



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Students Year 7 Curriculum Map: Autumn Term 2023



The purpose of this curriculum map is to give you a general outline of what is being taught. There are suggestions for activities that will further support learning in each 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	In Food & Nutrition students will be learning about food safety, hygiene and applying these 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 DT students will analyse a range of existing products that support a phone/tablet. They will then design and manufacture their own using acrylic and timber connected by either nut and bolts or screw fixings. They will be using a wide range of traditional tools and modern processes such as laser cutting. They will then also design and make their own aluminium keyring or pendant. In Textiles, students study the safe use of the sewing machine investigating all of its functions including learning free machine embroidery. They look at Matisse and use this theme to explore colour and the application of paint onto fabric.	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 could watch some episodes of The Big Fix or Better By Design on YouTube. These are fantastic insights into the world of DT. 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	Our first unit traces our literary heritage from Homer’s <i>The Odyssey</i> considering its influence on the journey narrative in modern day literature and culture. We consider the importance of storytelling, in its various forms, and students learn how to respond to texts using literary subject terminology. Other than <i>The Odyssey</i> , we also look at extracts from <i>Beowulf</i> , <i>In the Sea there are Crocodiles</i> , and <i>The Girl of Ink and Stars</i> . There is also opportunity for creative writing and students will retell an episode of <i>The Odyssey</i> using some of the literary devices they will have been exploring.	Students should try to develop their personal reading habits, 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. They could read further around the story of The Odyssey or The Iliad, or other stories which follow a quest or journey narrative.
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	In the Autumn Term of Year 7, students will acquire all the basis on learning a language through talking about their universe. While studying French phonics, students will learn to describe their family and siblings, to express their likes and dislikes, and explaining what life at school is for them. As they progress through the term and become more confident with using and manipulating the language, students will start learning about the topic of school, describing a classroom in details, talking about their school subjects, their uniforms and their school day, learning the differences between schools in England and in the francophone world.	Use online website such as www.linguascope.com and www.quizlet.com to revise and extend key vocabulary. Use www.languagesonline.org.uk to revise and practise grammar. Follow QR codes on Knowledge Organisers Use the French readers available in the school library for further reading. Take advantage of the streaming offer to immerse yourself in French culture by listening to French radio, curating your own French music playlist and watch a variety of films and TV Shows in French.
Geography	Year 7 Geography starts with a unit titled ‘making Geographical Decisions’. Through studying HS2 students will learn the geographical skill of weighing up pros and cons, before coming to a balanced conclusion. Key map skills such as directions and grid references are also integrated. The students will then look at the process of conducting a geographical enquiry, by conducting fieldwork in the school grounds. Later in the term the focus will turn to physical geography where students will study rivers. This includes: changing characteristics downstream, river processes and landforms and an in depth study of river flooding.	Use the Ordnance survey website to help reinforce and practise key map skills learned during the topic. www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/ Keep an eye on the news at any river flooding events that occur, along with how different countries/places respond to them in order to reduce the impacts.
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.

Mathematics	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 negative numbers and with decimals 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 work during Year 7 is without the use of a calculator.	Dr. Frost and Corbett Maths provide extra practice and challenge. Support booklets (shared with students) give further examples and exemplification. Have a look at nrich for more demanding puzzles or try practising some Junior Mathematics Challenge questions on Dr Frost.
Computing	Students will complete an introductory unit on Cyber Security. They will learn about types of email scams and how to recognise them. They will learn about Computer Misuse Act, hacking and different types of malware. They will also learn about careers in Cybersecurity. Students will be introduced to the principles of computational thinking and how to apply these in Computer Science. After the half-term they will all take part in the national computational thinking competition called the Bebras Challenge. Students will learn how computers process information using binary units. They will also learn how to convert binary to denary and vice versa.	Discuss the dangers of social networking, staying safe online, other threats such as identity theft. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrtrd2p/revision/1 Introduction to computational thinking https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zp92mp3/revision/1 UK Bebras Challenge Website https://www.bebbras.uk/index.php?action=welcome
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 <u>keyboard skills</u> 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.	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 five week blocks. In each block the students participate in a programme of study for one activity area. In the Autumn term students will participate in netball, gymnastics and dance. Within these units, as well as the sports specific core skills, students will develop specific aspects of fitness, experiencing fitness testing. They will also develop team building and communication skills 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. Students will also have the opportunity to compete in inter house cross country, rowing and benchball.	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, faith, and diversity within religion. The unit culminates in a debate about whether religion is necessary to society and what it offers people. In the second half of term, students consider what makes a good person. They will be learning about the Five Pillars of Islam and considering whether they think a set of guidelines such as the Five Pillars helps people to become better people.	Discuss the purpose of religion at home with your daughter. Discuss why your family does or does not follow a religion. Discuss the importance of learning about religions and being able to recognise diversity both between and within faiths. The BBC website is very useful as a basic introduction to the 6 main religions. http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion . Have a look at: http://www.muslimkids.co.uk/5-Pillars/5-pillars.html and discuss beliefs with any Muslims you may know/Muslim friends in school.
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 organs and organ systems, and how these can be damaged and replaced. Chemistry During the Autumn term students are introduced to Safety in School Science and also learn about the names and uses of the main equipment that they will use in the lab. They then move on to the first topic in Chemistry which is Particles and Structure. They will learn particle theory and use this to explain properties of solids, liquids and gases and learn about concepts such as diffusion, gas pressure and density before moving on to on to finding out about the historical models of the atom. Physics In Physics, students study the topic of Energy during the Autumn term. They learn about energy stores and transfers and study conservation of energy. They then learn how to draw Sankey diagrams and discuss efficiency and then carry out the Bouncy Ball investigation. Students complete this unit by learning about different types of power.	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.centreofthecell.org/ this is found in Whitechapel, London Discuss the substances found in the bathroom and kitchen at home. Are they solids, liquids or gases? How do you know? Visit ThinkTank Birmingham Science Museum. Attend Science club during the Autumn term to make slime and other strange behaving substances. See what videos can find on YouTube and BBC Bitesize. 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?