

HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER



YEAR 8 SPRING TERM – 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Heathfield Curriculum Newsletter. One of these will be published every term. In its pages you will find a brief statement from each subject that tells you what your child will be studying this term. There are also some practical suggestions as to how you can help your child at home. On this point it would be of great benefit in all subjects if you could ensure that your child is properly equipped for lessons (pens, pencil, ruler, rubber etc) and if you could find time each night to look at Class Charts.

Heathfield is now a Class Charts school! This is our new praise platform where parents/carers and students can keep track of all praise points, sanctions and homework setting. By logging on you will be able to see a 'live' update on praise and behaviour points (linked to a shop in time), track homework and deadlines and see student timetables.

Microsoft TEAMS will still be used to set homework assignments, to share files and to answer questions. Staff can host live calls with their classes and with parents, for example during 'Parents Evening.' Microsoft's online environment is very safe. Students have access to email and to online storage (through the one drive).

Any Class Charts issues, please email classchartssupport@heathfieldcommunityschool.co.uk

Any IT TEAMS issues, please use teamssupport@heathfieldcommunityschool.co.uk

I hope that you find the newsletter helpful and I would be grateful for any further suggestions (from parents or students) as to what other information would be useful to include in its pages.

Ian Grant – Deputy Head

January 2022

Important dates for this term : *Monday 7 March 2022 - Year 8 Reports to be emailed to Parents/Carers*
Tuesday 8 March 2022 - Year 8 Virtual Parents Evening
Friday 8 April 2022 - Academic Monitoring Day

CAREERS

We recommend that your child enjoys finding out about the world of work at a young age. Please encourage them to use these resources as they are helpful in widening horizons and planning for the future.

www.careersa-z.co.uk, www.careerpilot.co.uk or www.prospects.ac.uk or look on the National Careers Service website <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

During lessons students will be introduced into learning about careers through many different subjects. Careers will also form part of the PSHE collapsed curriculum days.

We are also hoping to introduce some more Future Thursday events where students and families can learn different careers industries. Please follow the website and social media for updates and also the careers newsletters.

Ian Caddy – Careers

ENGLISH

Students - over the coming term in English, Year 8 students will be studying the following subjects:

- 'Romeo & Juliet' – A study of William Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Students will study the plot, themes, characters and context of the play and explore opportunities to extend their reading and writing skills.
- 'Romantic Poetry' – A study of a selection of poets and their work, such as Wordsworth, Blake and Coleridge. Students will study poetic form, structure and language use and will use this as inspiration for their own pieces of imaginative and non-fiction writing.

Parents - you can help by:

- Taking your child to the library and reading with them at home.
- Raising the profile of reading by reading at home (men, in particular, can act as positive role models in reading!), asking your child about their book and creating a quiet place within the home for reading.
- Making sure your child is supporting their work in their skills lessons by coming prepared with a reading book.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Homework is set at the discretion of the class teacher and should encompass knowledge revision (tested regularly in class) or research-based activities. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions regarding homework.
- On occasion, teachers may request that students complete a piece of extended writing at home (imaginative or non-fiction).
- Revise from their knowledge organiser, linked to the topic they are studying.
- Research the topics and texts they are studying by using the internet. Websites such as BBC Bitesize has a range of revision and skill-based activities which support in-class teaching.

All students will be working towards an independent reading project in their skills lessons. This booklet has a range of activities that can be done at any time, such as:

- Re-designing the book cover.
- Writing an additional chapter for a novel.
- Re-reading a book read previously and noting what you learnt the second time.
- Writing a book review.
- Writing a character's diary.

MATHEMATICS

Students :

Students will continue studying a mastery curriculum model alongside end of topic assessments as they go. This will be followed up with an assessment at the end of each of the three terms in order to show progress over the year.

- Students are given feedback on each topic test and formal assessment where strengths and weaknesses are clearly highlighted. Alongside these, students are given personalised tasks in class to 'close the gap' in knowledge.
- All feedback given to students is also linked to 'Hegarty' clip numbers. This allows students to go away and further improve on topics they may have struggled with at home.

Parents - you can help by:

- Encouraging students to work on those topics that were highlighted as a 'weakness' from end of topic tests and formal assessments.
- Looking at the homework in their book and making sure that plenty of time is spent on it and that it is done to the best of their ability.
- Encouraging them to use the 'hegartymaths.com' website.
- Ensure they have full Maths equipment and scientific calculator.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Speak with the teacher and ask if any homework has been set that week.
- Complete online homework tasks on 'hegartymaths.com'
- Practice your times tables and basic number work.

SCIENCE

Students:

Students in Year 8 have completed the topics the Periodic table, Health and lifestyle, Energy and separating techniques during the Autumn term. Completed topics will be assessed on the return to school in the new year for Assessment point 1. This will give us an idea of the students' progress in the subject so far. The table below shows the topics that we are exploring in this term highlighted in blue.

Half term	What we will be studying	✓ = Completed
Autumn 1	Periodic table	✓
	Health and lifestyle	✓
Autumn 2	Energy	✓
	Separating techniques	✓
Spring 1	Space	
	Metals and acids	
Spring 2	Adaptations and inheritance	
	Electricity and magnetism	

Homework:

Students will be provided with a set of digital knowledge organisers on Teams to use for revision throughout the academic year. Hard copy knowledge organisers will be available on request. There will be weekly quizzes on Teams to assess knowledge, so that teachers and students have a clear idea of development and progress. There will also be regular opportunities to enter competitions such as the cell model making competition.

Science club:

There is a weekly KS3 STEM club held during lunchtimes where we explore practical based science and all students are invited to attend. The Science department organises several extra-curricular activities during the school year that include educational visits (e.g. Science Live! and trips to Avalon Marshes) or in school events (e.g. Science week).

Parents - you can help by :

- Support your child in revision for Assessment Point 1 using the Heathfield learner techniques on the completed topics.
- Encouraging your child to complete their homework, watch scientific documentaries and look at science related material from secondary sources.
- Making sure that your child has the right equipment for Science lessons – a pen, pencil, ruler and a scientific calculator.

My son/daughter has no homework – what can I do?

- Self-quiz using any knowledge organisers that are provided.
- Use Seneca learning website and complete relevant units.
- Complete the science aspire tasks.

ART

Students - you will be :

- Following a project of work designed to give all students opportunities to explore the work of other artists, practice drawing in a range of media, explore different ideas and develop and produce a final piece of work. **Students will need to bring their study book to each lesson, to continue their development of work.**
- Students will work on one of the principal subject types of Landscapes.
- Focusing on students understanding of the visual element: Space, focusing on Perspective.
- Exploring the technique of either Painting or Sculpture (techniques work on a rotational basis).

Parents - you can help by:

- Supporting your child's development at home – taking an interest in their study book/project, allow them to talk you through their project development.
- Encourage your child to visit art galleries and exhibitions.
- **A computer at home is not essential - ICT equipment is available at school.**
- Ensuring they complete homework on time, then checking it with them.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Art students may be asked to complete classwork or a research task to help develop their final idea.
 - To look at and discuss Art is great too, either visiting Galleries, looking in books or on the Internet will stimulate thought and help students form opinions. Try www.tate.org.
 - The Art room is open Tuesday – Thursday lunchtime, to be on hand for use of materials or help and advice.
 - Drawing is always valuable and will stretch their skills on many levels. It is a type of primary research, a method of recording information as well as an expressive outlet.
With that in mind, students could **pick one object that is meaningful to them** in some way.
1. Do a line drawing of your object in any material you like.
 2. Do a tonal drawing of your object.
 3. Do a line drawing of your object using a chunky ink marker and with your opposite hand.
 4. Do a line drawing of your object using any material you like with your strong hand but making the line continuous (i.e. never lifting the pen off the paper at any point in the drawing).
 5. Do a continuous line drawing using your opposite hand.
 6. Do a blind line drawing of your object using any material you like (a blind drawing is where stare at the object solidly and never look at the paper while you are drawing).

MUSIC

Students - you will be studying the following:

- **Music for Stage and Screen** - exploring music from Film, Musicals and Gaming Music. Composing Musical Products to demonstrate understanding.
- **Blues Music and Composition** – learning how to play the 12 bar Blues and then comparing creative Blues compositions in small groups including lyric writing.

Parents - you can help by:

- Encouraging your child to listen to a wide variety of music in different styles.
- Taking your child to listen to some live music!

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Sing in the car or at home and have fun listening to music together!
- Try and see some live music. If not out at a gig or theatre, watch online. There are loads of ways we can actually watch musicians play.

DANCE

Students - you will:

- Develop knowledge and understanding stimulus and how a stimulus inspires choreography.
- Create choreography using a range of actions, space, dynamics and relationships.
- Use key dance performance skills to enhance performance.
- Develop cross curricular links with music and understand the relationship between music and dance.
- Learn to work with others collaboratively to create a final performance piece.
- Develop confidence when performing and learn how to participate as an audience.
- Use appreciation to analyse performance and choreography evaluating yourself and other.s
- You will be assessed as part of your AP2 assessment and at the end of the term.

Parents - you can help by:

- Talking to your child about their dance lessons and encouraging them to rehearse at home.
- Ensure your child has the correct dance kit for every lesson.
- Encourage your child to join a dance club, we currently offer a year group only club as well as specific dance styles such as Ballet, Tap, Street and Commercial.
- Check teams for dance homework that will be set once per fortnight after their dance lesson.
- Reflect on rich marking and end of term assessment.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Students need to use their knowledge organiser.

DRAMA

Students - you will :

- Learn about a well know genre of musical theatre and the basics of the genre. The students will understand that is consists of three disciplines: acting, singing and dancing. Students now have a prior knowledge and understanding of 'creating' which can now be applied to text, which will be the musical 'West Side Story' which is the same story line as Romeo and Juliet, this will then start to slowly introduce Shakespeare before we get to April, it will make his name familiar. Students will be able to describe what musical theatre is and demonstrate the basics of music theatre. We will look at the stimulus of gangs too which then starts to combine PSHE.

Parents - you can help by:

- Encouraging your child to talk about their drama lessons, what they have learnt and what excites them about it.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Students need to complete their weekly quizzes on Teams.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students - in French you will be :

- Talking about clothes and giving opinions.
- Discussing free time activities and how often you do them.
- Learning about reflexive verbs and possessive adjectives.

Students - in Spanish you will be :

- Discussing weekend plans.
- Talking about school subjects and giving your opinion.
- Learning to use a range of opinions in various contexts.
- Using expressions with se puede/se debe.

Parents - you can help by :

- Learning new vocabulary and structures together, using your child's vocabulary book.
- Looking through your child's book together and asking if they remember the meanings of particular words.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Homework will mainly be based on learning vocabulary using the vocabulary book. Please support your child with this. Students can also practise key vocabulary using games on Quizlet. Finally, students should be encouraged to find out more about the culture of the language they are studying, e.g. festivals, history, food, art, music or customs.

FOOD PREPARATION, NUTRITION AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Students will study Food Preparation and Nutrition for half the academic year and Design Technology for the alternative half of the year.

In Food Preparation and Nutrition students will continue to develop knowledge of healthy eating and nutrition through theory and practical work.

Parents – you can help by :

- Supplying students with practical ingredients when necessary. All ingredients are posted on Teams.
- Encouraging your child to practise skills at home that have been taught in school. The more practical skills a child can develop, the more confident they become.
- Encouraging your child to share what they have made at home and discuss how it could be developed.
- Always send in labelled containers for taking food home in and remind them to collect food at the end of the day to take home.
- Ensure that ingredients are organised at home for a practical lesson and encourage your child to help shop for these and prepare them.

“My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?”

Homework is set when it will support the learning that has taken place in that lesson or that will support the following lesson. This will mainly be quizzes that will be set through Teams. These will support and embed the learning in school and help prepare students for assessment point tests. Students who have outstanding practical work to complete for DT maybe asked to return at lunchtime to work with their teacher to catch up.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Projects will involve both design and making activities and students will work on 2 projects throughout the DT rotation:

Project 1: Plastics. This project is an introduction into the world of plastics. In this project students will make a range of outcomes using a variety of different plastics and manufacturing methods.

Project 2: Pewter Casting. In this project the students learn about metals and have an opportunity to design and make a product using the casting method.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

Homework is typically set to support the learning that is taking place in lessons. This will mainly be quizzes that will be set through Teams. These will help to embed the learning in school, help prepare students for assessment point tests and provide important feedback to staff so that we can be sure what learning is taking place and any common misconceptions that need to be addressed. Staff will also put support materials on teams that students can use to independently revise the content delivered in each project. This will typically be done around the halfway point and also towards the end as we prepare for AP exams. These resources are especially useful for any student who misses some lessons due to absence. Students who have outstanding practical work to complete for DT maybe asked to return at lunchtime to work with their teacher to catch up.

GEOGRAPHY

Students - you will be studying the following:

- The Tide is High, what is the future for Dawlish Warren.
- Introducing India!

Parents - you can help by:

- Encouraging your child to investigate current issues in the news related to the topics above.
- Making sure homework is completed – learning knowledge from the Knowledge Organisers found in your child’s book and on Teams.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Use the “Knowledge Organisers” in their exercise book to test them on the knowledge from the year so far, along with making them learn the key words.

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Students - you will be studying the following:

- Is religion a cause of conflict or a power for peace? This unit cover some key Christian concepts e.g. peace and forgiveness. It gives you an opportunity to discuss current wars and conflicts, as well as those in the past. You will also be able to study key people who have worked for peace.

Parents - you can help by:

- Discussing issues raised in the lessons with your child.
- Checking homework is completed to a high standard and handed in on time.
- Following us on Twitter @HeathfieldRPE.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- Learn key words from the knowledge organiser for this unit. These are tested regularly in lessons.
- Find out about the Quakers (aka the Religious Society of Friends). Where is your nearest Quaker meeting house? What do Quakers believe? How are they different from other Christians?
- Visit the library! The Dewey number for religions is 268.

HISTORY

Students - you will be studying the following :

Curriculum Theme : War and Conflict

CIVIL WAR (using evidence)

- Who was to blame for civil war?
- What should happen to Charles?
- Who can we trust about Cromwell?

THE SLAVE TRADE

- What lay behind the horrors of the Slave Trade?

Parents - you can help by :

- Talking about history lessons.
- Checking on fortnightly homework.
- Extra reading around history topics.
- Going to historical places, talking about history in the news, in books, in film or on TV.

My son/daughter has no homework - what can I do?

- The first port of call is to revise their knowledge organizers (a list of names, events and timelines that pupils need to know by the end of the year).
- Students can find reading lists in all History classrooms and in the library.

PE

Students - you will be studying :

- Gymnastics, Football, Netball, Rugby, Fitness, Hockey or Indoor Games. Please see your PE Planner.

Parents - you can help by:

- Supporting your child if they are involved in lunchtime practices and after-school matches.
- Checking your child's PE kit to ensure they have the correct kit (information is on the school website or contact us with any questions).
- Naming your child's PE kit.
- Providing a medical note if there is a reason your child cannot change into their PE kit. If there is a reason they cannot participate fully you can write a signed and dated note to explain, but they will still be expected to wear kit to take on another role in the lesson.
- Ensuring clean trainers for indoor use.
- Encourage your child to look at the PE notice-board for information on extra-curricular practices and fixtures.