

# Year 7 Curriculum Information 2023 - 2024



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>Dr T Foster</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
We have three key units: Morality, Different Voices and Gender. Within these we study a range of texts including pre-1914 and contemporary drama, Shakespeare, poetry and non-fiction writing. With a strong emphasis on creative work, students learn and practise the skills required for producing narratives, letters and leaflets. They learn about the Renaissance theatre and the language of drama. They begin to produce analytical writing about literature across poetry, prose and drama, focusing on the identification of writers' techniques.		
<b>Maths</b>	<b>Miss E Ginns</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 D C Honnor</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
Combined Science is a two-year course which aims to develop practical skills, scientific knowledge and understanding to provide a suitable foundation for further learning. Topics covered include lab safety, apparatus and scientific skills, cells, acids and alkalis, forces, reproduction, solutions and electricity. We also run a popular weekly Science Club and students are invited to take part in the Science Fair during the summer term.		
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Mr B W Day</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
We study population and cities, rivers and flooding, the United Kingdom, local geography and map skills.		
<b>History</b>	<b>Ms C Webb</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 and 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. Students 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 S Sobrado</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
After an initial introduction in the taster course in the first term of Year 7 using <i>Studio Express</i> , 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 A Robinson</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
In the first term of Year 7, all students will have a taster course, in which they will learn to give basic information about themselves, key phonics and pronunciation rules, and have an introduction to German culture. Thereafter, those opting for German will study the Zoom Deutsch 1 course, including material on personal information, family, school life and hobbies. The grammatical aspects covered include genders, cases and the present tense.		

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Mrs R Reed</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students use <i>Mira Express 1</i> and <i>Claro</i> for their 20 taster lessons and then continue with <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 Computer-Aided Design (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>Ms J E Samosa</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
In Year 7 students will begin with an introduction to Microsoft TEAMS and associated applications, file organisation, use of email and internet safety and staying safe online. Students then move onto Python programming, spreadsheets, game making, creating digital graphics, computer ethics and the workings of a computer.		
<b>Drama</b>	<b>Mr P Stevens</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>Miss D Derry</b>	<b>3 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 the ukulele, learning how to play the 12-Bar Blues, song-writing and reading music. 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 B Kirkpatrick</b>	<b>6 periods</b>
Boys follow a programme of Rugby (autumn term), Football or Hockey (spring term) and Cricket, Athletics or Tennis (summer term); whilst the girls follow a programme of Hockey (autumn term), Netball (spring term) and Cricket, Athletics or Tennis (summer term). Students are grouped by ability and there is a focus on both individual and team skills, which are supported by a fundamental movement curriculum. In addition to this there are after school practices and an opportunity to play competitive matches at the weekend.		
<b>Study Skills</b>	<b>Mr D Bareham</b>	<b>1 period per half term</b>
Students are introduced to effective study skills early on in the year through the extended tutorial programme. The focus is on encouraging students to use the techniques which have a strong evidence base over the easy, but ineffective methods towards which students tend to default. These techniques are then reinforced during subject lessons with teachers encouraging students to practice retrieval. Self-organisation is also encouraged in extended tutorial and in subject lessons. As end of year examinations approach, effective revision techniques are taught through the extended tutorial programme.		
<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.		