



PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

WELCOME to Paignton Community and Sports Academy.

I hope your young person is ready and eager to begin their secondary education after a restful summer.

This will be an action packed year with many exciting opportunities and important events, such as reward trips, off-site educational trips, the Year 7 fresher camps, school photographs, Year 7 Disco and crucial baseline assessments.

Please take time to look at the range of extra-curricular activities that are available at both lunchtimes and after school. Encourage your child to become involved in these as it will help them to make new friendships and to build their confidence.

It would be useful to familiarise yourself with our School Calendar when it is published, the Vivo point system, SIMS InTouch and the ClassChart system.

Students' organisational skills, such as looking at their timetable and packing their bag the night before, will be crucial to a successful year.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or Mrs Rundle on 01803 403005.

We very much look forward to meeting, supporting and guiding your son/daughter in September and throughout their time here at the Academy.

Mr Virgo, Head of Year

IMPORTANT DATES

2017

7 th Sept	Y7 Photos
12 th Sept	Camp Information Eve
21 st Sept	Settling In Evening
16-27 th Oct	Half Term
30 th Oct	Return from Half Term
15 th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term
2018	
2 nd January	First Day of Spring Term

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2017

YEAR
7

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 fairy tales and imaginative writing. We will examine a range of fairy tales which we will analyse and be inspired by. Regular homework will be set to develop students' skills and understanding. These can include D o d d l e homework, research projects or extended writing.



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. Units for the Autumn term include biology, chemistry and physics units. Topics will be on organisms; cells, muscles, joints and skeleton; forces; gravity, speed and distance time graphs; matter; particle model and separating mixtures. 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>

MATHS

Year 7 will be arranged into classes based on their primary school data. During the Autumn term students will develop key mathematical skills with number calculations, negative numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages. Mastery of these 'key' skills are essential for students' future success in a variety of different topics which follow in the Spring and Summer terms. There is a strong focus on presenting work in a neat and organised manner with clearly identifiable notes at key points.

Teacher assessments will take place at the end of each topic and students will be given feedback to support their progress. Students 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 MyMaths websites. Students 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.



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 Year 7 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 with the skills to be able to use an atlas proficiently and to find out and interpret information from a variety of maps of different scales. Students will be developing their map reading skills focusing on map signs, direction, grid references, scale and contour lines. They will be encouraged to play the games and to use the resources on the Ordnance Survey Map Zone web site. Students' 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.



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.



ICT

As they are new to Paignton Academy, students will begin using Google Classroom, 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. Students 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. Students 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 students an insight into life at PCSA.



PSHE

As part of the PSHE programme at PCSA, Year 7 will receive six dedicated 'Relationship and Sex Education' lessons. We will look at some of the changes that take place during puberty, with separate sessions for boys and girls. We will also deliver lessons on the menstrual cycle, pregnancy and birth. This will be in addition to the biological input from Science lessons. The lessons are delivered in a more informal way and led by the needs of the students in each group. They will have the chance to ask questions in small groups so they can clarify any misunderstandings or omissions in their knowledge of human reproduction. Also, as part of our healthy lifestyles and personal well-being programme, Year 7 will be looking at personal hygiene and 'Getting Help'; where we can go to get help and advice.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

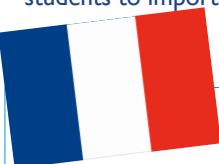
During the Autumn term, students will be using the BBC micro:bit, a programmable micro-computer. Students will code the micro:bit to create games and a working compass. They will then plan their own project looking at a new use for the micro:bit. This project will introduce students to key programming concepts such as variables, 'IF' statements and loops and the need for project planning. This will prepare students

to move on to Python programming as they progress through the Academy.



FRENCH

In the Autumn term students 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 students to important language skills, such as conjugating verbs and how to use a dictionary.



We will also be using 'Linguascope' 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 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, in their yellow book or on Linguascope.

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

Merci et Bon Courage!



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, characterisation and improvisation.

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

Drama kit: black leggings for girls.



ART

Year 7 students will be exploring the theme 'Day of the Dead'. Students will be researching artists and work from another culture, 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 pattern, colour and shape which will enable students to understand how to embed fundamental skills and techniques.

During the projects students 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 students to progress. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. KS3 Art Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes where students have the opportunity to take part in competitions and complete any unfinished work. It would be beneficial for students to have basic art equipment at home to help complete homework and encourage independent learning.



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.

Students - 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

MUSIC

Students on music rotation in this term will study 'Storytelling' and the 'Carnival of The Animals' exploring elements of music, pulse, rhythm and basic music theory including note values. There will be a performance challenge and a compositional task. A practical homework is set 3 times each half term to reinforce the learning within class.

There are lots of extra-curricular clubs held including a keyboard and guitar club on a Tuesday lunchtimes, Year 7/8 band on Tuesdays after school, choir on Wednesday lunchtimes and karaoke club on Thursday lunchtimes. All students are welcome.

Instrumental lessons are offered by visiting teachers and students can sign up by collecting a letter from the Music department.

This term there will be a Christmas concert on the 13th December at Paignton Parish Church.



NEW "REAL TIME" - PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER APP CLASSCHARTS!

From September 2017 ClassCharts will become available to all Pupils and Parents to record and track student homework and behaviour within Academy. There is a ClassCharts App for Parents and Students which allows you to view for example, all homework behaviour points. More features will become available as the package is expanded.

The ClassCharts Apps are available for both Mobile and Tablets from your Apple or Google App Store.

Parental codes and instructions will be made available by email so please ensure we have your most up to date email. Further assistance will be available at year group open evenings.

To update your email address please email debbie.hill@paigntonacademy.org stating the name of your son/daughter, tutor group and your new email address.