



PAIGNTON ACADEMY
Believe and Achieve



Happy New Year and welcome back. The year group settled in well last term and need to continue with the same enthusiasm and motivation. The 'Attitude to Learning' scores in their reports were impressive and it was extremely pleasing to award so many certificates in the final assembly.

This term pupils will continue to develop their knowledge and skills across all curriculum areas. Homework is being set regularly by the teachers so please contact the Academy if you need to reactivate or install the ClassCharts application to see what is being set.

The students Parents' Evening will be at the end of term and we look forward to inviting you into the Academy.

Mr Willcocks
Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

2024	
12th - 16th February	Half Term
20th, 21st, 22nd March	Academy Show
27th March	Y7 Parents' Evening
28th March	Last day of term
15th April	First day of term

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM 2024

YEAR
7

ENGLISH

Year 7 will have eight lessons a fortnight. In these lessons, pupils will be exploring the fertile question, 'what is more powerful: magic or imagination?'. They will start this term looking at William Shakespeare and studying his play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. To complement the themes in this, extracts from *The Daydreamer*, by Ian McEwan, will be read to help pupils explore the idea of magic and imagination in plays and stories.

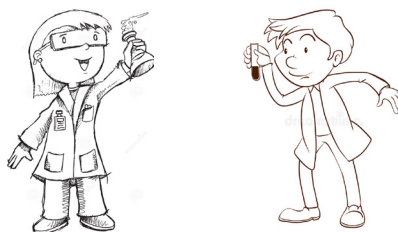
Pupils will complete a task based on their reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a written task where they can create their own magic/imagination story and a debate exploring the fertile question.

Finally, Year 7 will read as a class in the *Reading for Pleasure* unit where we focus on vocabulary and enjoyment of reading.

Pupils should be aiming to complete 30 minutes of reading a week on SPARX Reader.

SCIENCE

This term, pupils will be continuing with the new designed curriculum which is now well established. This scheme of work has been designed to prepare pupils for the GCSE curriculum which is part of the Academy's five-year plan. This term, we will introduce the pupils to the core concepts of the human body from cells to puberty and reproduction to explain why the pupils are the way they are. We will also learn about plants, seeds and ecosystems to give the pupils an understanding of the natural world around them. Pupils continue to develop their scientific skills to further prepare them for their physics topic in the summer. In line with last term, pupils will experience practical work including: dissection of a flower, using microscopes to observe cells, additionally, pupils will continue to use their maths skills to explain the size of cells and calculating magnification of microscopes. You can help by encouraging your child to think scientifically about what the human body and plants are made of and how ecosystems are different in different places, for example, on land and at sea.



MATHS

In the Spring term pupils 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 pupils are given personalised support to meet their needs. Pupils will receive regular topic tests; the aim of these tests is to identify gaps in learning (both for individuals and the class) and to address them. 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 pupil's level, then sends feedback to the teacher. We do expect 100% completion and we run help sessions at lunchtime to support pupils.

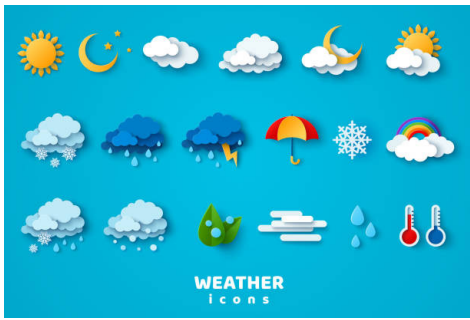


COMPUTER SCIENCE

Python Sequence

Pupils will be taking the programming skills they have gained so far in Key Stage 2 and look to develop the key concept of sequence through the use of Python coding. Within this, pupils 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. Pupils will develop skills including being able to change the size of shapes, the colour of the shape and the pen and moving the pen up and down to change the position of the turtle. Pupils will move on to text-based programming, looking at input and output statements and looking at key theoretical concepts like data types, variables and constants, syntax and logic errors and the use of different arithmetic operators within coding.

The use of sequence is a core KS3 and KS4 skill that will be developed throughout a pupil's journey at the Academy.

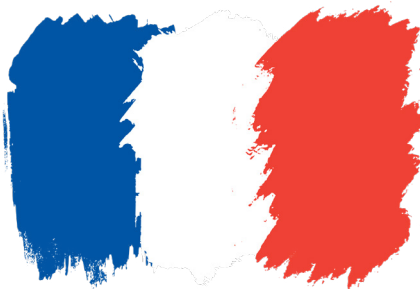
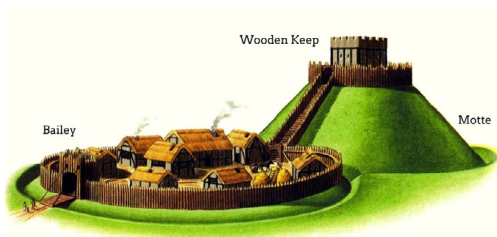


GEOGRAPHY

This term pupils will study weather and climate. Weather affects us in many ways; what we do, wear, travel and even our moods! They will understand what the difference is between weather and climate, how we measure the weather and have the creative task of working in small groups to plan a weather forecast combining all knowledge and skills previously learnt. Pupils will study recent UK extreme weather events, specifically heat waves and storms, identifying the impacts and responses of these events and evaluating if they will become more common events as our climate changes. Transferable skills include constructing and reading graphs, group work, decision making and developing their extended writing skills and key vocabulary.

HISTORY

Year 7 is continuing our exciting journey through Medieval England. Moving forward from the Normans conquering of England, pupils will investigate the power of the Church and how this impacted the booming Mediaeval population. We will look at the development of towns and the spreading of the Black Death! Pupils 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!



FRENCH

Year 7 shall continue their learning of skills and vocabulary which relate to their school lives. In the upcoming term, pupils will learn about the various buildings which are around the school site and what they can do in each of them. The pupils shall build on their previous learning which allowed them to talk about the subjects they like and dislike, as well as what they have studied recently.

To support them with this, the pupils shall have their knowledge banks online, from which they will need to complete a weekly homework. There will be a vocab check once per week to check their understanding and progress.

PSHE

Year 7 will start the term focusing on the core theme of *living in the wider world*. They will have an introduction to what work means, looking at diversity in the workplace and how creativity can be used. They will also learn about saving, spending and how to budget before finishing the topic with lessons about ethical buying.

The second half of the term sees our pupils learn about what prejudice is and how they can challenge it. They will have lessons about bullying and how to challenge bullying before ending the term learning about gender discrimination and the other protected characteristics.



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 Bank and it will be set on Class Charts each week. Pupils will need to use their home learning exercise books to both write out and practise their spellings.

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

Merci et Bon Courage! ¡Gracias y ánimo!

ETHICS

Year 7 will be looking at several modules which aim to develop pupils' 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 pupils to explore major world religions, looking at their beliefs and some practices. There is a big focus on developing deep subject knowledge, allowing pupils to fully develop their understanding.



MUSIC

This spring pupils will study sonority and acoustics with a particular focus on the instruments of the orchestra. Pupils will learn about which section each instrument belongs to and the opportunity to try some of these instruments for themselves. Pupils have the opportunity to come and play instruments in the school band or 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 and flute.

After half term, pupils will be developing their technical skills on the ukulele and guitar. They will learn to play basic chords shapes using the correct techniques and they will learn how to follow a lead sheet, read and play music from tablature. Pupils will also continue to develop their singing skills, singing songs whilst playing the ukulele. They will be given the opportunity to try re-arranging existing songs using the chords they have learnt. The idea of this topic is for the pupils to be given the opportunity to play a musical instrument and develop their ensemble skills such as playing in time with others, communicating their creative ideas effectively and structuring music.



DRAMA

History of the Theatre

Pupils will be studying Greek Theatre, Commedia Dell'Arte, Elizabethan Theatre and Melodrama. They will explore the techniques and style of each one and how these have influenced modern-day theatre. Written work is an integral part of the Drama course and pupils will be expected to keep a Drama logbook of the work they undertake including live theatre performances.

Pupils will receive one-hour a week for lessons throughout the year and homework is set once every three weeks.

A Key Stage 3 Drama Club will be taking place once a week.

The Academy musical 'Matilda Jr' will be taking place from the 20th - 22nd March 2024 in The Arena at Borough Road. Tickets will go on sale on Monday 8th January 2024 on the Academy Online shop.

PUPILS 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 pupils will be investigating "Is failing to prepare, preparing to fail?" during their second term at the Academy, with focus on developing their understanding of preparation for key sporting endeavours. Pupils will also continue to develop their ability and understanding within three key areas by focusing on development of *motor competency* within their curriculum-based activities, as well as developing knowledge of the rules, tactics and strategies for their focused sports. Finally, pupils will start to enhance their understanding of how to engage with healthy participation by learning about how to lead healthy, active lifestyles through competitive sport. The PE team would also like to encourage our new Year 7 pupils to attend our extra-curricular clubs that will be in full flow from the second week back. These clubs will provide them with additional opportunities to develop their understandings and practical competency further, and enhance their love of learning for these and develop ambition which are our PE core values focus for this term.

ART



Year 7 pupils will be exploring the theme '**Wish You Were Here!**'

using our local environment as inspiration. Pupils will be focussing on the past, present and future of Paignton. They will be researching artists such as; Katsushika Hokusai, Kurt Jackson, Becky Bettsworth and Alfred Wallis. Pupils will develop observational drawings exploring colour and tone, experimenting and making an outcome that relates to the theme. They will explore 2D materials, techniques and processes. The project will focus on the formal elements colour, tone and composition as well as the key words 'tone' and 'colour theory' which will enable pupils to understand how to embed these fundamental skills and techniques.

During the project 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 to progress. Home learning consists of developing drawing and recording skills using both retrieval and flipped knowledge and revision strategies using brain dumps and self quizzing. KS3 Art Club gives pupils the opportunity to take part in competitions, produce artwork linked to current affairs or have free choice and develop their own artistic style as well as utilise the specialist equipment and support to complete home learning. It would be beneficial for pupils to have basic art equipment at home to help complete home learning and encourage independent exploration.

HOME LEARNING

All Year 7 pupils will have a Knowledge Bank and a Home Learning exercise book to support their Home Learning. Home Learning for Year 7 will include a range of retrieval activities to help pupils embed core knowledge in their long-term memories. Home Learning for each subject for the Autumn Term is outlined in the table attached. 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 pupils. There is a Home Learning Breakfast Club from 8am each morning to support pupils.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Home Learning – Year 7 Spring Term

All Year 7 students will have a Knowledge Bank (accessed online) 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 Spring 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.

SUBJECT	HOME LEARNING TIME (12 weeks)	HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES	WHERE TO COMPLETE e.g. home learning books, google classroom, subject home learning books	HOW IT WILL BE MARKED
English	30 minutes per week	Retrieval: Reading retrieval on Sparx reader. Flipped learning: 1 research project based on Shakespeare and theatre	Online Sparx	Marked online by Sparx.
Maths	30 minutes per week	Retrieval: Pupils recalling and consolidating week's work completed in class. Flipped learning: Extension work, using this week's work to work at greater depth. Video support available.	Online, Sparx.	Marked online by Sparx
Science	30 minutes per week	Retrieval: pupils need to record 3 things they have learned that week and apply it to other subject Flipped learning: 2 x research projects (1 per half term) 1st half term -Cells ; 2nd half term - Flowers	On their Science google classroom	Through the homework being handed in, praise points awarded
Geography	Every 2 weeks. Will be set week B and due in week B (2 weeks to complete). 20-30 minutes.	Retrieval: students record 3 things they remember from the previous 2 weeks lessons and note links to other lessons/subjects. Flipped learning: students to independently research the forthcoming topic to be studied.	In the Geography home learning booklet	Marked off by the teacher and praise points awarded for completion and additional praise points for the quality of the flipped learning activities.
History	A and due in week A (2 weeks to complete). 20-30 minutes.	Retrieval: Students to complete various activities on topics they have already learnt. Flipped Learning: Students to research new information for up coming lessons.	Work sheets will be given during lesson time & posted on ClassCharts.	Handed in, praise points awarded.

French	30 minutes every fortnight	<p>Pupils will learn agreed phrases with classroom teachers at home and also practice techniques such as flashcards to help them recall vocabulary.</p> <p>This will then be tested by the classroom teacher during the lesson through the form of a written vocab test.</p>	<p>Pupils will create flashcards or write down the phrases in a notebook.</p> <p>The retrieval will be tested in class.</p>	Marked in class after the retrieval test.
Computer Science	20 minutes every fortnight.	<p>Retrieval - pupils will recap key programming concepts and terminology.</p> <p>Flipped learning - looking at future programming topics and key content to be delivered in future lessons.</p>	Pupils can complete this on the Computer Science Google classroom or on paper.	Marked off in class and praise points awarded.
Ethics	30 minutes per half term.	<p>Retrieval - pupils will recap Autumn term concepts and key terms.</p> <p>Flipped learning - looking at future topics and key content to be delivered in future lessons using Cornell Notes - with an information source.</p>	Printed worksheet	Marked by teacher and praise points added
Drama	Drama	<p>Every 3 weeks Retrieval: Students to complete activities based topics they have already learnt.</p> <p>Flipped Learning: Students to research new information for the next lessons and watch video examples</p>	To be completed via Word Wall , google forms & Google Classroom	Self marking via google forms or word wall. Praise points awarded
Music	Two per half term	Retrieval - pupils will have a listening task with focus questions based on the topic they are studying as well as a research task for future learning.	Google Form which will be accessed via Class charts	Self marking system through google form format and praise points added
Art				
Food	Two per half term 30 mins per half term.	<p>Retrieval task - pupils to carry out homework sheet recapping prior learning.</p> <p>Flipped learning: pupils to research new information for forthcoming lessons.</p>	Printed worksheet	Marked by teacher. Praise points awarded.
PE	One per term	Retrieval - pupils will recap Autumn core knowledge of each term with focus in particular of evidencing knowledge of core knowledge and fertile questions	Google Form which will be accessed via Google Classrooms	Self marking system through google form format