

Year 7 Summer Curriculum Update April 2024

YEAR 7 SUMMER TERM OVERVIEW

A huge congratulations to Year 7 for their remarkable accomplishment of accumulating 50,689 positive behaviour points this term. It is truly commendable for each member of the year group. Additionally, congratulations for achieving 17,485 points for demonstrating excellent Behaviour for Learning and outstanding effort in lessons during our learning walks. This demonstrates a wonderful readiness to learn, a commitment to safety within school, and a display of respect towards both the staff and peers.

It is important to reflect on lessons students have learned throughout the year. Academically, they have gained knowledge and skills that will prepare them for the summer term during their end of year assessments. From studying English, to solving complex Maths problems and to learning a new language. Each subject has taught them something different and helped expand their intellectual



horizons. Additionally, they are learning critical thinking and time management skills that will undoubtedly come in handy.

Throughout 'Science Week', we witnessed a fantastic assembly put together and executed by our exceptional students. It was truly a delight to witness and appreciate their enthusiasm for science and commitment to the project. Our February show, God Spell, was a tremendous success, and Year 7 students played a significant role in the production, making both themselves and the school proud.

In the realm of sports, they performed exceptionally well in the netball tournament at Watling Academy a few weeks ago, and our boys also excelled in their first rugby tournament. They should all be immensely proud of their achievements.

As we look ahead to the summer term and the completion of their first year at Walton High, we anticipate seeing their beaming smiles and a strong sense of accomplishment. Transitioning from primary to secondary school is a significant leap, and for some, it can be quite challenging. Despite a few obstacles along the way, Year 7 students have navigated through them gracefully and with a positive attitude. We are incredibly proud of them.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

This term students will explore a range of non-fiction texts around the theme of Science and Technology.

In the first half term, students will develop their ability to write accurately for a specific purpose, audience and form to convey a particular viewpoint. We have looked at a range of topics linked to the theme of science and technology, where students have learnt the skills needed to successfully write to explain, argue and persuade.



In the second half term, students will then develop their reading skills, specifically their ability to extract key information, explain writers' viewpoints and synthesise information between two texts. The development of these skills will prepare students for a final reading assessment on making interpretations and inferences, as well as the ability to analyse the language used.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

This term students are studying poetry under the topic of '**Speak Out**', a diverse range of poetry exploring themes such as climate change, race, and equality.



Students are enjoying the study of poetic methods and exploring how these can be used to give a voice to our deepest thoughts and feelings. They are learning how to successfully annotate poetry and understand its deeper meaning. Throughout this topic students will learn how to interpret and analyse how poets use language and structure to convey their ideas and beliefs.

MATHS

Throughout the summer term Year 7 will be mainly focusing on geometry. They will learn the core skills in this topic that are required to be successful in maths. Within each topic there will be many opportunities for students to explore the basic principles of the subject; understanding why we do what we do and to consider different approaches to solving problems. Other topics covered this term will include fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio.



Year 7 will be doing their last formal assessment before the end of the school year. Topics on the assessment will include place value, fractions, decimal and the four operations. In algebra topics to be assessed will include simplifying expressions and solving equations. Some of our top set students have recently taken part in the national Junior Maths Challenge and we eagerly await the results.

SCIENCE

This term students will test their scientific knowledge and understanding of all topics they have completed in their end of year exam. They will develop scientific skills through numerous experiments and investigations that help answer questions about the world around them. This will equip them with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.



In Biology they will look into where the energy our bodies comes from, and how to use experiments to test new theories. This will give an opportunity to build confidence in their critical thinking and learn through investigations. Also providing a foundation of understanding to be built upon in upcoming years. For Physics they will delve into how the sound travels, and how energy is transferred from one form to another. This will challenge their abstract thinking and challenge them to justify their answers.

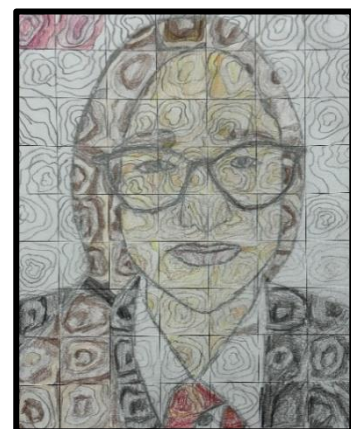
Science week was a great success with enrichment activities in lesson and challenges during lunchtimes.

KS3 Science club has continued throughout last term with students performing activities including designing suspension bridges, turning bronze coins to silver then gold and determining the energy contained in food. In the summer term Science Club will change into Eco Club to take advantage of Walton High's outdoor facilities and the better weather. KS3 Science club runs on a Tuesday 3:15-4:15 at Walnut Tree and Wednesday 3:15-4:15 at Brooklands.

Year 7 will also have the opportunity this term to travel to Whipsnade Zoo in an upcoming ALD.

ART

Students at Brooklands who study Art in their creative rotation will be exploring 2 project themes this term. There will be a project creating 'Masks with meaning'. Students will look at a variety of cultures that use masks and create their own artistic representation of one. This project aims to equip students with a knowledge of culture and apply it to a 3D outcome. In addition to this, students will also explore 'Stitched Selfie'. This gives students the opportunity to explore their own identity in the production of an A5 self-portrait using stitch as a creative outlet.



Students at Walnut Tree who study Art in their creative rotation will be exploring 2 project themes this term. There will be a project creating 'Masks with meaning'. Students will look at a variety of cultures that use masks and create their own artistic representation of one. This project aims to equip students with a knowledge of culture and apply it to a 3D

outcome. Along with this project students at Walnut Tree will be exploring portraiture. This project aims to equip students with a knowledge of proportion, confidence in the use of tone and an understanding of colour mixing using paint. Students study the work of Chuck Close and produce a piece of work in response to this.

A homework project accompanies each creative rotation, so please ask your child about their plans for their independent outcome. Homework is set on Firefly for students to refer and bring in their work to the lesson for feedback.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Throughout this term, students have been learning how to use spreadsheets, specifically Microsoft Excel to create timetables, quizzes, fantastic graphs, applying conditional formatting and a host of other useful tools found in Excel. Through this, they will learn how to simulate and model spreadsheet solutions to given business problems using tools and functions found in excel.



Students will then move on to binary conversions, where they learn that binary only has 2 values – 0 and 1 - and be able to convert simple numbers to and from binary, store text as well as numbers using binary data, convert binary into numbers and then letters, use binary to create words and sentences and learn how to pictures can be represented by binary numbers.

Do come along to coding club on Tuesdays in BE2 at Walnut Tree and on Thursdays in BC6 at Brooklands to help you enhance your learning in this topic.

DANCE

This half term the students will be studying 'Responding to a Stimulus' where they are learning to structure and create a dance based on an idea from a stimulus. They have also been introduced to creative tools such as cannons and ASP (action/space/dynamics) to help them with creating their dances.

Then students will work through an intense application of dance activities in a series of classes that put movement and dance at the forefront of great fitness routines because they develop core strength, balance, stamina, spring and stretch. The idea is that students become interested in a fitness activity that they use in the summer months and beyond.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Discussion and practical application teach students about polymers and timbers, why we use them, how we use them and what impact their use has on our environment.



DRAMA

This is our favourite time of the year because this is our favourite unit of work. Year 7 write and perform a speech of their own choice to last 60 to 90 seconds long. This sounds simple but we expect more, the speech is to persuade an audience to understand something from the presenter's view. Students are to use skills of oracy such as rhyme, rhythm, change of pace, repetition, and figurative language, yet they are to back up their points with researched evidence and facts. These are to be speeches that remain in the memory. Speeches that are alive, joyous and a celebration of what students have learnt so far this year. There is a link with their English work, but we also expect students to know their speeches off by heart and to present their speeches without reading it. It is all about communicating and connecting with the audience.



To end the year, we embark on physical comedy and teach a slapstick unit and some slapstick repertoire where exaggeration and reaction are the key features of performance. We teach this now because trust and self-discipline is high in the classes and this is where we need it most.

Watch out for our MKET's Got Talent competition this term and Art on a Summer's Evening to end the year.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Students will develop basic key cooking skills and practice these by making a range of products. Students will learn the hygiene and safety procedures that need to be applied when working with food and will demonstrate these during their practical lessons. Students will be introduced to topics such as food waste, seasonality and food miles and will consider environmental issues associated with food. Students will evaluate their work and learn how to carry out accurate and fair sensory analysis testing. Food science terms will be introduced looking at the functions of ingredients in recipes and students will carry out a food science investigation considering controls and fair testing.



GEOGRAPHY

In Geography, Year 7 students will begin to look at Asia with a focus on the diversity of the continent; first looking at the range of wealth and how we can measure it. This has led to us looking at the country of India as an example of a nation that is rapidly changing (*timely as it became the most populous in the world last year!*). We will look at how it is becoming a rapidly urban country, the impact of this growth to large cities and the impact that large companies such as Coca Cola have on India.

After half term we will look at the sustainability of the rapid development of the Middle East region before looking at physical landscapes and natural events in the continent – such as the formation of fold mountains (like the Himalayas) or the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. We will end the year with a place study on China.



Students with a keen interest are encouraged to attend the Geography enrichment club. We will also be encouraging students to take part in the Royal Geographical Society's 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition, launched this term.

HISTORY

The early part of the summer term saw Year 7 move from a study of Medieval 'Controversial Characters' onto a series of lessons that looked at the reputations of people such as Henry VIII, Mary I and Charles I. By undertaking this historical work students learnt about the study of human nature and the common priorities, problems and pressures people have faced in the past and continue to face today.



The last part of Year 7 is dedicated to the study of key people from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, still with a focus on evidence, reputations and historical interpretations. For example, students will look at the controversy surrounding Edward VIII's marriage to Wallis Simpson, and views held at the time and today regarding Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The final term is also used to lay some foundations to support the transition into Year 8. For example, some work is undertaken on key characters connected to the British Empire as well as some key people in American history, both of which will help with the Year 8 course where history students look in depth at the concept of Empire and take a greater world view of historical events.

The summer term will also see many students visit the 'Black Country Living Museum' as part of the ALD programme offered by the school.

LANGUAGES

FRENCH

This half term, Year 7 will be learning to discuss where they live. They will learn about types of houses and the rooms within them. They will also be able to describe the region they live in and give their opinion. They will learn how to talk about where they want to live in the future. They will finish the year with a cultural project about the Paris Olympics.



GERMAN

This half term, Year 7 will be completing their learning about the school system in German and how it differs from the UK system, describing a school timetable and their teachers and talking about



what subjects they will learn in the future. They will then be moving on to look at countries, places in the town and activities they can do on holiday. They will be learning how to order food and buy souvenirs in shops. We hope students will feel confident to put their new found skills into practise over the summer holidays!

MANDARIN

This summer term, Year 7 will be learning to order food, drinks and typical Asian dishes. They will also talk about their food preferences and plan a meal schedule whilst exploring a range of countries and cities through their food and sport preferences. At the end of the term, pupils will be able to build a restaurant menu and give advice on ordering food.



SPANISH



Sstudent's will be learning about where they live with a close focus on describing their local area. This topic will enable students to move on from the personal sphere and broaden their horizon to the outside world, including landmarks in the Spanish speaking world. They will learn to talk about going out plans and ordering food. This will improve their communication skills and their confidence in expressing themselves.

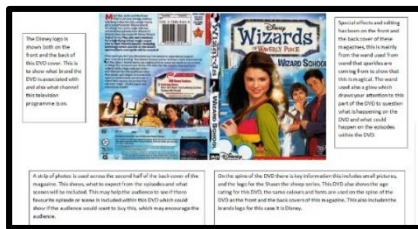
PE

In lessons this term students will be taught and experience the fundamental skills in Athletics, taking part in a range of field and track events in preparation for sports day. Alongside athletics students will take part in striking and fielding lessons in rounders and cricket, learning and developing their skills in batting and fielding.



The positive extra-curricular attendance from Year 7 students has continued into the summer term with rounders, cricket and gym club on offer. We have many fixtures in rounders, cricket and athletics this term against other MK schools, so come along to Year 7 and have a go. We also have an external cricket coach from the ECB coming to support our cricket club so come along for some expert tutelage.

MEDIA



Developing their skills in Photoshop, Year 7 have annotated DVD/CD designs. Learning all the key features belonging to each media product, students have experimented and can construct their own media products to promote films or music artist/s.

MUSIC

We are now in the summer term with a series of performances. Students are exploring the instruments of the orchestra in Sonority City. In the final half term students will explore a range of ensemble opportunities combining voices, keyboards, drums, and ukulele.



PHILOSOPHY

Within Religion, Philosophy and Ethics students have been exploring the beliefs of Buddhist philosophy, following the journey of Siddhartha Gautama (also known as the Buddha) to enlightenment. Students will explore the questions of how we live a good life and what happens when we die and are now moving on to study Sikhism. We will explore questions including: what Sikhs believe about God, and does it matter how we behave?

