

HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER



YEAR 7

AUTUMN TERM - 2021

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

September 2021

ENGLISH

Students - you will be :

- Following a literacy programme designed to give all students opportunities to read a wide range of texts whilst writing about, discussing and sharing their responses. **Students will need to bring a reading book to each lesson.**
- Working on two main units and literacy skills:
 - **Autobiography.**
 - **'Voices of the Animal Kingdom' – Poetry anthology study.**
 - **A bi-weekly independent reading/grammar/oracy session and, every other week, an accelerated reader session.**

Parents - you can help by:

- Testing their knowledge to support with their homework.
- Perhaps encouraging them to keep a personalised spelling dictionary of words they find tricky.
- Supporting your child's reading at home and helping them to select appropriate material.

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

All students will be learning key vocabulary associated with their unit of study. Students will be expected to learn and revise this key vocabulary at home and will be tested on their knowledge and progress during lessons.

MATHEMATICS

When students arrive to us in September they are placed in to sets depending on their ability at KS2. These sets are subject to change within the first half term where students who are progressing well will be considered to move up. The KS3 scheme of learning is available on the school website and has a focus on fluency and reasoning to ensure secure understanding of the underlying principles of mathematics. All students Maths skills from Primary School will be extended and each student will be encouraged to apply these skills in problem solving situations. All classes follow the same mastery curriculum that will ensure progress for all abilities and provide opportunity to stretch the most able. It will be vital for all students have a scientific calculator, we would highly recommend a 'Casio', and they bring these to every maths lesson. One lesson per week is devoted to the teaching of numeracy / fundamentals.

Across the year students have regular opportunity to self-reflect and evaluate their learning. These self-reflections are linked to 'Hegartymaths' tasks where students can access content independently to consolidate knowledge. 'Hegartymaths' is especially useful for revision and to catch up if a lesson is missed. Students will also be issued with logins for 'TT Rockstars', and encouraged to use this at home.

Students will have a blue exercise books for classwork and for keeping revision notes on all the topics covered. They will also need a calculator, maths equipment set and purple pen for marking.

Students' progress will be checked with weekly homework tasks and by end of topic assessments over the year. All these assessments are detailed on the curriculum model so students have the opportunity to fully prepare. Details of homework tasks set will be on Class Charts. All students need to complete every homework set, even if they are absent.

Parents - you can help by :

- Looking regularly at your child's mathematics book, encouraging organisation and following up any comments from the teacher.
- Looking at the homework in their book, making sure that plenty of time is spent on it and that it is done to the best of their ability. Homework should take between 30 and 45 minutes.
- Encouraging him/her to use hegartymaths to help consolidate the work covered in class if necessary. This could also help with revision for the tests given at the end of each topic.
- Ensure they have a scientific calculator (£9 from the school) and Maths equipment (£4 for a set from the school).
- If they are lent a maths homework book ensure that this is kept safe.

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

- Maths homework should be set every week. Please check 'Class Charts' for details.
- Encourage them to complete some of the 'hegartymaths' tasks as shown on the progress sheet.
- Explore a task on the "nrich" website.
- Play a board game with them.
- Test them on their times tables (for example by using 'TT Rockstars').
- Ask them to read through their blue revision book and add to their notes if possible.

SCIENCE

Students:

Students will cycle through topics in each of the three sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There will be regular opportunities in lessons to use scientific enquiry through practical lessons to apply and develop their knowledge.

In addition to regular in class formative assessments and quizzes the students will complete two summative assessments (Assessment Point 1 & 2) that will help us track their progress and inform setting during the academic year. An outline of the topics we will be teaching this year can be found in the table below:

Half term	What we will be studying
Autumn 1	Working Scientifically
	Particles and their behaviour
Autumn 2	Forces
	Cells
Spring 1	Elements, atoms and compounds
	Structure and function of body systems
Spring 2	Light
Summer 1	Reactions
	Sound
Summer 2	Acids and alkalis
	Reproduction

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 :

- 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 to 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 Western art – still life, natural form objects.
- Focusing on students understanding of the visual element : Texture.
- Exploring the technique of either Painting or Lino Printing (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.
- Encouraging 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.
- Drawing is always valuable and will stretch their skills on many levels.
- 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 and Wednesday lunchtime, to be on hand for use of materials or help and advice.

FOOD PREPARATION + NUTRITION and DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Projects will involve both design and making activities in DT and healthy eating and basic nutrition through theory and practical work in Food Preparation + Nutrition.

Students will work on 3 projects areas throughout the year:

Project 1: ‘Bag for life’. An introduction to using the sewing machine, decorative techniques and pattern production.

Project 2: Passive Amplifier Project. This wood work project is the students first introduction to working with tools and equipment in the school workshop.

Project 3: Food Preparation + Nutrition. An introduction to healthy eating and basic nutrition.

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 a 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.
- Encourage discussions about the DT products that are brought home and how they were made.

“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. 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.

DRAMA

Students - you will :

- Be introduced to drama, the reasons for studying it and the rules of the drama studio.
- Use drama specific techniques and concepts to create your own performances.
- Learn to create characters using your voice, facial expressions & body language.
- Explore styles and genres of drama.
- Develop social and emotional skills through discussion.
- Working within groups promoting team work and cooperation skills; setting a foundation for performance work.
- You will be assessed at the end of the term. 70% practical and 30% written.

Parents - you can help by :

- Talking to your child about their drama lessons.
- Talk to your child about your wellbeing.
- Encourage them to take part in the Tacchi-Morris Drama Club.
- Encourage your child to look at their knowledge organiser and to take the quizzes.
- Reflect on their rich marking.

DANCE

Students:

- Learn basic dance skills that will help to develop your dance knowledge.
- Explore different types of stimuli and how these can be used creatively within dance.
- Learn to create choreography using a range of actions and space.
- Understand key dance performance skills and how these effect choreography.
- 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 others.
- You will be assessed at the end of the term and as part of your AP1 assessment.

Parents - you can help by :

- Talking to your child about their dance lessons and encouraging them to rehearse at home.
- 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.

There are weekly Dance classes that run in the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre. Please get in touch with the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre direct to enquire.

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

- Rehearse their choreography at home.
- Revise their key terminology from the Knowledge Organiser.

GEOGRAPHY

Students - you will be studying the following:

- How do I become an excellent Geographer?
- What's the use? How can Earth meet our resource needs?

Parents - you can help by :

- Discussing topics that are brought up in lessons.
- Supporting your child with homework.

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

- Homework for the year is to learn key content from the Knowledge Organisers. These are in your child's exercise book and are uploaded onto Teams.

HISTORY

The theme throughout KS3 are the importance of empires and warfare. Learning across Years 7-9 will be linked to these bigger themes that set the context for our stories.

Students - you will be studying the following :

- What was the Roman Republic?
- Why did the Roman Republic fail?
- What was *Pax Romana*?
- Why did the Roman Empire collapse?

Parents - you can help by :

- Talking about history lessons.
- Checking on fortnightly homework.
- 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 organisers (a list of names, events and timelines that students need to know by the end of the year).
- Students can find reading lists in all History classrooms and in the Library.

MUSIC

Students - you will be studying the following :

- Introduction to Rhythm and Notation through Practical and Music Technology Coursework.
- Instruments of the Orchestra and an introduction to deliberate listening.
- Introduction to Pitch and the Stave – Composing using minimalist techniques.
- Learning about arrangements and Theme and Variation through practical and Music Technology Coursework Projects.
- Learning about Programme Music, Composition and Performance.

Parents - you can help by :

- Encouraging your child to listen to wide variety of music/different styles.
- Taking your child to listen to some live music!
- Encouraging your child to join extra-curricular groups - particularly instrument players.

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

- Sit down with them and listen to a piece of classical music on the Radio / CD / Ipad etc.
- Talk about the practical projects that they are doing in music lessons at the moment
- Play Pass the Music – use any device where you can access music online – get everyone to choose a piece of music to listen to and pass around the group! This is really fun and everyone gets a chance

to play their favourite music!

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

This term students will study either French or Spanish, depending on their tutor group.

Students - you will be :

- Learning about countries where French / Spanish is spoken, as well as French / Spanish festivals and customs.
- Introducing yourself in French / Spanish, describing and discussing family and pets.
- Talking about weather and free time activities, giving opinions.
- Learning about French / Spanish pronunciation, word order, how to use adjectives correctly and how to use verbs in the present and near future tenses.
- Practising your translation skills.
- Learning how to conjugate present tense verbs.

Parents - you can help by:

- Learning new vocabulary and structures together, using your child's vocabulary and grammar guide.
- Looking through your child's book together and asking if he/she remembers the meanings of particular words.
- Encouraging vocabulary practise using Quizlet.

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

- Homework will mainly be based on learning vocabulary using the vocabulary and grammar guide. We will give your child plenty of ideas and strategies for vocabulary learning. Please support your child with this. Students can also practise key vocabulary using Quizlet and BBC Bitesize KS3 French/Spanish. 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.

P.E.

Students - you will be studying the following :

- Boys – indoor games, gymnastics, fitness, rugby.
- Girls – gymnastics, hockey, indoor games.

Parents - you can help by :

- Supporting your child if he/she is involved in after-school games and practices - details on P.E. noticeboard and school website.
- CHECKING YOUR CHILD'S P.E. PLANNER TO ENSURE THEY HAVE THE CORRECT KIT.
- Writing a letter with the reason in your child's planner if they cannot participate in activities.
- **PLEASE NAME KIT.**

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Students - you will be exploring the following questions :

- What is Religion, Philosophy and Ethics?
- How do people answer Ultimate Questions?
- What does it mean to be a human being?
- Are humans more important than animals?

Parents - you can help by :

- Discussing the questions raised in the lessons with your child.
- Checking all homework is completed.

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

- The main homework for this year is to learn the key words and ideas on the knowledge organisers. This will be set on Teams every two weeks along with some ideas for tasks to help you learn them. Or you could:

- **Visit the Library:**

SUBJECT	DEWEY NO.
Philosophy	100
Ethics	170
Religion (General)	291.13

- **Read a book :**

Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder has links to this topic. Sophie begins to think about the world and her place in it – a blend of story and philosophy.

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 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.

We are also hoping to introduce some more Future Thursday events where students and families can learn different careers industries.

Ian Caddy – Careers