



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

Year 7 Curriculum Information Booklet

Pentecost Term 2024



Faculty of RE, Geography and History

Religious Education:

Pupils will complete a unit looking at the topic To the ends of the earth which will comprise of the following topics:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How is the Holy Spirit active in the world today?
- What is the story of Pentecost?
- The Sacrament of Confirmation

In the second half term, pupils will look at the religion of Sikhism. Pupils will have the opportunity to visit the Gurdwara in Leadenhall.

The unit will include the following aspects covered:

- The history of the religion
- Important people
- Places of worship
- Key beliefs
- How they show care and concern for others.

Geography:

During the first half of term students will study the key geographical concept of *sustainability* through considering food and water security around the world. This module will look at ideas including food miles and the role of international agencies in helping others with food supply.

After half term, they will have an opportunity to investigate the Geography of Africa. They will learn about the uniqueness and diversity of this continent with reference to climate, vegetation and population.

History:

This half term pupils will be completing a thematic study of the Industrial Revolution followed by a unit on Sugar, Empire and Slavery. In the first half of the term students will examine working and living conditions during the Industrial Revolution as well as the economic impact that it had on the British Empire. In the second half, they will examine what life was like for slaves on plantations and explore the different ways slaves resisted captivity. Students will also examine how abolitionists helped to bring about the end of slavery in Britain and the USA.

Independent learning will be based both on the Industrial Revolution and Empire which will help them make connections to what they are learning in lessons and assist in acquiring new knowledge. A detailed schedule of students' home learning can be found on itslearning.

Faculty of Language

English:

During the Pentecost term, students will experience the Gothic genre through the text, '*A Woman in Black*' by Susan Hill. They will work towards drafting a first-person narrative, describing a journey to the Bran Castle using the Gothic conventions as discussed throughout the teaching sequence. They will examine the use of language in selected passages and begin to consider some key ideas and concepts that are used in the novel that help to create the genre and attempt to mirror this in their own creative work.

Languages:

Throughout Year 7, students will be building their vocabulary whilst simultaneously practising their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. This will include the ability to ask and answer questions and to respond spontaneously. In all languages, students will learn new vocabulary by engaging in a variety of activities. All of these have been carefully designed to help your child develop the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in languages.

How can you help your child to make fantastic progress in languages?

You can help at home by testing your child's vocabulary, whether formally, or at other times such as when in the car. The more often students practise, even if in short bursts, the more confident they will become! Your child will also be given the school login details for www.linguascope.com, which will give them access to a variety of games to practise the language.

What will your child be learning?

This half term, students will learn how to describe Milton Keynes. They will be talking about what you can do and where they go at the weekend. Do ask them to show you the poster they will be creating! After half term, they will learn how to talk about their holiday plans as we approach the summer break.

Faculty of Mathematics and Science

Mathematics:

In the Pentecost term, Year 7 will be studying mathematics in the contexts of Expressive Arts, PE and Magic. These will include topics from the following range:

- Number Tricks in Magic to allow students to see algebra and number rules being applied and to apply them themselves.
- Sport where we analyse and use graphs.
- Mathematics of Design
- How artists use mathematics in their work

Short assessments for this year group will take place at the end of each module. These will take place in the classroom. The pupils will also have an examination-style assessment at the beginning of the term in the classroom.

Some websites which may be of interest in helping them to further develop their understanding.

- ItsLearning
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.mathswatch.co.uk
- www.connect.collins.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.corbettmaths.com

Science:

Half Term 1: Cells At Work (CAW)

The module starts by looking at cells their organelles and functions. Pupils look at how microscopes have been developed to observe cells (that have been stained) and learn how to calculate the size and magnification is an important GCSE and A level skill which we need to start to develop with KS3 pupils. Pupils move on to looking at the role of the cell membrane as movement from the inside to outside of the cell (and vice versa) is cell as way for cells to communicate with each other. The idea of cells being a 3D shape rather than a 2D image is further developed when pupils look at the idea of surface area to volume ratio. The unit ends with making connections between cells and the topic of Digestion, absorption and food testing which allows pupils to put their ideas of the division of labour and specialised cells into action.

Students will be assessed on any component of the half term at three intervals, and in three formats:

- One set of multiple-choice questions to practice their recall.
- One set of questions based around a practical they have conducted to practice demonstrating skills in identifying variables, processing data and evaluating practical procedures.
- One longer answer question to practice their extended writing and making links between concepts.

Half Term 2: Respiring Our Muscles

During our last term in Y7 Science students will be studying different systems in the human body. First, we will explore how the skeletal system and the respiratory systems are linked with how muscles work together. In addition, they will look at how the human body is able to maintain homeostasis (its constant internal environment) specifically, body temperature and glucose (sugar) levels and the consequences when these cannot be maintained such as hypothermia and diabetes.

Students will be assessed on any component of the half term at three intervals, and in three formats:

- One set of multiple-choice questions to practice their recall.
- One set of questions based around a practical they have conducted to practice demonstrating skills in identifying variables, processing data and evaluating practical procedures.
- One longer answer question to practice their extended writing and making links between concepts.

Toward the end of this half term students will sit a paper that covers the topics studied in Year 7, including:

- Practically a scientist (PAS – Advent 1)
- Building blocks (BB – Advent 2)
- Fields in physics (FIP – Lent 1)
- Forces and matter (FAM) – Lent 2)
- Cells at work (CAW – Pentecost 1)
- Respiring our muscles (ROM – Pentecost 2).

Faculty of Communication and Design

Design and Technology:

Design and Technology is one of the subjects in the National Curriculum. All pupils at St Paul's Catholic School follow a Design and Technology programme of study at Key Stage 3. Design and Technology is a subject that allows pupils to be creative and encourages them to develop new skills and knowledge through practical activities.

Pupils undertake a series of new and exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments that enable them to become more competent in expressing their creativity and skilled in the manufacture of their design solutions.

The Design and Technology course is based around the three principals of Designing.



Alongside the exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments Year 7 pupils will undertake a series of technical principal lessons. These technical principals are the underpinning theoretical knowledge which pupils will need to have mastered by the end of Year 7 and culminates in the sitting of a technical principal's exam.

The specific areas offered are:

1. CAD/CAM with Electronics.
2. Food Preparation and Nutrition.
3. Graphics.
4. Engineering Design
5. Engineering Manufacture
6. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
7. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

Computer Science

Python Programming

Introduction to Python programming using the visual library python turtle.

Key concepts of programming will be taught such as:

- What is programming?
- What is a variable?
- What is an algorithm?
- How to do a sequence of instruction to achieve a goal.
- How to repeat a set of instructions using loops.
- How to construct a decision making structure in python.

Digital graphics and visual identity

In this unit you will learn to how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences.

Topics include:

- Develop visual identity
- Plan digital graphics for products
- Create visual identity and digital graphics

Faculty of Expressive Arts

Art:

Jungle Project

Students will explore a variety of media to draw animals and develop these drawings into a design for a resolved outcome. This will develop their observational skills as well as their experience with using a broader range of materials. Students will explore the work of Henri Rousseau and analyse specific pieces using key terms.

Drama:

Pupils will be using a range of drama conventions to explore the play '*Ernie's Incredible Illusions*'. They will be considering the use of staging and will consider the roles of directors and performers when interpreting a text.

Pupils should focus on developing their ability to use the following key skills:

- Still Image
- Marking the moment
- Hot seating
- Characterisation
- Script delivery
- Interpretation
- Physical theatre
- Body props

After half term pupils will be extending this text work to the play and will be considering how they might approach different scenes as an actor, director and designer.

Music:

Term 1: In the first half of the Pentecost term, pupils will be learning about *World Music* with the focus on Music from Africa. Pupils will gain a practical understanding of some typical features of African music through composing, listening and appraising. Students will learn about traditional African instruments and learn to perform African songs and instrumental music. Students will study the history of African music and its influences.

Term 2: In the second half of the Pentecost term, students will focus on a topic called *Cover Songs*. Students will study a variety of pop and rock songs and then perform them in ensembles or sample them to create their own arrangement using music technology.

Physical Education:

During the Pentecost term the pupils will follow a programme of study which will include team games, as well as athletics and striking and fielding. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils will work in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. During Year 7 the focus will be on pupils developing three key concepts through their PE lessons, these include Competence, Determination and Knowledge and Understanding. Within physical education, the pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal organisation, perseverance and development of care and concern for others.

This term there will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours, through the extra-curricular programme which includes athletics rounders, cricket and softball. Inter form fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition which includes rounders, cricket and softball and our annual sports day.

All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport.