



PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

WELCOME to Paignton Community and Sports Academy.

I hope your young person is excited and ready to start the next adventure in their education, after a restful summer.

This will be an action-packed year with plenty of exciting opportunities and events, such as Year 7 freshers camp, school photographs, reward trips and vital baseline assessments.

Please take the time to look at the vast range of extra-curricular activities that are available at lunchtimes and after school. Encourage your child to become involved in as many as possible, to build confidence and make new friendships across the year group.

It would be useful to familiarise yourself with the ClassCharts system, to allow you to keep up to date with your child's school day, checking for home learning and rewards points.

Students' organisational skills, such as checking their timetable and packing their bag the night before, are key on the path to success during secondary school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 2023@paigntonacademy.org or on 01803 403005.

We are very excited to welcome our new year group to PCSA, and look forward to supporting and guiding them throughout their time at the Academy.

Mr Scott (Head of Year 7) and Mrs Florence (Year 7 Pastoral Manager)

IMPORTANT DATES

2018

- 6th Sept Y7 Photos
- 11th Sept Camp Information Eve
- 20th Sept Settling In Evening
- 15-26th Oct Half Term
- 29th Oct Return from Half Term
- 21st Dec Last day of Autumn Term

2019

- 7th January First Day of Spring Term

CONTACT INFORMATION

T: 01803 403005
E: wrdadmin@paigntonacademy.org
www.paigntonacademy.org

YEAR 7

ENGLISH

Year 7 begin their learning journey immersing themselves in the study of quests including a study of Macbeth, fairy tales and imaginative writing. Students will examine a range of fairy tales which we will analyse and use as sources of inspiration for creative writing tasks. Students will also complete a baseline assessment to identify areas of strength and weakness in order for teachers to provide them with the best possible support to realise their potential.

The second half term involves their first class 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.

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. Regular home learning will be set to develop students' skills and understanding; this will include **Doddle homework, research projects and extended writing.**



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 handling data, moving on to number calculations, negative numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages. Mastery of these 'key' skills is 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 informally at the end of each topic with teacher feedback throughout the term to help support learning. 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 both paper based and online based and focused towards understanding and applying skills that have been learnt in class. Homework will be logged on ClassCharts for parents to track and monitor. 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.

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>



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.



PSHE

September 2018 will be the first time that all students from Year 7 to 11 will take part in one Personal Social Health Education lesson a week. For Year 7s this will cover areas such as citizenship, relationship and sex education, healthy lifestyles, life skills, careers and financial studies. The first half of the Autumn term begins with citizenship. Students will explore areas such as leadership, crime and punishment, needs and wants and valuable roles in society through an imaginary situation of being stranded on a deserted island after a ship wreck. Many of the tasks involve group and pair work and decision making, alongside being able to justify decisions made.

The second half of the Autumn term will be looking at healthy lifestyles. This will include lessons on the dangers of smoking, personal hygiene, healthy eating, legal ages, happiness and the NSPCC 'PANTS' campaign. Students will take part in discussions and activities to raise their personal awareness of the importance of staying safe and healthy. This will include making students aware of where they can get help within PCSA for all sorts of issues that may crop up, both in and out of school.

FRENCH

In the Autumn term students will be given a baseline test to assess the language skills that 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 ("pod-casting" 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 homeworks 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!

ETHICS

Students will be studying Ethics for the first time in Year 7. They will take part in one lesson every two weeks. During the Autumn term students will examine and reflect 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 a range of assessments during the term that are 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 students reach their potential in Ethics.

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, such as 'pong' and 'rock, paper, scissors', 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. There will be a prize for the best idea for the use of the micro:bit and the best sales pitch in an end of topic Dragons Den style event.

This will prepare students to move on to 'Python' programming as they progress through the Academy.

Following this students will look at theoretical aspects of Computer Science, looking at key hardware components like the CPU, RAM, ROM and the graphics card, and different inputs and outputs that a computer might use, like a printer, monitor and scanner, advancing to more specific pieces of hardware like eye scanners and voice recognition devices.

MULTI MEDIA

Multimedia Product Design is about designing and making functional outcomes. The course provides opportunities for students to explore a range of materials (non-drying modelling clay, paper, fabric) and construction techniques (machine and hand sewing) to develop their design skills in two and three dimension. Students apply their knowledge and skills creatively in response to the set design brief. The project brief is to design and make a beanie toy; the theme combines research into alien life-forms, insects and the analysis of existing soft toys.

Homework is set weekly to support development of the project and to expand knowledge of the subject area. All work is assessed against the assessment criteria for GCSE Design and Technology and provides a solid foundation for students to continue with the subject in Year 8.



Students will be studying 'Introduction to Drama' and 'Storytelling'.

Core skills include developing theatrical skills using physicality and the voice alongside characterisation.

Students will be introduced to key drama devices including: still image, narration, thought track, and physical theatre

Written work is an integral part of the drama course and students will be expected to keep a drama log book of the work they undertake.

Students will receive a one-hour lesson a fortnight throughout the year and homework is set on alternate weeks.

A Drama Club for all year groups will be taking place once a week in the drama studio at Waterleat Road.

Girls are required to bring a pair of plain black leggings to their lesson each week. Skirts will not be allowed.

ART

Year 7 students will be exploring the theme 'Tutti Fruitti'. Students will be researching artists, such as Vincent Van Gogh and work from other cultures, developing still life observational drawings, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making an outcome that relates to the theme. The project will focus on the formal elements pattern, line 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. KS3 Art Club runs on Monday lunchtimes where students have the opportunity to complete any unfinished work and enter competitions. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. 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 offer twelve different activities throughout the year, with additional activities available during lunchtimes and after school.

Parents – Please encourage your son/daughter to attend our sports clubs and look out for the clubs list that will appear on the website 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 PE lessons but in very cold weather it is advisable to wear extra layers: under-armor or alternatives are great worn under the Academy polo shirt or rugby top. If students have PE lessons in the morning, we strongly advise that they have a good breakfast.

Finally, we are delighted to announce a new partnership with Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club next year. A qualified coach will be working with our students within curriculum time and supporting our extra-curricular rugby clubs!

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

GIRLS	BOYS
Gymnastics	Gymnastics
Football	Rugby
Multi Skills	Multi Skills
Netball	Health Related Fitness



ENGINEERING

Our year 7 students have the opportunity to make a photo frame which will hold their favourite photographs on mini pegs. Parents and students can see the project and tasks by visiting www.pcsaengineers.uk.

The students will use a range of tools and equipment included computer aided design and computer aided manufacture.

MUSIC

This term students in Music 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 three times each half term to reinforce the learning within class and will be a mixture of research tasks and quizzes set on Doodle. Students need to bring their own headphones for practical tasks.

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

Our Christmas concert will take place on the 20th December at Paignton Parish Church and auditions for Year 7 performances will take place in W44.

Don't forget to encourage your child to attend one of the music clubs offered at lunchtime and after school.

Extra-Curricular:

- Tuesday lunchtime – Rock School
- Wednesday lunchtime – Choir
- Wednesday after school (3.15 – 4.30) - Band
- Thursday lunchtime – Karaoke Club

Practice rooms are available to book on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes.

FOOD

Throughout this term students will be given the opportunity to explore a wide range of ingredients and food as well as be introduced to a range of practical skills, methods of cooking, healthy eating, food provenance and the function of ingredients. Students will learn how to apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating and will be introduced to the 'Eatwell' guide, food and its nutritional value and health and safety in preparing and making food.

Students will learn the importance of hygiene and the potential hazards when working in the technical area by preparing and cooking a variety of dishes incorporating theoretical understanding and knowledge.

Students will learn how to design and make a fresh fruit salad and a pasta salad as well as experiment making different flavoured scones and fruit cobbler.

