



# What we are learning

The Key Stage 3 curriculum

Year 7 Term 5



# What we are learning in Year 7

The curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9 – Key Stage 3 – is rich and stimulating.

Throughout these three years, we want our students to discover a love for learning and knowledge that will help them select their GCSE courses and continue to progress successfully in Key Stage 4.

What we are Learning is designed to give you an overview of the topics, knowledge and skills being covered each of the six school terms, in each subject.

Our KS3 curriculum is connected by four main strands. Each department delivers its own content and the curriculum is mapped to ensure key concepts and ideas are developed and explored from a range of angles over the three years.

We look at:

- Our own identity
- Our place in society
- Our world around us
- Our skills and future lives

We hope you enjoy what you are learning in school and that the information here helps you share and develop your ideas and knowledge with your families at home.

If you would like to know more, or have any questions, please contact your subject teacher.



**Mr Ben Edwards**

Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

# Year 7 Term 5

## Art

We will study the topic 'Mini Beasts', which will introduce printmaking, artist research on the work of Levon Biss, and 3D sculptural making as part of an extended homework. Insects and microscopic creatures will be the visual focus of this project.

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## Design and Technology

Year 7s will continue their projects in their different material areas that they began at the start of last term. The Product Design classes are completing their battle tops projects, Textiles classes will be doing their 'Day of the Dead' mask, and Food Technology will continue to prepare a range of tasty dishes whilst learning about healthy eating. Before the end of April classes will move onto the next material area. Classes doing the 'Day of the Dead' textiles focused project will move onto Food Technology. Food Technology classes will move into the workshop and begin the Battle Tops project, and classes doing the Battle Tops project will move onto Textiles to complete their 'Day of the Dead' mask.

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## Drama

During the summer term, Year 7 will focus on exploring devised and text work through physical theatre. The students will explore the world of different scripts, create their own work and develop an understanding of how we can communicate using our bodies, gestures and facial expressions, with a focus on physical theatre techniques.

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## English

This term, we will be using our knowledge of skills that we have developed so far this year, to explore *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. Students will start off by looking at non-fiction writing techniques as well as making Shakespeare relevant to the modern audience by exploring the impact of climate change and natural disasters alongside their reading of the text. In the second half term, students will focus on celebrating the range of analysis skills they have developed by focussing on understanding the diverse effects of Shakespearean language on audiences throughout time.

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## French

We will continue to learn all about school and focus on our timetables and school day and finding out more about the French school system. We will talk about our school canteen and know how to give opinions to agree/disagree and using intensifiers. Our grammar work will include asking questions, telling the time using a 12-hour clock, using 'on' and the partitive article.

## Geography

This term we will explore a range of resources about quarrying in the Peak District, in preparation for the upcoming decision-making paper for the Year 7 Geography exam. Following this, we will identify different biomes before focusing on Tropical Rainforests. Students will explore the structure of a rainforest and the nutrient cycle. They will learn about the climate and how plant and animal species have adapted to the conditions. The causes of deforestation will be investigated as well as the impacts and possible management strategies.

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## German

We will continue our work on being able to ask and answer questions about our free time, using adverbs and justifying our opinions with reasons. We will be preparing for forthcoming assessments, trying out useful active revision strategies. We will also be learning to tell the time in German and continue to develop our work on word order, syntax and verbs.

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## History

We will study the Tudors during Term 5, with a focus on the concept of 'historical significance'. We will be building up an answer to the topic question "How terrible were the Tudors?" by thinking about how far we agree with 'Horrible Histories' choice of book title. This will involve considering whether Mary I deserves her title of 'Bloody Mary', how Elizabeth I solved the problems she faced, why the Tudors were significant and which Tudor monarch mattered most. This topic will end with a knowledge test with some multiple-choice questions, a chronology task, a key word matching task and some non-multiple choice short questions.

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## Computer Science

This term we will be covering the basic principles and architecture of networks. We will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the Internet, and how web addresses are constructed and stored as IP addresses. Client-server, peer-to-peer networks and the concept of cloud computing are all included. Methods of keeping data secure and simple encryption techniques are also covered.

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## Mathematics

In Maths we will be covering, in block 7, working with measures (estimation, error intervals, standard form, metric measures, perimeter, circumference of circles, measuring and calculating time, speed, distance and time.) In block 8 we will be covering shapes, area and pythagoras (quadrilaterals, parallel lines, measuring area, area of shapes and investigating pythagoras). In block 9 we will be covering fractions, decimals and percentages (ordering fractions and decimals, converting between fractions, decimals and percentages, percentage of amount and percentage change). There will be a topic review/assessment at the end of each block and an end of year examination.

## Music

We will be learning about 'Instruments of the Orchestra' – how they make sound, what they're made of and what type of music they often play. We will even have a go on the instruments! Having learnt about the Treble Clef and rhythmic notation, we will write music inspired by music written for instruments: how about writing a dramatic fanfare for a trumpet? Or using Garageband to compose leitmotifs for different characters inspired by Peter and the Wolf. There will a composing, performing and listening assessment at the end of this topic.

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## Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics

Students will continue to explore the topic: "The Buddha; how and why do his experiences and teachings have meaning for people today?" Students are investigating Buddhist practices and teachings to evaluate if these 2,500-year-old teachings and practices are relevant today.

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## Physical Education

After Easter, students will start block 7 as outlined below. For the summer term (blocks 7, 8 and 9), to coincide with our fixtures and athletic events, the PE lessons will be split to cover 2 sports each week; thus allowing students experience in both sports ahead of the summer fixtures and athletics events.

### Block 7 (4 weeks; wb 8/4/24 - 29/5/24)

- Boys group 1 = Lesson 1: Athletics      Lesson 2: Cricket
- Boys group 2 = Lesson 1: Athletics      Lesson 2: Cricket
- Girls group 1 = Lesson 1: Cricket      Lesson 2: Athletics
- Girls group 2 = Lesson 1: Cricket      Lesson 2: Athletics

### Block 8 (4 weeks; wb 6/5/24 - 3/6/24)

- Boys group 1 = Lesson 1: Athletics      Lesson 2: Cricket
- Boys group 2 = Lesson 1: Tennis      Lesson 2: Softball
- Girls group 1 = Lesson 1: Cricket      Lesson 2: Athletics
- Girls group 2 = Lesson 1: Cricket      Lesson 2: Tennis

### Block 9 (4 weeks; wb 10/6/24 -8/7/24)

- Boys group 1 = Lesson 1: Tennis      Lesson 2: Softball
- Boys group 2 = Lesson 1: Rounders      Lesson 2: Cricket
- Girls group 1 = Lesson 1: Rounders      Lesson 2: Tennis
- Girls group 2 = Lesson 1: Rounders      Lesson 2: Softball

## Science

This term is all about physics and the forces around us. Students will learn how ducks float, why friction is useful and how rockets take off. This launches the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this term into space exploration where students will look at gravity and the difference between mass and weight, our universe and the Big Bang.

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## Spanish

This term we will continue the topic of house and home. We will be looking at extending writing techniques and completing an open book writing task in preparation for the next assessment.