

Welcome to our Autumn Term Curriculum Newsletter. The departments that teach your daughter have contributed to the newsletter to give you information about what you can expect her to be studying this term at St Bernard's High School.

RE

Students follow "The Way" programme which is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic schools. Students will study and look at God as the initiator in the history of our creation and how God's promises are fulfilled through Jesus. Students also focus on the church as the people of God and the liturgical and sacramental life of the church. Lastly, students have the opportunity to study Hinduism helping them to develop an understanding of another faith.

This syllabus incorporates two attainment targets:

- a) Learning about the Catholic faith
- b) Learning from the Catholic faith

This programme allows many opportunities for creativity within lessons, independent learning and time to reflect upon their faith.

English

TRANSITION: Descriptive Writing and P.E.E.

Writing – Description of a fairground

Reading – How does the writer use language to make the fun fair scene come alive?

POETRY: A Sense of Place

Writing assessment:

Write a description of a stormy night using a variety of sound effects and other literary techniques.

Reading assessment (timed; preparation lessons needed):

How is language used to create images of the sea and the city in Island Man?

S&L assessment: Choral speaking using a poem of the students' choice

Maths

Students are taught in mixed ability groups for the first two to three weeks of Year 7. They are then tested on the topics which have been taught and placed in sets by ability. The topics in the test include: written methods for addition and subtraction of whole numbers and decimals, calculating with negative numbers, apply BIDMAS (order of operations) to calculations, using fractions and percentages, angles and lines and, calculating area and perimeter of rectangles and compound shapes.

For the remainder of the Autumn Term, students will study topics within the area of "Number", including: methods for multiplication and division, decimals, fractions, decimals and percentages, properties of numbers, negative numbers and, rounding and estimating.

When the students are in their sets, they will be given login details for MyMaths and will be set homework tasks on this website, as well as written homework. They will also receive login details for the PiXL Times Tables app.

Science

Students study 2 units in the Autumn Term: "Particles" and "Energy".

Homework

Students are expected to complete a daily homework task for approximately 15min using the **Tassomai** application. Other tasks will be set as required to support learning for a lesson.

Assessment: Students will take a written test on each unit. These tests will be available at 3 different levels of challenge: Foundation, Merit and Extension. In the first instance students will make their own choice between the Foundation and Merit tiers.

Resources: Your daughter can find copies of worksheets and presentations used in class on the Sciences site of the VLE (<https://stbernardshighschool.sharepoint.com/sites/subjects/Sc/>) and/or in her online class notebook, which she can find via her class team on the VLE. All resources are organised by unit title.

MFL – French

Unit 1: All about me

This covers likes/dislikes, survival kit, describing myself, talking about other people, and describing a musician.

Transcription, translations from and into English.

Grammar: using regular verbs and some irregular verbs in the present tense, and adjective agreement.

Unit 2: My school

This covers subject, giving opinions and reasons, describing time-table, using the 12-hour clock, describing my school day, and talking about food.

Grammar: asking questions, agreeing and disagreeing, different ways of saying "we", and using the partitive article.

Assessment: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

MFL – Italian

Unit 1:

This covers introducing and describing myself, talking about other people, talking about my birthday, talking about brothers and sisters and pets.

Transcription, translations from and into English.

Grammar: using regular verbs and some irregular verbs in the present tense, and adjective agreement. Using all the forms of *essere* (to be) and *avere* (to have) in the present tense.

Unit 2:

This covers subjects, giving opinions and reasons, describing time-table, using the 12-hour clock, describing my school day, what is in my pencil case and bag.

Transcription, translations from and into English.

Grammar: asking questions, agreeing and disagreeing and using the partitive article.

Assessment: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing.

MFL – Spanish

Unit 1: My life

This covers introducing yourself, talking about your personality, talking about your age, brothers, sisters and pets, transcription, translations from and into English.

Grammar: using regular verbs and some irregular verbs in the present tense, and adjective agreement.

Unit 2: My free time

This covers describing what you like to do in your spare time, talking about the weather and saying what sports you do.

Grammar: using regular verbs and some irregular verbs in the present tense, and using question words.

Assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing.

Three-dimensional Design

During the first term, students will be developing an understanding of the formal elements in Art and using these to produce three-dimensional outcomes. Students will be designing a sculpture for the 4th Plinth in Trafalgar square focusing on abstract shapes and colours.

Art

Year 7 will develop observational drawing skills and basic colour mixing knowledge. They will investigate Pop Art and, towards the end of half term, they will develop their independence for their termly research homework. They will learn about tone and composition and will produce a variety of still life images.

Drama

This term in Drama, Year 7 will be introduced to the subject and the expectations and opportunities of the subject. Students will be introduced to basic dramatic techniques such as freeze frames and thought tracking whilst being encouraged to develop confidence to perform and contribute to class discussions. We will explore a range of resources including poetry and prose and the term will conclude with an assessment of a comedic performance of 'Pyramus and Thisbe' from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Geography

Year 7 Geography begins with an introduction to enquiry-based learning. The students will focus on improving their map skills, through studying four and six figure grid references, latitude and longitude, understanding Ordnance Survey (OS) map symbols, scale and direction. The students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding before the October half term break.

History

Students are studying 'What is History?' with specific reference to the Anglo-Saxons. They will look at a range of Primary and Secondary sources in order to answer questions they may have about the period and study chronology. They will then move on to preparing for their first assessment 'Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?' which will be done before half term.

The second half of the term will consider what religion was like in Medieval England and are assessed by writing a narrative account on the events leading to Thomas Becket's murder.

Music

First Half Term:

KS 2 Questionnaire
Rhythm songs
Rounds
Harvest Mass
Student led performance
Elements of music
Classics for kids DVD
Instruments of the Orchestra
Assessments on instrument recognition

Second Half Term:

Introduction to keyboard playing
RH notes C to G + LH chord roots
Extension pieces for pianists
Songs/Rounds
Elements
Keyboard piece assessment

PE

The focus of the Year 7 Physical Education curriculum is 'Believing in myself and ensuring social belonging'. During lessons, students will participate in a number of sports to develop this. In the Autumn Term, students will take part in Netball, Badminton and Gymnastics. Alongside the development of skills and tactics in each of the sports, emphasis will also be placed on developing confidence, teamwork and listening to others' opinions.

Furthermore, there is a wide range of extra-curricular clubs available to pupils so that they can further develop their skills in these sports. There are a number of exciting sporting competitions happening this term that through hard work in lessons and regular attendance to extra-curricular clubs, pupils might be selected to attend.

PSHE

In Year 7 students undertake lessons in which issues affecting friendship and anxieties and worries are reflected upon, as well as the physical and emotional changes which take place during puberty. This is followed by a consideration of lifestyle choices where students focus on the impact of drugs, smoking and alcohol and reflect on how to manage risky situations and make decisions when confronted by sensitive issues. There is a strong focus on healthy lifestyles and this also incorporates healthy eating. Students will look at the issue of bullying, considering the causes and the impact, as well as sharing strategies for preventing it taking place. This will be complimented with a reflection on resolving conflict. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on the Catholic ethos of the school and will be reflected in lessons on Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural (SMSC). There will be sessions on Fire, Community and Road Safety led by the local fire officer as well as an internet safety session run by the Local Authority. Finally, there will be a focus on developing thinking skills to promote more effective learning.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the curriculum at St Bernard's High School, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bennett, Assistant Head Teacher.