



PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

**YEAR
7**

Welcome to your young person's first term at Paignton Community & Sports Academy. I hope that they have had a restful summer break and are ready and eager to make the best start possible to their secondary education. With a diverse range of subjects, sporting activities and opportunities this will be an action packed start to their life here at the Academy. This term we have the exciting Y7 freshers' camp, school photographs and crucial baseline assessments.

Please take time to look at the range of after school and lunchtime activities on offer here at the Academy and encourage your young person to become fully involved in some of them. It would be useful to familiarise yourself with our Vivo points system, SIMS InTouch and the Learning Gateway. If you have any further questions regarding the curriculum or anything else please feel free to contact myself or Mrs Gower on 403005.

Kate Hine, Head of Year

IMPORTANT DATES

2016

6th Sept	Y7 Photos
13th Sept	Camp Information Eve
12th Sep	Baseline Tests Week
19th Sept	Baseline Tests Week
17th Oct	First Day of Half Term
31st Oct	Return from Half Term
TBC	Raising Attainment Eve
16th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term

2017

3rd January First Day of Spring Term

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ENGLISH

Year 7 begin their learning journey immersing themselves in the study of their first key text 'How to avoid a Dragon's Curse' part of the 'How to Train your Dragon' series. They will explore how a writer introduces character and describes setting, as well as using the book as a source material for transactional writing. Students will also complete a baseline assessment to identify areas of strength and weakness in order for us to give them the best possible support to realise their potential. At the beginning of the term students will be introduced to the Accelerated Reader Scheme. This scheme has had significant results in improving reading ages and time is set aside during tutorial sessions and English lessons for them to read and quiz on books. In addition students are expected to read for 20 minutes a further three times per week.

The second half of the term focuses on imaginative writing. From the taste of a Sherbet Lemon on their tongues, to the sights, sounds and smells of a beach, students complete practical activities designed to extend their imaginative writing skills. All students will be set regular homework to extend their learning.



MATHS

Year 7 will be arranged into classes based on primary school data. They will study a variety of topics during the Autumn term, such as the number system including decimals and negative numbers, perimeter and area of shapes including change of units, introduction to algebraic expressions and fractions, decimals and percentages. There is a strong focus on presenting work in a neat and organised manner with clearly identifiable notes at key points.

Teacher assessments of the work covered in class will take place at the end of each topic and pupils will be given feedback to support their progress. Pupils will have online access to the range of textbooks used and associated videos to support further learning.

Having the correct equipment is an essential part of assessment preparation as well as revision. Whilst most of the focus in Year 7 is on developing non-calculator skills, it is a good idea to bring a suitable scientific calculator to every Maths lesson.

Homework will be predominantly paper based and focused towards understanding and applying skills that have been learned in class. Occasionally, especially for revision purposes, additional work will be assigned using the Kerboodle and Doodle websites. Pupils have their own login details for these websites which they should keep somewhere safe. If, for any reason, these are misplaced then any member of the Maths team will be able to help.

SCIENCE

We are very excited to welcome the new Year 7 into our department, especially at such an exciting time for the science curriculum. Students will begin the new and more rigorous curriculum introduced by the government for this year group. They will spend their first weeks finding their way around a science lab, covering basic safety in preparation for practical work. Generally it is the student's first experience of a laboratory classroom, so it is essential that the basics are covered. During this time students will also be tested at the end of the four units; the results from these tests will be used to set the pupils after Christmas. Units for the Autumn term include biology, chemistry and physics units. Topics will be on cells, particles and their behaviour and forces. A great deal of emphasis will be placed on practical work and learning practical techniques which will be used throughout a student's time in the academy. Students will have the opportunity to design and carry out their own investigations. These investigations will form the basis for on-going and continual assessment.



You can help by encouraging your son/daughter to watch the news regularly or read a newspaper to keep a look out for new developments.

Details of Activate science can be found at:

<https://global.oup.com/education/content/secondary/series/activate/;jsessionid=4B2C3AF74A325A0C0C37135C69EBBF71?region=uk>

HISTORY

We are pleased to welcome Year 7 students to the History Department with an exciting Time Quest activity. Students will be using templates published on www.paigntononline.com to design their own class time lines. They will be challenged to spot anachronisms in pictures and organise a variety of historical hats into time periods. All students will complete a baseline assessment to measure their knowledge and historical skills. The students will then embark on an in-depth study of Plains Indian culture in an enquiry entitled 'How far do you agree that the Plains Indians were like deer and the Americans were like grizzly bears?' Students will learn how the Plains Indians survived on the Great Plains by hunting buffalo. They will then move on to investigate the real Pirates of the Caribbean.

GEOGRAPHY

 We are looking forward to welcoming the Year 7s to Geography! We will begin the year with looking at 'What is Geography?' and getting to know the world's continents, oceans and countries. This will be followed by an intense course aimed at equipping the students to be able to use an atlas proficiently and to find out and interpret information from a variety of maps of different scales. Pupils will be developing their map reading skills focusing on map signs, direction, grid references, scale and contour lines. Pupils will be encouraged to play the games and to use the resources on the Ordnance Survey Map Zone web site. Pupils' progress will be assessed in a number of tests which will be completed under examination conditions in order to develop their confidence and revision skills for exams.

LITERACY

Literacy skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening will be taught during English lessons with a particular focus on these cross-curricular skills during the lesson in which students engage in their private reading on the Accelerated Reading scheme once a week.



ETHICS

Students will be studying ethics for the first time. The term starts by examining our senses and how they can be linked to spirituality. This will be followed in the Autumn term by examining and reflecting on Rites of Passage. Students will encounter different ceremonies from other cultures and beliefs, which deal with transition periods in people's lives.

There will be two assessments each half term, which will be designed to give students the experience and strategies needed for GCSE study in the future. This will allow good mapping of student progress and individual target setting to make sure all reach their potential in Ethics.



FRENCH

In the Autumn term pupils will be given a baseline test to assess the language skills they have acquired at primary school. We will then be following a skill-based curriculum introducing pupils to important language skills, such as conjugating verbs and how to use a dictionary.

We will also be using 'Doddle' which helps students to learn in a more creative way.

French - How parents can help

We would love you to support your child with their home learning by regularly helping them to learn vocabulary in preparation for their weekly vocabulary tests. Allow them to explore fun ways of learning from home for example sticking post its on the fridge or on their back, so you can test them aloud, get them to teach you, rap it, sing it, dance along to it, record it ("podcasting" as it's now referred to), watch it on "Paignton Online" and use the "look, cover, check" method. There are endless ways to learn and only by experimenting will they discover which method works best for them. They will be issued with vocabulary lists and any other home works will be either on worksheets or in their yellow book.

Thank you for supporting us with your child's learning.

Merci et Bon Courage!



ICT

As they are new to Paignton Academy, pupils will spend a couple of weeks during the Autumn term understanding how to use Google Drive, the most up to date way of sharing and collaborating work online. They will then go on to use the Academy's iPads to create their own multimedia product, showing what life is like at Paignton Academy. Pupils will look at current multimedia products, outlining the strengths and weaknesses and begin to understand the different file types used when dealing with media files. Pupils will be using Movie Maker to begin editing their videos, adding in music and special effects to create a professional completed product. This work will be used the following year to give Year 6 pupils an insight into life at PCSA.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

During the summer term students will be studying a short module of E – Safety. This will give students the basic skills to help keep them safe online. As part of this unit we will cover concepts such as cyber-bullying, the dangers of social media and some of the rules and regulations that govern the way we use the internet and computers in general. Following on from this students will begin looking at Kodu. Kodu is a game making environment developed by Microsoft that uses many of the same concepts as high level programming languages but in a very simple and engaging way. This is a great introduction to the ideas behind programming.

PSHE

As part of the healthy lifestyles and personal well being we will be looking at Puberty and what to expect, as well as how babies are made, which compliments the information that will be delivered in science lessons. We will also look at Personal Hygiene which will include looking at some of the types of sanitary protection available and how to use them. Some lessons will be in split boy/girl classes to make it easier to ask questions. We will also look at where we can go to get help and advice on all sorts of problems both within school and outside school.

DRAMA

The Units of Work studied in Year 7 are 'Storytelling' and 'Commedia Dell' Arte'. Core skills include body language, facial expression, use of voice, still image, narration, role on the wall, thought tracking, conscience alley, characterisation, improvisation and hot-seating.

Drama and Music are taught in 2 half term blocks. Homework is set every two weeks.

Auditions for the annual panto will take place in September.



ART

Year 7 students will be exploring the themes Tutti Frutti and Machina Madness. Students will be researching artists, developing observational drawings, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making an outcome that relates to the theme. Students will have the opportunity to work in both 2D and 3D materials. The projects will focus on the formal elements of line and tone and will enable students to understand how to embed these fundamental skills and techniques.

During the projects pupils will develop ideas, drawings, research and experiments which will be self-evaluated, peer assessed and marked by the class teacher. Targets are regularly set and reviewed to help pupils progress. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. KS3 Art Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes where pupils have the opportunity to take part in competitions and complete any unfinished work. It would be beneficial for pupils to have basic art equipment at home to help complete homework and encourage independent learning.



MUSIC

Students on music rotation in this term will study two topics: 'Storytelling' and 'Find Your Voice'.

The 'storytelling' unit involves writing and performing music for an Amazonian myth and acts as their baseline assessment task.

In 'Find Your Voice', students will break a song down into its constituent musical and instrumental parts, studying melody, harmony, rhythm, texture and form by playing a variety of instruments and putting together their own small band performance of a song.

Music and Drama are taught in 2 half term blocks.

There is a choir on Wednesday lunchtimes and a KS3 club after school on Wednesdays.

TEXTILES

Students will research Egyptian art and culture, enabling them to design and produce a cushion with a multi-cultural theme. They will learn how to do a range of decorative printing and machine sewing techniques, as well as learn how to construct a bag. Students will produce a range of design ideas based on Egyptian art and develop one into a final design. They will make a cushion in the style of Egyptian art.

PRODUCT DESIGN

The students have been challenged to design and make a "Fishy Display". This project, which has proven to be very popular with our Year 7 students, is a good introduction to workshop skills and techniques. Students use Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture to shape and form plastics. They use a range of hand tools to shape and form metal, which they then braze to form a permanent joint. The students also develop an understanding of the processes involved in hardening and tempering steel. Home learning opportunities are through the four research tasks set.

PE

Welcome! All the PE staff hope you are excited and ready for the start of a new academic year.

At KS3 we have four blocks of work offering twelve different activities throughout the year, with even more available during lunchtimes and after school.

Parents – Please encourage your son/daughter to attend our sports clubs. Look out for the clubs list that will appear soon.

Pupils - Please ensure you have all the correct kit for your lessons:

- Academy Blue PE shirt
- Academy Blue rugby top
- Academy Black shorts
- Academy Blue socks
- Suitable footwear: Studded boots for rugby/football. Supportive trainers (NO pumps).
- Gum shield and shin pads for football, rugby and hockey.

No hoodies or uniform will be allowed.

In very cold weather it is good practice to wear a number of layers: under armour (or alternative) is great, with the polo shirt and or rugby top.

Please remember: If students do have PE lessons in the morning, we strongly advise they have a good breakfast.

The table below shows the sports the students will be covering in the Autumn term.

GIRLS	BOYS
Netball	Rugby
Multi-skills	Multi-skills
Football	Gymnastics



FOOD

Students will learn how to respond to a design brief and how to design food products for a specific market. They will understand how to use a number of suitable technical making techniques to produce a series of food products based on the theme of healthy eating. Students will learn functions of key ingredients and will be able to understand the importance of the "eatwell" plate, 5 a day rule and the Government's guidelines for healthy living. Pupils will be considering how to modify recipes in order to make them healthier.

In Year 7 students make the following recipes: a smoothie, fresh fruit salad, pasta salad, savoury scones and fruit cobbler.