



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Students Year 7 Curriculum Map: Autumn Term 2019



The purpose of this curriculum map is to give you a general outline of what your daughter is learning in school during this term. We are hoping that this will allow you to support your daughter more effectively in her studies and further enable you to have an open dialogue about learning with your daughter. Each department has made suggestions as to activities that will further support learning in their subject “outside the curriculum”.

Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
Art	The first term is spent learning basic drawing skills. Students will reflect and build on their prior knowledge, be introduced to new skills and expand their approach to creativity. Mark-making techniques will be investigated along with developing observation skills, tonal/shading skills, and learning how to use their sketchbooks effectively.	Continue to draw from direct observation at home, practising skills learnt at school. Visit Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery or the many local art galleries in our surrounding area – look at the diversity in approach to art.
Design & Technology	In Food and Nutrition students will be learning about Healthy Eating. They will investigate the 5 a day campaign and will apply this to the products they will make by adapting and compiling recipes. In Resistant Materials Through analysis of a range of existing products they will design and manufacture a wind chimes product using a wide range of tools, materials and processes. Students who study Textiles will learn how to use a sewing machine in order to manufacture a range of products. They will consider how culture can influence design, pattern and the use of colour when producing a product. The students will experiment with a range of embellishment techniques before focusing on their product. The focus for their design and practical work will be bunting.	Students can collect information about 5 a day. Look at labels of the foods they eat and discuss as a family what small adaptations they could make to meals to make them healthier. Students can investigate the history of design taking into consideration the technological developments as well as the wide range of materials now in use. Wider research to include a variety of sources for example books; films and magazines will enable them to gain a greater understanding of how textiles manufacture has progressed over the centuries.
English	The first unit is designed to be transitional linking skills students have developed at Primary School. We focus on autobiographical and personal writing and the students will examine a variety of writing styles and write an autobiographical piece of their own. Before half term students will begin to study a modern novel and will focus upon the writer’s techniques and how these affect the reader. The summative assessment will be an analytical essay. The objectives of this unit are to understand how writers shape meaning through various methods, as well as developing key skills around essay writing, especially the importance of using quotations to support points and using subject terminology to develop ideas fully and formally in essays.	Students should try to develop their personal reading habits, perhaps going beyond their comfort zone and trying unfamiliar genres. The school library is very well resourced and there is always advice and guidance on hand. It would be advisable to look for some examples of autobiographical and biographical writing.
Drama	Students will be introduced to a range of drama techniques and skills in the first half term, they will build on these during the second half term when they explore the genre of Pantomime and they will work towards creating their own short performances. Confidence and teamwork will be a focus within the lessons to ensure students feel able to explore their creativity fully. They will be introduced to some key vocabulary and begin to develop their evaluation skills.	Visit the Midlands Art Centre which frequently has interactive exhibitions or drama workshops. The Royal Shakespeare Company often runs free workshops during school holidays which can be good taster sessions for everyone from beginners to experienced performers. Go to local theatres such as Birmingham Rep/Library Theatre/Hippodrome/Lichfield Garrick which offer excellent performances all year round.
French	Expo 1 Module 1: Meeting people; school objects; the alphabet; counting up to 20; giving your age; giving the date; saying when your birthday is; talking about the classroom; saying what colour things are. Expo 1 Module 2: Talking about brothers and sisters, your family and pets; describing yourself and others; talking about hair and eyes.	Complete <i>Ecoute et parle</i> independent study on the VLE Use online website such as www.linguascope.com to revise and extend key vocabulary. Begin corresponding with French pen friends. Use the French readers available in the school library for further reading.
Geography	Year 7 Geography starts with a focus on the topic the Geography of Chocolate exploring what life is like in Ghana for cocoa farmers and the Fairtrade movement. Unit 2 is entitled ‘Exploring Antarctica’. Students will study the physical geography of the continent, including its climate and wildlife. They will explore the importance of Antarctica on a global scale and how it is managed.	Look in the supermarket – what Fairtrade products can you see? Challenge yourself to only eat Fairtrade products for a week – is it possible? Watch nature documentaries on Antarctica. Explore the news for up to date articles. Discover the stories of the famous explorers Scott and Amundsen.
History	Students will study key turning points in History during their first term. They will consider why these events are turning points and assess the consequences of the events. They include the Battle of Hastings, the English Reformation and the role of the suffragettes.	All students are invited to enter our annual Year 7 History Competition. They can produce a model, painting; drawing of any aspect of the turning points they have studied or one of their own. E.g. Why not build a castle, or a reconstruction of the Battle of Hastings or produce a campaign poster for the suffragettes...? the choice is endless and prizes will be awarded for the best entries.

Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
Maths	We start by looking at the language of Mathematics, Algebra. We will write expressions representing real life situations, substitute numbers into formulae and expressions and solve linear equations. We will learn how to simplify algebraic expressions, how to expand and factorise and how to argue mathematically. We will carry out calculations involving decimals, fractions and negative numbers and use rounding with significant figures to estimate the solutions to a range of calculations. In Geometry, we will learn the properties of shapes and key vocabulary. We will learn how to produce accurate constructions using protractor and compass. In addition, we will look at perimeter and area of various shapes, including the parallelogram and trapezium. All of the work during Year 7 is without the use of a calculator.	Mymaths.co.uk has lessons on all of the topics, as well as puzzles, games and extension materials. (Students have been issued the current password by their Maths teachers). Dr. Frost and Corbett Maths provide extra practice and challenge. Have a look at nrich for more demanding puzzles.
Computing	Students will study Units 1 and 2 in the Autumn term. E-Safety- Cyber Bullying, Health and Safety, Cyber Legislation, Networks and Security issues Software – operating systems, Transistors, valves, CPU, Data Storage - Capacity, Binary Number System, Binary Addition –Cyber Bullying, Text bullying Recognise the risks associated with sharing of personal information digitally and to take action to protect themselves. Students learn about current issues in computing and the wider world and how to protect themselves against text/cyber bullying. Recognise the risks associated with sharing of personal information digitally and to understand what breaks data, privacy and trolling law. History of Computing Nand Computers- Students study the invention of the computer, allow them to see how computers are associated with maths through the work of Charles Babbage and carry out calculations associated with the CPU cycle.	Discuss the dangers of social networking, staying safe online, other threats such as identity theft. www.ceop.co.uk
Music	We shall learn about pulse and rhythm in the first half term through performance, composition and listening. We listen to a range of music from around the world and see how pulse and rhythm play an important part in the music of different cultures. We shall then explore the eight elements of music and see how these are used to construct pieces of music before composing using these features and notating work using graphic scores. After half term students will be studying keyboard skills where students will learn to perform melodies using correct finger and hand positions before adding chord accompaniments. Pieces will be learnt at a standard appropriate to students' previous performance experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join an extra-curricular Music activity within school • Consider buying a keyboard if you have not already got one at home • Try to attend a live performance of Music. Birmingham has a huge wealth of Music from different cultures and genres. www.thsh.co.uk will list all performance at Birmingham's Town Hall and Symphony Hall.
PE	The PE curriculum is broken down into four week blocks. In each block the students participate in a programme of study for one activity area. In the Autumn term students will take part in an introductory unit, which may include fitness tests, taster sport sessions, team building activities, mountain biking and Girls Football week. Other activities in the Autumn programme of study will be hockey and dance. Throughout each lesson the students will be developing their performance skills, fitness levels as well as their ability to officiate and lead. Students will also get the chance to take part in Indoor athletics and record their results. This gives the students a first attempt at the events that they could get involved in for an inter school Indoor Athletics competition held early in the Spring term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the extra-curricular sports fair at the beginning of the term to find out about clubs. • Look out for our extra-curricular activities weekly plan and join in some of the activities. • Make sure that you are making every effort to take part in regular exercise. A minimum of 1 hour a day is recommended. • Research different sporting activities to try out in our area.
Religious Studies	In the first half term, students consider the question of why religion is important. They consider ideas about community purpose, belief, morals and faith. The unit culminates in a debate about whether religion is necessary to society and what it offers people. In the second half term, students complete a supported self-study booklet on all the different religions. This gives all students a basic introduction to each of the six main religions: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism.	Discuss the purpose of religion at home with your daughter. Discuss why your family does or does not follow a religion. The BBC website is very useful as a basic introduction to the 6 main religions. http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion
Science	<p>Biology Students study the topic of cells. They examine the structure and function of animal and plant cells. Students learn how to use microscopes and also how to prepare and examine their own slides. We then move onto the fascinating world of specialised cells and learn how cells are used for different purposes in the human body. Students also learn about the nervous, circulatory and digestive systems.</p> <p>Chemistry During the autumn term students are introduced to safety in school science and also learn about acids. The safety lessons are essential in ensuring that all students understand how to work safely in a laboratory. During the topic on acids, students learn about the differences between acids and alkalis and how they are dangerous but also very useful. The pH scale is introduced along with work on neutralisation and reactions with metals.</p> <p>Physics In Physics, students study the topic of electricity and magnetism during the autumn term. Students make their own series and parallel circuits and learn about current and voltage relationships along with how energy moves from the cells to the components of the circuit. Students then move onto magnets and electromagnets and study the effects of these by making their own and using them to test ideas.</p>	<p>Students can find many amazing images of cells on the web including some that have been taken with electron microscopes. You could book a visit to the centre of the cell exhibition at: https://www.centrofthecell.org/ this is found in Whitechapel, London</p> <p>General discussions in the kitchen / home... What acids and alkalis are used at home and how do we/the manufacturers try to keep us safe?</p> <p>Discuss whether the lights in your home are wired up in series or parallel. What would be the advantages/disadvantages of each? How do we protect ourselves from being electrocuted in the home? How are conductors and insulators used to ensure our safety? You could also discuss how electricity, magnets and electromagnets are essential to our lives. How many things would we be without if these did not exist?</p>