

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. Assignments will be set, she will be able to seek help and support from her teacher and join in discussion using Microsoft Teams.

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 – 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.

Art

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.

Computing

During the first half term students will be developing their mastery of the core Office tools and recording their progress in a blog. Lessons will explore how women have shaped and used these tools to change the world.

In the second half term students will build a website to showcase their learning using an appropriate platform. Lessons will explore how different faiths/belief systems have expanded online in order to reach humans.

E-safety and behaviour online are addressed during the lessons.

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. The second half of the term will see the students continue their map skills studies, which will include showing height on maps, scale and direction

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
Elements of music
Pitch and Rhythm

Assessments on Pitch and Rhythm Recognition

Second Half Term:

Theme and Variation
Rondo Form

Assessment on Composition

PE

The focus of the Year 7 Physical Education curriculum is 'Believing in myself and ensuring social belonging'. During lessons, students will participate in Netball, Badminton and Fitness that will aim to develop the physical aspects such as skills and gameplay but additional emphasis will be placed on developing confidence, teamwork and listening to others' opinions.

Furthermore, we also offer a varied extra-curricular programme which is available to pupils so that they can further develop their skills and gameplay in a range of sports. We have sporting competitions throughout the year that provide opportunities for students who show regular attendance and commitment to be selected to take part.

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.