



# PAIGNTON ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

# CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2022

YEAR

7

Welcome to Paignton Academy.

I hope your young person is excited and ready to start the next adventure in their education after a restful summer, which for many students involved the Bigstep summer school. This will be an action-packed year with plenty of exciting opportunities and events. We hope they have settled into their Academy House and have found it a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary. 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 and also across the sites. 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.

Mr Carpenter  
Assistant Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES

2022	
15 September	Y7 Settling In Evening
19 September	Bank Holiday (Queen's Funeral)
21 October	Inset Day (no students in school)
24 October - 4 November inclusive	Half Term
7 November	Return from Half Term
16 December	Last day of term
2023	
3 January 2023	First day of term

## ENGLISH

Year 7 will have 8 lessons a fortnight where they will complete 3 different learning activities in this time.

As part of the Literary Heritage unit, Year 7 will study Oliver Twist, looking at life for children in Victorian London as well as learning the plot and characters from the novel. For their final assessment, they will focus on one main character and answer a question to demonstrate their understanding of the text and key ideas relating to context.

To develop core writing skills, Year 7 will start Mastery Writing. This will directly build on and extend the key spelling, punctuation and grammar learned for SATs.

Finally, Year 7 will read a specifically chosen book as a class with their teacher each fortnight in the Reading for Pleasure module, focusing on vocabulary and enjoyment.

Home Learning is set fortnightly, every Monday week B.

## SCIENCE

We are very excited to welcome the new Year 7s 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 periodic table, elements, compounds, chemical reactions and structure of the Earth. 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 continuous assessment. You can help by encouraging your child to watch the news regularly or read a newspaper to keep a lookout for new developments.



## MATHS

We have been pleased to welcome the new Year 7s this academic year to continue their mathematical journey. During the Autumn Term students will develop key mathematical skills: time calculations, sequences, introduction to algebraic concepts and working with integers and decimals. 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 an organised and logical manner which will be invaluable as they apply their mathematical skills to more complex problems. Teacher assessments will take place at the end of each half term with teacher feedback throughout the term to help support learning. Having the correct equipment is an essential part of preparation as well as revision. Students will need to bring a suitable scientific calculator to every Maths lesson. Homework will be both paper based and online and focused towards understanding and applying skills that have been learnt in class. Homework will be logged on ClassCharts for parents and guardians to track and monitor.

## LITERACY

Throughout the Autumn Term, Year 7 will have one Literacy lesson per fortnight. The focus for these lessons will be short stories. Students will read a short story per lesson. Alongside the short stories, students will learn challenging vocabulary that is relevant to the story that they will read in that lesson. To show their understanding, students will answer comprehension questions and form clear, developed sentences using the vocabulary that they have learnt that week. Students will complete a pre-cycle and end-cycle assessment to show how their understanding of the vocabulary throughout the term has improved.

## HOME LEARNING

*(See last 2 pages at end of newsletter)*

All Year 7 students will have a Knowledge Organiser and a Home Learning exercise book to support their Home Learning. Home Learning for Year 7 will include a range of activities. Home Learning for each subject for the Autumn Term is outlined in the table below. All Home Learning will be set on ClassCharts on a Monday, so that parents can plan their child's Home Learning for the week. Home Learning will be marked in different ways as outlined below. Expectations for Home Learning in each subject will be made clear to all students. There is a Home Learning Breakfast Club from 8am each morning to support students.

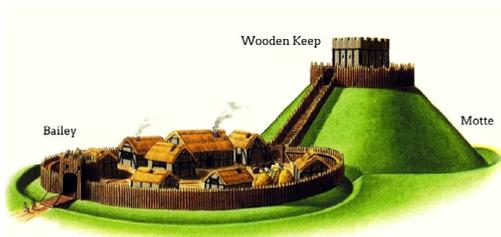
## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will be taking the programming skills they have gained so far in Key Stage 2 and look to develop the key concepts of sequence and iteration through the use of **Python Turtle**. Within this, students will use the imported Turtle function to use sequential commands to create basic shapes and eventually create flags of different countries across the world, all written in the Python programming language. Students will develop skills including being able to change the size of shapes, the colour of the shape and the pen, moving the pen up and down to change the position of the turtle and progressing onto using iteration to repeat commands. The use of sequence and iteration are core KS3 and KS4 skills and students begin to develop this understanding in an engaging and entertaining way.



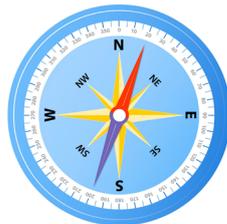
## HISTORY

Year 7 History will start with the Medieval time period, introducing students to how people lived in the 11th century with the Anglo Saxons. Students will discover the changes to society, the economy and the church between the ruling of the Anglo-Saxon Kings and after the Norman Conquest. Students will have the opportunity to plan their own interpretation into the Battle of Hastings and then consider the real events. This will then lead onto the changes implemented in Norman England, viewing the importance of Castles and the ever-changing nature of the importance and role of the church.



## GEOGRAPHY

Welcome to Geography Year 7! Geography plays a crucial role in understanding our world. It makes a vital contribution to our knowledge of the rapidly changing environment as well as the physical and social challenges that people face around the world and offers insights into how we should tackle them. Geography is quite literally all around us and so we begin the year asking ourselves "What is Geography?". Students will explore the world's continents, oceans and countries identifying key physical and human features. We then begin to explore atlases and maps, introducing skills that will be revisited throughout the whole time of studying Geography. Students will be developing their map reading skills focusing on map signs, direction, grid references, scale and contour lines. Home Learning will be based upon Knowledge Organisers as well as interactive map skills websites. Students' progress will be assessed with recap questions in lessons as well as a mid and end of cycle assessment.



## PSHE

In Year 7 all students will have one hour of Personal, Social, Health Education per week. To start the term, we will be learning about transition to secondary school and our feelings and emotions around this. We will focus on getting to know others in our year group, what our responsibilities are, friendships and develop our study skills ready for secondary school.

In the second half of the Autumn Term we will be learning about puberty and changes as children grow. Lessons will include information about having good personal hygiene and how to stay healthy. Both boys and girls will have lessons on menstruation. Throughout all PSHE lessons we will be looking to develop character and will focus on positive role models. We will also include 'life hacks' like how to tie a tie or how to boil an egg for example. In PSHE students will have the opportunity to develop their oracy skills through discussions.



## FRENCH

In the Autumn Term students will be given a baseline test to assess the language skills that they have learnt 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. They will learn things like basic greetings, numbers, colours etc. We will also be using 'Linguascope' which helps students to learn in a more creative way. Students will also have a mid-cycle and end of cycle assessment. The main focus for this term in Year 7 is to enjoy and embrace learning a new language. We study all 4 skills - listening, reading, speaking and writing.

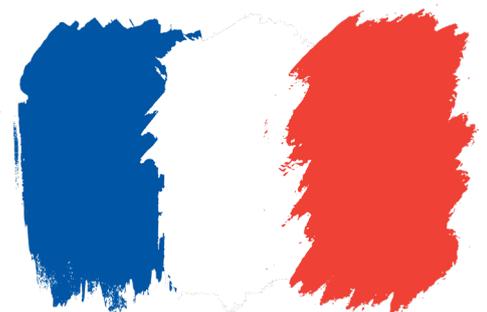


### How parents can help:

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, 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. All Home Learning for their vocabulary tests will be from the Knowledge Organiser and it will be set on ClassCharts each week. Students will need to use their Home Learning exercise books to practise their spellings.

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

Merci et Bon Courage!



## ETHICS

Students in Year 7 will begin their ethical studies from a cultural perspective, investigating how different cultures around the world have attempted to explain where the world came from. Alongside this they will have the opportunity to compare scientific concepts such as Big Bang and Evolution and evaluate whether science is compatible with these cultural beliefs. Students will look at creation myths such as Panku, Hindu Creation, Aborigine, Nordic and Egyptian. Throughout this study students will be encouraged to show their knowledge through answering academic questions which will test their knowledge and ability to express opinions.



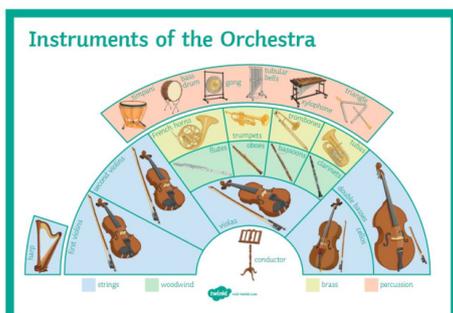
## MUSIC



Students will be learning about voice and exploring vocal textures and layers. They will explore and grow their skills through a variety of techniques such as acapella, ensemble work and creating harmonies. Students will study different songs such as *Lean on Me* and techniques like beat-boxing and rapping. There are lots of opportunities for students to perform, such as the Christmas concert, singing/ karaoke club and the school musical.

After the half term students will be moving onto Instruments of the Orchestra, exploring timbre. They will learn about which section each instrument belongs to and have the opportunity to try some of these instruments for themselves. Students have the opportunity to come and play instruments in the school band or at lunchtime jam sessions and have the opportunity to take up music lessons offered by our specialist peripatetic teachers in guitar, piano, drums, singing, saxophone, clarinet & flute.

Academy band will be taking place at BRC in EM20 on a Monday throughout the year and students are encouraged to take part to further develop their musicianship.



## DRAMA

*Students will be studying :  
Commedia Dell' Arte and Genres*

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

Students will be introduced to key drama devices including: mime, still image, levels and script work

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

Students will receive 1 hour a week for lessons throughout the year and homework is set once every half term.

A Key Stage 3 Drama Club will be taking place once a week. Auditions will also take place in September for The Academy Musical.

**STUDENTS THAT CHOOSE TO WEAR A SKIRT, ARE REQUIRED TO BRING A PAIR OF PLAIN BLACK LEGGINGS TO THEIR LESSON EACH WEEK. SKIRTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**



## PE

Year 7 students will be investigating the different types of values associated with the Olympics and Paralympics throughout the Autumn Term. Students will be encouraged to develop their understanding of Excellence, Fair Play, Respect, Tolerance and Inclusion and will discover how these key values play such an important role in the development and governance of Sport. In addition to this, students will focus on ways to demonstrate these values practically within their lessons and will look to implement these ideas consistently within their future lessons.



## ART

Year 7 students will be exploring the theme **Tutti Frutti**. Students will be researching artists such as; Vincent Van Gogh, Pacita Abad and Yayoi Kusama. Students will develop still life observational drawings, experiment with materials, techniques and processes and make an outcome that relates to the theme Tutti Frutti. Students will explore 2D materials, techniques and processes. The project will focus on the formal elements, line and tone, as well as the key words 'line' and 'texture' which will enable students to understand how to embed these 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. Home Learning consists of research, collating information and drawing and recording. KS3 Art Club gives students the opportunity to take part in competitions, produce artwork linked to current affairs or have free choice and develop their own artistic style. It would be beneficial for students to have basic Art equipment at home to help complete Home Learning and encourage independent exploration.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Borough Road Centre**

**T: 01803 403003**

**E: brdadmin@paigntonacademy.org**

**Waterleat Road Centre**

**T: 01803 403005**

**E: wrdadmin@paigntonacademy.org**

**www.paigntonacademy.org**



## Home Learning – Year 7 Autumn Term



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>HOME LEARNING TIME (12 weeks)</b>	<b>HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>WHERE TO COMPLETE</b> e.g. home learning books, google classroom, subject home learning books	<b>HOW IT WILL BE MARKED</b>
English	1 hour per fortnight	Project based on the text we are studying	On paper, to be stuck in their exercise books	Acknowledged each fortnight and a comment at the end of the project (every half term)
Maths	30 mins per week	Activities based on knowledge they have learned over the last week and term.	Primarily online resources set through ClassCharts.	Self-marking online and feedback into classroom planning by the teacher.
Science	30 mins per week	2 x research projects (1 per half term) 1st half term - Elements; 2nd half term - Rocks	Completed on paper, instructions on google classroom and class charts of what to complete each week	Through the homework being handed in, praise points awarded
Geography	20 minutes per fortnight (set on Week B due on Week B)	Retrieval activities based on the knowledge organiser. Revision will be set before mid and end of cycle assessments.	Complete in home learning book - will be set on ClassCharts.	Through 5 a day, visual checks and questioning.
History	20 minutes per fortnight (Set week A, due in following week A)	Research activities, spellings and definitions from the knowledge organiser.	Home learning booklet.	Homework used in assessed work in MCA/EOC or checked by teacher.
French	15 mins per week	Vocabulary learning - a test will be set every week in lessons Cultural research	Complete in home learning book - will be set on ClassCharts.	Students will have a vocabulary test each week which will be marked

Computer Science	To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments	Revision of key terminology	Complete in home learning book - will be set on Class Charts	Staff will check the home learning book.
Ethics	To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments	Learning key terms and key facts.	Revision materials and instructions on whole year Google Classroom including Knowledge Organiser. Evidence of revision in HL books. Will be announced on ClassCharts.	Self marking Google quizzes and checking HL book for evidence of revision.
Drama	Twice per 12-week cycle	To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments	Complete on Google classroom, work will be set on ClassCharts	Teacher assessment, self marking wordwall quizzes, google quizzes
Music	Twice per 12-week cycle	To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments	Complete on Google classroom, work will be set on ClassCharts	Teacher assessment, self marking Wordwall quizzes, google quizzes
Art	3 per cycle - to fit in with 2-week timetable.	Key words, images, research and practical tasks.	Combination of home learning books, bringing in images and on paper depending on the home learning task.	Checked and stamped by the class teacher.
PE	Twice per 12-week cycle	To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments	Using revision material from cycle focus and KOs to prepare for assessments. This will be set on Google Classrooms and ClassCharts	Teacher assessment through assessment achievements