5 and 6 the students develop an understanding of how theatre can communicate complex themes in innovative, challenging ways. They devise and present scripted and improvised dramas in response to a range of stimuli, which demonstrates their ability to investigate ideas, situations and events. They write and perform their own monologues within the framework of this stimulus. In addition, they work in small groups to devise a scene around each of the monologues.

English

During Year 7 students build on the skills they developed in Primary School in English Language and Literature. They study poetry, a novel and a range of Literary Heritage extracts in order to develop their reading and analytical skills. They also develop their writing skills with an emphasis on accuracy, fluency and creativity. They are expected to contribute to class discussions and build their speaking and listening skills.

French

Year 7 have begun a thorough grounding in the basics of French grammar, which includes the present tense, adjectives, articles and irregular verbs. They have learnt to communicate about themselves, their family, their school and can undertake conversations in the target language. The four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing have been used and developed.

Geography

In Year 7 students have focused on the Geography of the UK. They started by learning the basic geographical skill of map reading to help them learn more about their local area. Students have learned about the weather and climate of the UK, and how rivers have shaped our landscape. They have also learned about the rise and fall of Margate as a tourist destination and have made presentations about how they would bring Margate out of its decline.

History

In the Autumn term pupils study a course on 'What is History?' Pupils subsequently look at The Roman Empire and Medieval Realms. The examination is based on the units taught.

ICT

In Year 7 pupils learn the basic elements of Information Technology:

- Finding things out
- Developing ideas and making things happen
- Exchanging and sharing information
- Reviewing, modifying and evaluating work as it progresses

They also learn to use the applications; Word, Excel, Publisher, Photodraw, Powerpoint and Access and Program with Scratch.

Maths

In Mathematics this year pupils build on the foundation from junior school, developing techniques alongside language and problem solving in algebra, geometry and measure, probability and statistics.

Music

Music in Year 7 focuses on the eleven Elements of Music, which are the building blocks of Music. These words were introduced to parents at the Year 7 Concerts last November. During the year, the students have further explored these areas through listening, performing and composing. They have learnt, and in some cases revised the basics of music theory, instrument families and important musical vocabulary. This formed the content of the end of year exam.

PE

During Key Stage 3, students will take part in a wide variety of activities in PE lessons. Progress is made through the development and improvement of a wide variety of skills (Hands); the application of these skills in a variety of contexts (Head); and a wider understanding of the role of sport and physical activity for a healthy lifestyle and the role of collaboration, teamwork and leadership in our lives (Heart).

Activities covered are: Hockey, Football, Rugby (boys), Netball (girls), Gymnastics, OAA, Badminton, Short Tennis, Basketball, Fitness, Trampolining, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Rounders

RE

The Year 7 course begins with an introduction to religions through the language of symbols. Key features of religious beliefs are studied throughout the year, with a particular emphasis on Christianity and the Christian calendar.

Science

- Learning Practical Skills for Science
- Particles
- Cells, Tissues and Organs
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Reproduction
- Elements, Compounds and Formulae
- Light and Sound
- Classification, Variation and Inheritance
- Acids and Alkalis

DT

In Year 7 students are introduced to Design and Technology by experiencing a range of activities in the areas Product Design and Resistant Materials. Pupils are introduced to essential safety and working procedures and start to develop key skills and areas of knowledge in graphics, design, making and evaluation.

Citizenship

Pupils have been introduced to aspects of the UK democratic system as well as looking at the school community. Opportunities have been available for pupils to participate in class discussion and debates together with formal year assemblies. Study skills and personal relationships have been considered in class together with units on healthy eating and children's rights.