



## PAIGNTON ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

YEAR

7

Happy New Year and welcome back after the Christmas break.

We are really pleased with how Year 7 have settled into life at Paignton Academy and they will need to keep up their energy, enthusiasm and work ethic.

Students are now familiar with how the school operates and this term is going to be just as busy as the last. This term students will continue to develop their knowledge and skills across all curriculum areas. Teachers are setting homework regularly so please contact the Academy if you need to reactivate or install the ClassCharts application to see what homework your child has.

Please note the Breakfast Club with free toast will continue each morning (8am - 8:25am) and thank you for encouraging your child to attend as many of our extra-curricular clubs as possible, attendance at these clubs will help support their success. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

*Tim Willcocks*  
Assistant Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES

2023	
3 January	Start of term
13-17 February	Half Term
20-24 March	Academy Musical
29 March	Data Drop 2 sent home
30 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
31 March	Last day of Spring term
17 April	First day of Summer term

### ENGLISH

Year 7 will have eight lessons a fortnight; they will complete three different learning activities in this time.

As part of the **Literary Heritage** unit, Year 7 will be moving on to study ***A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare***. This is a great opportunity to explore one of Shakespeare's comedies whilst looking at plot and characters.

To develop core writing skills, Year 7 will continue with **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

This term, students will be continuing with the new **'Activate 1 and 2'** course which is now well established in Years 7 and 8. This scheme of work has been designed to prepare students for the GCSE curriculum, which is now part of the 5-year plan. This term, we will introduce students to the core concepts of **electricity, magnetism** and how we can use **electromagnets** in our everyday lives. They will also learn key ideas based around **sound** and **light waves**; to understand the physics behind why and how we can see and hear. Students will use these key ideas in physics to prepare them for their biology topic in the summer, linking to cell biology! In line with last term, students will experience practical work including: reflection and refraction of light, seeing colour and displaying sound waves. In addition, students will continue applying maths skills with their physics equations.

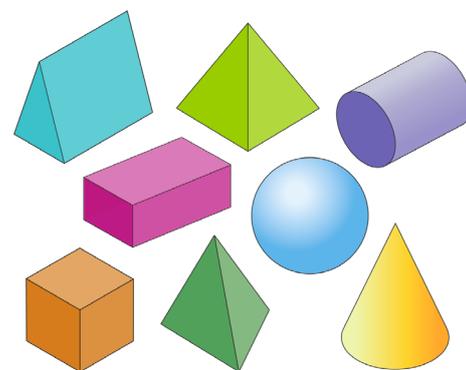
You can help by encouraging your child to think scientifically about electricity, how our brains process light and sound waves and how we see different colours!



### MATHS

In the Spring term students will begin by learning about a variety of topics. These include **angles and shapes, decimals, equations, probability** and **time**. Each topic is tested within the class, gaps in understanding are identified and students are given personalised support to meet their needs. In the second half of the term students will have their first formalised exam. In preparation, they will have a week of timetabled revision within class covering all the topics of this academic year. Their exam will cover material from term one and term two. Term one topics include number, data, expressions, and fractions.

Home Learning will be set via Sparx on Monday and due the following Monday. This is an incredibly useful and powerful maths package. It sets work and adjusts to the student's level, then sends feedback to the teacher. We do expect 100% completion, and run help sessions at lunchtime to support students.



### 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

Year 7 students will be looking at the different **hardware** and **software** systems that help to create a running computerised system. They will identify and describe the hardware that is essential to make a computer turn on and then explore different non-essential hardware, looking at their purpose and features. Students will then look at the latest modern hardware, including hardware built for specific learning needs and how these operate to help users. They will then move onto software, looking at different operating systems, such as graphical user interfaces that we use on our phones and tablets, and command line operating systems. Students will explore different application software, and how coders create Apps such as games, before moving onto utility software, like compression and anti-virus, which is there to help our computers run properly.

## HISTORY

Year 7 are continuing our exciting journey through **Medieval England**. Moving forward from the **Norman** changes experienced as they conquered England into Britain experiencing a population boom, the formation of towns and the spreading of the **Black Death!** Students will understand the trials and tribulations that the everyday Briton experienced, with illness, war and revolt against the crown being some of our key themes! We will then continue to understand the true drama of the **War of the Roses**, where both Houses York & Lancaster battle it out for control of the British crown!



## GEOGRAPHY

This term students will study **weather and climate**. Weather affects us in many ways; what we do, wear, travel and even our moods. Students will compare hazardous weather events in high and low income countries and the impacts and responses in the different countries before moving on to evaluating if these extreme weather events will become more common as our climate warms. Students will analyse the causes, impacts and responses to global warming and look at how we can all begin to make individual small changes to do our bit in helping to reduce the effects of a global issue.

## ETHICS

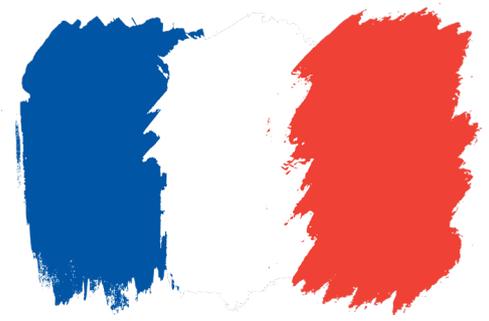
Year 7 will be looking at several modules which aim to develop students' thinking skills and ability to express their own opinion and the opinion of others. The modules we will be examining will be '**rites of passage**' and **creation stories**. This is a chance for students to explore major world religions, looking at their beliefs and some practices. There is a big focus on developing deep subject knowledge, allowing students to fully develop their understanding.



## PSHE

Year 7 will start the term by studying **Citizenship**. Students will learn about how society works, including laws, morals, needs and wants, crime and punishment and how money works. All lessons are in the form of students creating their own society on an island.

The second half of the term gets students to reflect on their own **emotions** using the film 'Inside Out' as a base to explore human emotions. The term then continues with lessons on how to form and maintain different types of **relationships**. We will be looking at what we mean by appropriate contact with others to close out the term. All lessons include an opening activity that focuses on something that is happening in the world or that is currently in the news.



## FRENCH

In the Spring term students will continue to **develop their language skills and knowledge** by practising their basic opinions and we start to introduce more verbs. They will learn things like numbers, months, days of the week, birthdays, things in a school bag, basic family members, food and where we live. 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 continue 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!



## MUSIC

### RHYTHM & PULSE

Year 7 students will learn about the importance of pulse as a fundamental upon which music is built and performed. Through integrated activities of performing, composing and listening, students will begin development of their own feeling for and awareness of a regular pulse. Students will be able to make a clear distinction between pulse and rhythm and learn to use rhythm grids as a method of recording rhythm patterns. Students will perform and compose rhythm patterns of differing complexity including rests, half-beats and accents.

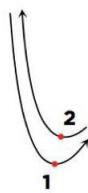
Students will be introduced to note the values: semibreve, minim, crotchet and quavers, and learn the name, shape and duration of each using mnemonics to help remember specific rhythms, they will also learn about the use of syncopation and the effect which this has on the rhythm of a piece of music.

Rhythm games form an integral part of this project with practical, rhythmic starter activities with the class in a circle.

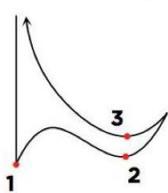
Home Learning this term consists of games and exercises to embed the note values and rhythmic literacy.

There will be opportunities to take part in extracurricular music ensembles that further develop musical literacy (duration as well as pitch) with the Academy choir and bands.

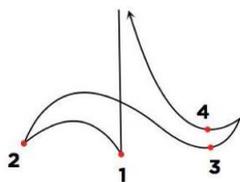
Conducting a 2-beat Pulse/Beat (e.g. a March)



Conducting a 3-beat Pulse/Beat (e.g. a Waltz)



Conducting a 4-beat Pulse/Beat



## DRAMA

Students will be studying *Shakespeare* and the play *Macbeth* in the first half of the Spring term followed by *Greek Theatre*, based on myths and legends, in the second part of the Spring term.

Core skills include continuing to develop theatrical skills, physicality and voice to create characters and further develop performance skills. In the Shakespeare topic students will be introduced to key terminology, soliloquy, iambic pentameter, small group work, duologues and monologue and the conventions of tragedies. Greek Theatre will involve the role of the Greek Chorus, key structures and devising skills. Written work is an integral part of the drama course and students will be expected to keep a drama reflective logbook of the work they undertake.

Students will receive one 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 at Borough Road on a Thursday from 3.15pm - 4.15pm and this is open to students from both sites. The Academy musical 'Peter Pan' will be taking place from the 20th - 24th March 2023 in the Arena at Borough Road. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of February on the Academy Shop.

**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 BOYS** will be reverting to a new practical focus which will see them complete a unit of work on *Table Tennis* where they will be challenged to develop their skill levels and understanding of the core skills within the sport, while also continuing to delve further into their *Football* programme of study.

**YEAR 7 GIRLS** will be moving on to new focus areas of *Health-related Fitness* where they will develop their knowledge of Heart Rate, Heart Rate Measures and Warm-ups and Cool-downs and how to be physically active. They will also learn about the core skills of *Basketball* in order to develop their skill levels and understandings of a second new sport.



## ART

Year 7 students will be exploring the theme of *Steampunk*. Students will be researching a variety of artists who have explored the theme from a historical and contemporary angle. Students will develop observational drawings, experiment with materials, techniques and processes and make an outcome that relates to the theme *Steampunk Sea Creatures*. Students will explore 2D materials, techniques and processes. The project will focus on the formal elements of tone, value, shape and form which will enable students to understand how to embed these fundamental skills and techniques.

During the project 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 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

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## 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