



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Students Year 7 Curriculum Map: Autumn Term 2020



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 the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery website or the websites of other local art galleries – look at the diversity in approach to art.
Rotation of Subjects:- Food Product Design Textiles	In Food and Nutrition students will be learning about food safety and hygiene and applying the rules in practical lessons. They will also study healthy eating by investigating the 5 a day campaign and the Eatwell Guide and will apply their learning to the dishes they produce by making suitable adaptations to recipes. In Product Design 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 thread and use a sewing machine in order to be independent in its use. They will focus on the functions of the machine and it’s capabilities with stitching and construction. They will consider how design, pattern and the use of colour work together when producing a piece of work. The students will experiment with a range of embellishment techniques and produce a ‘fish’ as a final piece of work.	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 overarching theme of the English curriculum in Year 7 is Identity. 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 collection of poetry and will focus upon the writer’s techniques and how these affect the reader. The summative assessments will be a personal reflection on their favourite poem and a creative piece. The objectives of this unit are to understand how writers shape meaning through various methods, as well as discussing and thinking about poets and poetry which reflects diverse experiences and perspectives. Students will be encouraged to articulate responses which show understanding and engagement with different style, voices and themes.	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.	When possible: 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	Dynamo 1 Module 1: Meeting people; the alphabet and key sounds in French; counting up to 31; giving the date; giving your age; talking about your brothers and sisters; talking about the classroom; talking about likes and dislikes; describing yourself and others; saying what activities you do using regular “er” verbs; saying when your birthday is. Dynamo 1 Module 2: Describing colours; telling the time; talking about your school subjects; giving opinions; describing your school uniform and your school day.	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. 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 son Antarctica. Explore the news for up to date articles. Discover the stories of the famous explorers Scott and Amundsen.

Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
History	Students will study key turning points in Medieval 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 reign of King John and the Black Death.	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.
Maths	We start by looking at the language of Mathematics, Algebra. We will write expressions representing real life situations, substitute numbers into formulae 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, including nets, using protractor and compass. In addition, we will look at perimeter, area and volume of various shapes & solids, including the parallelograms, trapezia and prisms. 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 first take an introductory unit Cyber Security. They will learn about current issues in computing and the wider world, recognise the risks associated with sharing of personal information digitally and to understand some of the computer related legislation. Next, they will take a unit in Computational thinking. They will know the key principles of computational thinking and learn how to apply them. Finally, students will then look at why data is represented in binary. They will learn to carry out binary to decimal conversion and vice versa. This will be followed by some simple binary addition.	Visit Bletchley Park's website Learn Python programming using the website https://www.w3schools.com/python/ Use programming websites eg www.python.org Free online Python IDE https://repl.it/languages/python3 (Allows you to code online without downloading Python onto your computer) BBC Bitesize Computer Science has topics and end of unit tests. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z34k7ty
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.	Consider buying a keyboard if you have not already got one at home While 'live music' is restricted at present widen your listening by retuning your radio to a new station, e.g. Classic FM or Radio 3.
PE	For the Autumn term the PE curriculum is broken down into two 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 and team building activities. Other activities in the Autumn programme of study will be netball, football, rounders, orienteering, badminton, fitness and gymnastics. 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 usually held early in the Spring term.	Check notices to see what extra-curricular clubs are running. 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	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. 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. 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.	Students can find many amazing images of cells on the web including some that have been taken with electron microscopes. 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? 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?