

Year 7 Curriculum Information

2018 - 19



The School follows a two-week, 60 period timetable. Students normally have one piece of homework per night on which we would expect them to spend 40 minutes. Students sit exams in English, Maths and Science only in the summer term.

Below you will find a summary of the main topics covered in Year 7, the name of the Head of Subject and an indication of the number of periods students have of each subject per fortnight.

English	Mr Bywater	7 periods
We study a range of texts including pre-1914 and contemporary prose, Shakespeare, contemporary drama and poetry. With a strong emphasis on creative work, students learn and practise the skills required for producing news reports, letters and empathic writing. They study Chaucer, learn about language change and begin to produce analytical writing about literature, focusing on the identification of writers' techniques.		
Maths	Mr Shackleton	7 periods
We reinforce numeracy and develop problem-solving skills while extending knowledge of algebra, geometry and probability. Students are introduced to the ideas of reasoning and proof.		
Science	Mr Mullan	7 periods
Combined Science is a two year course which aims to develop practical skills, scientific knowledge and understanding in order to provide a suitable foundation for further learning. Topics covered include: lab safety, apparatus and scientific skills, cells, acids and alkalis, forces, reproduction, solutions, electricity and the solar system. We also run a popular, weekly, Science Club and actively participate in National Science Week.		
Geography	Mr Day	3 periods
We study volcanoes and earthquakes, rivers, population and settlement and the United Kingdom/Map skills.		
History	Mrs Wright	3 periods
Students study <i>Medieval Realms, 1066-1500</i> which includes a depth study of <i>The Crusades</i> . Two major tests and several smaller factual tests are conducted during the year, which assess students' ability to recall factual material, write an extended answer under timed conditions and evaluate simple source material.		
Religious Education & Philosophy	Mr Hooper	3 periods
We study Islam and Christianity, investigating their key beliefs and practices as well as looking at their place in the world. All students complete a summer project looking at sacred spaces. Pupils also study an introductory Philosophy course which nurtures a spirit of open-ended and open-minded learning as we explore dilemmas, debates and thought experiments. Through discussion and storytelling, the students are encouraged to become rigorous thinkers and thoughtful listeners.		
French	Mrs Williams	3 periods
Students use <i>Studio 1</i> to consolidate personal information, including physical descriptions, hobbies, likes and dislikes, family and town. The present tense of regular verbs and common irregular verbs is introduced and practised in games, communicative activities, formal lessons and using the audio-visual and ICT materials available.		

German	Mr Killen	3 periods
We use <i>Echo 1</i> to consolidate greetings, school, colours, numbers, personal descriptions and free time. The grammatical aspects covered include the cases, articles and present tense forms are introduced and practised in games, communicative activities, formal lessons and using the audio-visual and ICT materials available.		
Spanish	Mrs Reed	3 periods
Students use <i>Mira Express 1</i> to learn about describing themselves, family, school, food, house, free time and where they live. The present tense of regular verbs is introduced and practised in games, communicative activities, formal lessons and using the audio-visual and ICT materials available.		
Art	Mr McGregor	3 periods
We explore a range of media including printmaking, textiles and clay within the themes of insects, pattern and architecture. In the autumn term they have a study visit to Wrest Park to support the architecture project.		
DT	Mr Jones	3 periods
Students undertake three design modules that focus on developing their core design skills. They will learn to use Photoshop and 2D Design whilst also developing their creative drawing skills using traditional techniques. They will also develop their practical skills in the workshop.		
ICT	Mr Leach	3 periods
Students start by studying computer hardware, staying safe online and programming with visual languages such as Scratch. They are also introduced to text based programming environments such as Python. Students take their first Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam in Powerpoint, and after completing that finish off the year by making web pages using template based systems.		
Drama	Miss Spence	2 periods
Students are introduced to a range of theatrical styles, genres and acting techniques, such as Mime and Commedia Dell' Arte. Students begin to explore text in performance and the wide range of skills needed for this.		
Music	Mrs Perry	2 periods
We work on a variety of composition and performance tasks that help to develop students' general skills as young musicians. This includes learning how to play a piece of music by ear, learning how to play the <i>12 Bar Blues</i> and writing music to a silent film. Theoretical knowledge is learned through practical tasks.		
PE	Mr Higgins	2 periods
We follow a half termly carousel programme of Gymnastics, Basketball, Strength and Conditioning, Swimming and Athletics (double block) which focus on the development of the fundamental movement patterns required within each activity.		
Games and Key Skills	Mr Jerram	2 double periods + 2 periods
Boys follow a programme of Rugby (Autumn Term), Football or Hockey (Spring Term) and Cricket (Summer Term); whilst the girls follow a programme of Hockey (Autumn Term), Netball (Spring Term) and Cricket or Football (Summer Term). However, the Summer Term choices are currently under review. Students are grouped by ability and there is a focus on both individual and team skills, which are supported by Key Skills lessons, after school practices and the opportunity to play competitive matches at the weekend.		
Study Skills	Mr Price	1 period per half term
Students receive four discreet study skills lessons on the following topics: keys to success and mind set, making and taking notes, mind maps and revision skills in preparation for the end of year exams.		