

# Year 7 Curriculum Information 2019 - 20



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.

<b>English</b>	<b>Mr S Bywater</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
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.		
<b>Maths</b>	<b>Mr N Shackleton</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
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.		
<b>Science</b>	<b>Mr T Mullan</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
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 students are invited to take part in a Science Fair during the summer term.		
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Mr B Day</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
We study population and cities, flooding, food, water and resources and the United Kingdom/Map skills.		
<b>History</b>	<b>Mrs S Wright</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students will learn about Medieval Realms: Britain, 1066-1500 through the key themes of power, belief and society. Students will develop the skills required for the effective study of History, such as the ability to recall factual material, assess the concepts of cause and consequence and change and continuity, and evaluate simple source material.		
<b>Religious Education &amp; Philosophy</b>	<b>Mr J Hooper</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
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.		
<b>French</b>	<b>Mrs J Williams</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
After an initial introduction of 5 weeks, students will use <i>Dynamo 1</i> to use the present tense to talk and write about themselves and their family, school and free time. A variety of common regular and irregular verbs will be taught and students will be able to give simple opinions on their activities using a range of adjectives.		
<b>German</b>	<b>Mr R Killen</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
In the first term of Year 7, all students will have a taster course based on the initial units of <i>Echo Express 1</i> . Thereafter, those opting for German will study the <i>Zoom Deutsch 1</i> course, including material on greetings, personal information, family school and local area. The grammatical aspects covered include cases, articles and the present tense.		

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Mrs R Reed</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students use <i>Mira Express 1</i> for their 20 taster lessons and then change to <i>Claro 1</i> if they opt for Spanish. We cover personal information – where they live, family and pets, school, hobbies and weather. We also introduce a cultural element once they are following <i>Claro 1</i> . The present tense of regular verbs is introduced together with common irregular verbs.		
<b>Art</b>	<b>Mr J McGregor</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
We explore a range of media including printmaking 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.		
<b>DT</b>	<b>Mr A Jones</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students undertake three design modules that focus on developing their core design skills. They will learn to use CAD software whilst also developing their hands on creative drawing skills using traditional techniques. They will also develop their practical skills in the workshop using a variety of tools and machinery.		
<b>ICT</b>	<b>Mr A Jones</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
Students begin the year with key skills in ICT that they will apply across their subjects, such as file organisation, use of email and internet safety; staying safe online. Students learn about computer hardware and the function of key components. Students will be taught how to extensively use Microsoft PowerPoint in order to take the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam. Finally, students end the year using the online website Scratch to further their experience of programming.		
<b>Drama</b>	<b>Mrs L Wright</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
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.		
<b>Music</b>	<b>Mrs M Perry</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
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 song-writing. Theoretical knowledge is learned through practical tasks.		
<b>PE</b>	<b>Mr A Higgins</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
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.		
<b>Games and Key Skills</b>	<b>Mr S Sinclair</b>	<b>2 double periods + 2 periods</b>
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 Tennis (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.		
<b>Study Skills</b>	<b>Dr T C Foster</b>	<b>1 period per half term</b>
Students complete an in-house Study Skills programme comprising 5 core sessions, which are delivered during extended tutorial slots and in Maths, English and Science lessons. These sessions equip students with the core study skills, which are essential for success – from organisation and presentation to revision techniques and planning. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at the end of the year in a Humanities themed project.		
<b>Tutorial Period</b>		
The Extended Tutorial Period is delivered once a cycle to all students in Year 7. We follow a carousel programme made up mainly of PSHE activities, careers guidance and study skills. In addition, there are bespoke sessions covering social and emotional learning topics, mental health and well-being, and online safety. These extended periods can also be used as a time for self-reflection and target setting, following key reporting times such as Interim Reports or Parents' Evenings.		