

YEAR 10 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2

This newsletter provides an overview of the curriculum your child will follow in different subjects this term. If your child has any concerns or questions, please encourage them to resolve them as quickly as possible by speaking to their Form Tutor or Subject Teachers. Parents are also invited to make an appointment to see Mr. MacRae if they wish to discuss any academic issues.

ART AND DESIGN

During term 2 year 10 Art students will work on coursework development. They will research given topics, locating information about appropriate artists and techniques. The focus will be on drawing from observation and developing ideas for major works. The themes they will be exploring include *Forms in Nature* and *Images of the Mind*.

BIOLOGY

Students are continuing with the IGCSE Biology course. The term began with an exam reviewing all the material covered in the year to date. After this the first half of the term will be spent considering human biology: firstly transport systems and human excretion, and then coordination and response systems. After the Spring Festival break they will begin applying the same ideas to plants, studying plant coordination and response and finally plant nutrition, gas exchange and transport. Homework is set once a week on Thursdays and should take around one hour to complete. Students are urged to start tasks as soon as possible and seek help with any areas they find difficult before the due date; they should use any spare time to read around the topic being studied and look back over previous work. Talking about their Science lessons at home will help them to develop stronger communication skills and we encourage them to do this as much as possible. There is a wealth of support materials available on the VLE.

BUSINESS STUDIES

In Term 2, all students will use the textbook GCSE Business Studies for Edexcel by Sue Alpin, Jan Cooper Gerard O'Hara and Fiona Petrucke. They will continue to use the dictionary of key business studies terms (A-Z Business Studies Handbook).

At the end of Term 1, students were introduced to

the human resources function of businesses. This department is concerned with people in organizations and focuses on their roles, relationships and management within business. Students will continue to examine the importance of this department for businesses. In the middle of Term 2, students will explore the use of finance and accounting as an aid to decision making within businesses.

The following chapters from the course textbook relate to the topics being studied during Term 2:

Section 2: Human Resources

Unit 10	Training
Unit 11	Motivation and rewards
Unit 12	Negotiation and consultation

Section 3: Finance

Unit 16	Revenue, Costs and Break-even
Unit 15	Sources of Finance
Unit 13	Budgets
Unit 14	Cash Flow

It is very important to encourage Business students to follow the business news and discuss current issues with them. Parents can also support learning by discussing the topics studied in class and providing guidance and advice about homework tasks.

CHEMISTRY

Students are continuing with the IGCSE Chemistry course. The term began with an exam reviewing all the material covered in the year to date. After this students will study bonding in some detail, looking first at ionic compounds and then at covalent substances and metals. In the second half of the term they will consider electrolysis and finally



move on to study the properties of oxygen. Homework is set once a week on Fridays and should take around one hour to complete. Students are urged to start tasks as soon as possible and seek help with any areas they find difficult before the due date; they should use any spare time to read around the topic being studied and look back over previous work. Talking about their Science lessons at home will help them to develop stronger communication skills and we encourage them to do this as much as possible. There are support materials available on the VLE.

DRAMA

In this second term Year 10 will look at the skills required to explore Paper 1 Units, 'a' and 'b' which focuses on using drama as a tool of exploration. Students will study and experiment with different styles of scripts and take from these, new ideas and techniques which they can later use in their own dramas. Students will evaluate and reflect on their work more formally this term and develop their devising and performance skills further. All of this will be explored using dramatic techniques of role-play and improvisation and focus on varied stimuli from poetry to television adverts.

As part of the Drama department's commitment to cultural diversity these skills will be taught using varied stimuli. Apart from the skills of drama, students will also begin to understand how important it is to collaborate and compromise in the creative process as well as gain the confidence and skills required for public speaking, an essential ability in the modern world.

ENGLISH

English Language/Literature/ Year 10 EAL English Group

Teaching in this subject is generally delivered in mixed ability groups, in order to make the most of the different and varying skills and abilities all students bring to English. However, within the outline dictated by the Edexcel IGCSE syllabuses, choices of text, topic and timing within the year are at the discretion of the class teacher. This means that different classes will often be learning about quite different aspects of English within any given term. The exception to the mixed ability groupings in YEAR 10 is one group covering the same broad outlines for English Language IGCSE but with

more specialist focus on EAL learners, some preparation for an IGCSE in English as a Second Language and no coverage of the IGCSE Literature syllabus.

This term, all students will be continuing their study of the English Language Anthology, focusing on Section B texts which will lead to the completion of the Unit 1 coursework assessment. The English Language Anthology contains a range of non-fiction extracts designed to represent texts we encounter every day. Students will eventually write about these texts in their English Language IGCSE examination paper. Extracts are varied and the emphasis will be on comprehension skills and appreciation of the author's craft in manipulating language for effect, purpose and audience. The texts in the anthology include extracts from *A Passage to Africa* and the bestseller account of a mountaineering disaster, *Touching the Void*.

Students will also be asked to practise and develop their writing skills to inform, explain, describe, explore, imagine, entertain, argue, persuade and advise in preparation for both the Language examination at the end of the year and a piece of writing coursework. Some students will compete a Media Unit of Work leading to a writing a film review.

Students will begin to develop their speaking and listening skills and work towards the coursework requirement. They will look at formal speeches and debates, individual speaking assignments and group presentations.

Students studying Literature will continue their study of the English Literature Anthology which comprises poetry by a range of poets including Rudyard Kipling, Alice Walker, Carol Ann Duffy and Chinua Achebe. They will also be encouraged to develop their wider reading through a series of targeted and guided reading tasks. Most students will begin to study Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* also looking at love sonnets and poetry.

Students should be encouraged to complement their study of non-fiction forms through wider reading of well-written magazines, journals and newspapers and their study of Literature by reading a rich mixture of plays, poetry and fiction.

FRENCH

To start the term, the students will complete the unit that focuses on free time and leisure activities.



They will have the opportunity to write a short book review which will consolidate work already completed on film reviews. The students will then study some of the poetry of Prévert in preparation for them writing their own French poetry in his style.

They will then complete a module that focuses on comparing life in the city and the country. They will gain confidence in giving and understanding directions, and be able to give detailed opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of living in the town or country. They will learn how to describe their own town in detail and will learn about town-twinning in European countries. Grammatically, the work will focus on using imperatives, adjectives, superlatives and the imperfect tense.

The students will finish the term working on a module that focuses on making travel arrangements and enjoying what towns have to offer in terms of shopping and entertainment. In this module, the students will build up a large stock of new vocabulary associated with shopping, particularly in the context of clothes and fashion. They will revise colours and prices and learn about patterns, materials, sizes and national costumes in French speaking countries. They will learn how to purchase items and interact in shops. Grammatically, the work will focus on the use of the partitive article, and using the perfect, imperfect, present and future tenses together.

GEOGRAPHY

This term students will complete their work on The Natural Environment section of the syllabus. Firstly they will be studying river management and looking at the effectiveness of different strategies in flood prevention and how these strategies differ between different types of countries. They then move on to a more applied section of the course where they will have to use their knowledge gained in the first part of the year to look at environmental issues challenging the world. Such as waste management or the problems of water supply. Learning in this section will be encompassed in a number of activities and it is essential that students learn and understand the terminology used in class and in their books.

HISTORY

Students in Year 10 have been studying the rise of Nazism in Germany. This term, they will continue

their in depth study of the mechanics of the Nazi Dictatorship from Hitler becoming German Chancellor in 1933 to the cataclysmic events of the Second World War culminating in the abject defeat of Germany in 1945. Topics studied will include how women and young people were treated in the Third Reich; Nazi racist policies towards minorities; the road to War and The Final Solution. Year 10 will reference a number of texts, DVDs, powerpoints and Websites to facilitate their learning in all the topics studied this academic year 2009 / 2010.

ICT

Year 10 have now completed one piece of coursework. The 2nd piece of coursework involves the creation of a spreadsheet solution. This will once again require them to produce a design, to implement a solution, to test their solution and to evaluate their work. We have put lots of notes on the GCSE ICT site to help students with this database project. Please ask your child to show you the ICT course. As part of the theory course the class is continuing with word processing and desktop publishing programs. As usual, we are supplementing the textbook with tutorials featuring interactive Powerpoint content and also with online resources. This will prepare them for their examination in June, which will include GCSE-standard questions on everything studied this year.

MANDARIN

Moving into Term 2 of 2009/10, Year 10 Mandarin will be carrying on the preparation for GCSE: Significant amount of time will be focused on an overview of knowledge on topics related with GCSE in four language skills: listening; speaking; reading and writing.

Without the exam pressure, the non-GCSE groups will extend their topics into 3 main areas: school life; healthy living and hobbies in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. To ensure these targets are met, language based regular dictations and unit tests will be conducted. However, the fun part of Year 10 will involve students performing in the Chinese New Year celebrations.

Learning resources will be carefully selected from well-known text books, e.g. Happy Chinese; Chinese Made Easy; Yu Wen (Chinese State School text books) and multi-media resources, etc.



All teaching materials will be uploaded onto VLE <http://vle.harrowbeijing.cn> for revision and future reference. Students are most fortunate to be living in an environment where Chinese culture and language are easily accessible. By making the most of life from the inside and outside of the classroom, students can share the learning experience with the family and friends.

MATHEMATICS

Some students in Year 10 will be on an accelerated IGCSE programme. These students will be taught by Mr. Mike Hodges. Please be aware that these Year 10 students will be essentially completing two years work in one year. In the main this will be a review of previous work plus new topics depending upon the strengths of the individuals within the group. There is an expectation that students on this accelerated programme complete more than the usual amount of homework.

However, the majority of students in Key Stage 4 will be covering the following topics (different teaching groups may be at different stages of work and may be studying topics to different depths):

Algebra including linear equations; Pythagoras' theorem; Circle properties; Angles and triangles review; Measures; Geometry; Mensuration; Graphs; Similarity; Trigonometry

MUSIC

In this term, students will consolidate their theory and compositional skills needed to write music for examination submissions. Students will also look at music from the western classical tradition 1900 – present day examining minimalism, expressionism, serialism and electronic music. Students will be expected to perform to the group as part of an ensemble.

Students should be practicing an instrument of their choice in private, as well as receiving regular instruction on this instrument.

All students will be given a glossary of terms and try to encourage your child to use this terminology when discussing music with you.

PE

Students follow a prescribed syllabus. The course develops a student's physical competence and

confidence, and his/her ability to use these to perform in a range of activities. It provides opportunities for students to be creative, competitive and to overcome different challenges, both as individuals and as part of a team. It promotes positive attitudes towards leading and understanding the pursuit of an active and healthy lifestyle.

Year 10	Term 2
	Badminton Football Weight Training Martial Arts

GCSE PE

Students will cover the following topics:

- 1 Somatotypes
- 2 What is health
- 3 Drugs in sport
- 4 Rules
- 5 Risk assessment
- 6 Fitness Testing

All linked to a healthy active lifestyle

PHYSICS

Students are continuing with the IGCSE Physics course. The term began with an exam reviewing all the material covered in the year to date. Students will continue their study of electricity, moving on from static to consider d.c circuits, resistance and circuit components and finally the use of mains power, including safety considerations. After the Spring Festival break the focus changes to wave behaviour, with a particular study of light and sound. Homework is set once a week and should take around one hour to complete. Students are urged to start tasks as soon as possible and seek help with any areas they find difficult before the due date; they should use any spare time to read around the topics and look back over previous work. Talking about their Science lessons at home will help them to develop stronger communication skills and we encourage them to do this as much as possible. There are support materials available on the VLE.

