

YEAR 11 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

This term, year 11 Art students will work on their final coursework piece preparation. They will analyse chosen artists in depth and establish the idea that they would like to communicate. They will also produce variations of their own compositional design before producing their final piece. They will start working on their final piece in February to allow plenty of time before the coursework deadline. After that the students will start preparing for the second part of the course and that is the IGCSE exam.

BIOLOGY

Students will complete the IGCSE Biology course part way through the term, which allows them plenty of time for revision and exam practice. First they will complete their studies of selective breeding before considering genetic modification and the competing pressures on food production. The final topic is human influences on the environment. Students will sit a mock IGCSE examination immediately before the Spring Festival break which provides them with an excellent opportunity to try some new revision techniques. There are plenty of resources on the VLE. Homework is set once a week and students should be using any extra time to look back over previous work and begin the revision process. To support them in their efforts the Science department is offering drop-in lunchtime sessions which will cover all year 10 material over the course of the term; all students are welcome to attend.

BUSINESS STUDIES

We have now completed the course. Therefore, for the rest of the year, students will revise material learned from Years 10 and 11, practice past papers and focus on exam and study skills to ensure that

students achieve their potential.

Parents are encouraged to log on to the VLE courses which have been set up to assist students in this endeavour. One course is a repository for all material covered and additional reading. The other course is an area where students can take interactive quizzes to test their knowledge. It is also advisable that students read about business issues and concepts. They have been shown how to use RSS feeds to assist them in this regard. Parents should continue to encourage their children to follow the business news on television or the Internet and discuss current issues with them. They can also support them by discussing the topics studied in class and provide guidance and advice about tasks.

If any parent would like to come in to talk about the practical aspects of finance, human resource management, production, marketing or international business, please contact Ms Wallace at school.

CHEMISTRY

Students will complete the IGCSE Chemistry course as we approach the end of term, which allows them plenty of time for revision and exam practice. First they will consider rates of reaction and equilibria; then the focus becomes more industrial as they cover the extraction and uses of metals, synthetic polymers and manufacturing chemicals. Students will sit a mock IGCSE examination immediately before the Spring Festival break which provides them with an excellent opportunity to try some new revision techniques. There are plenty of resources on the VLE. Homework is set once a week and students should be using any extra time to look back over previous work and begin the revision process. To support them in their efforts the Science department is offering drop-in lunchtime sessions which will



cover all year 10 material over the course of the term; all students are welcome to attend.

DRAMA

This term, year 11 will devise their final piece of Drama for the IGCSE Examination. This will take place over a series of workshops and having already gone through the process during term one this will be at a faster pace. Students will express their ideas based on a theme within a structured and carefully planned improvisation. Students will utilize skills and techniques that they have learnt to create an original piece of work which is their own. They will also include modern technology to enhance their performance. Students will also keep a log of their personal development which will work as evidence of reflection and learning.

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/ Y10 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 exceptions to the mixed ability groupings in Y11 are two groups 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 A texts which contain 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 in preparation for their language examination. All students will also work on developing their writing skills, particularly writing to analyse, review and comment and writing to persuade, argue and advise.

Students taking the Literature exam will also focus on Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and will do some revision of Miller's *View From the Bridge*. Students taking the English as a Second Language exam will continue to revise and practise their skills for this paper.

By now, all students should have substantially completed their written coursework portfolios. Some students will be making final adjustments to this, and completing any outstanding pieces.

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

Students will begin the term with a module that focuses on clothes and shopping. 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 a clothes shop. They will learn how to give a wide range of opinions and they will complete a web quest with an imaginary budget on the "Galeries Lafayette" website. Grammatically, they will focus on adjective agreement, the use of the superlative and polite forms of address in French. They will continue to develop their use of tenses, with the particular focus being on the perfect, imperfect and conditional tenses.

In the second half of the term, the material covered will focus on health and well-being. Initially, the focus will be on food and the students will learn how to make comparisons between British/French/Chinese food and will learn about healthy eating and nutrition. They will then go on to learn about other factors that affect the health of



young people, such as smoking, drinking and drug abuse. Grammatically, the work will focus on the use of the pluperfect, as well as other tenses previously studied.

GEOGRAPHY

During this term students will complete the unit on the Natural World, focussing on the final topics in the study of weather and climate, followed by the final section on Forest Environments. Students then move on to more applied units where they will be using their previously learned knowledge to look at the management of different issues. These include managing tourism and managing the environment.

The key to success at GCSE depends upon maintaining high levels of organisation and meeting deadlines. Parents can support their child by checking homework planners and encouraging students to keep on top of their work. Preparation for the summer examinations must start early.

HISTORY

Having completed topics on The Final Solution and The Changing Nature of Warfare, Year 11 are now in a position to revise their work from last year. This term, the students will focus on the revision of topics on the Cold War and The Vietnam War as they prepare for the IGCSE Examinations in the Summer of 2010. Students will have regular opportunity to practise past papers to prepare themselves thoroughly. Year 11 will reference a number of Texts, DVDs, Powerpoints and Websites to facilitate their revision of all the topics they have studied since September 2008.

ICT

Students are now in the final stages of completing the implementation of their major project. This has involved finding a project, designing and implementing it. The nature of ICT coursework means that students must work independently on this project and while we give them a lot of encouragement and support, in the end, their grade is a reflection of their hard work and self discipline. We will now begin to test and evaluate the project so that students meet the March 30th deadline. When the coursework is finished we will concentrate on the theory side of the syllabus. This will involve doing past exam papers and using online games and quizzes to facilitate optimum

learning of definitions and key terms. More advice and information can be found at <http://vle.harrowbeijing.cn> and we encourage you to work through the material with your children. Parents can assist their child by proof reading their course work and by taking an active interest in ensuring they are meeting coursework deadlines.

MANDARIN

In term 2 of 2009/10, members of the Year 11 Mandarin students are heading further into GCSE on related topics in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Focusing on total revision of the key vocabulary and sentence patterns for the exam, the GCSE group of students will experience the first taste of true GCSE by doing the mock exam in February. Individually tailored preparations will be planned based on the mock exam results.

Having being released from the exam pressure, the post CIE Y11 students will be focusing on the appreciation of Chinese literature work, e.g. "The Confucius thoughts." Also, the inter exchange programme between the Upper and the Lower schools will require this group of students to share some of their Mandarin knowledge with the Lower school students.

Learning resources will be carefully selected from well-known text books, e.g. GCSE Chinese by Pearson; 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.

MATHEMATICS

Some students in Year 11 have already taken IGCSE Mathematics and will be continuing with AS Mathematics. These students will be taught by Mr. Troy Wells. They will be completing AS mathematics in five periods per week instead of the usual six. There is therefore an expectation that students on this accelerated programme complete more than the usual amount of homework.

However, the majority of students in Year 11 will be completing any missed work and reviewing previous topics in preparation for the looming examinations.



MUSIC

Year 11 continues with the set areas of study, looking at world music this term. They will study African drumming, Indian rag and Gamelan from Indonesia. In performance they will start to record works and get their portfolio of performances prepared. Ensemble pieces will be recorded and dates have been given out to the student for each deadline. The second composition should be finished by the end of this term and deadlines for this are also with the students.

Students should be practicing their instrument and preparing for ensemble performances.

PE

In Year 11, the primary focus is participation, to encourage students to voluntarily select the activities that they wish to pursue and therefore, foster a positive attitude towards physical exercise. Once an individual is intrinsically motivated towards participation, a more holistic approach can successfully be nurtured, ensuring that the physical, mental and social aspects of a student's development are all addressed. Students will appreciate the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and discover their own aptitudes, abilities and preferences. Ultimately, they will make choices about becoming involved in lifelong physical activity as well as understanding the self-discipline needed for success throughout and beyond school life.

GCSE PE

- 1 Personal Exercise Programme
- 2 Analysis of movement

Practical moderation preparation

PHYSICS

Students will complete the IGCSE Physics course this term, which allows them plenty of time for revision and exam practice. The term begins with a study of radioactivity, including atomic and nuclear structure, radioactive decay, and the dangers and uses of this phenomenon. Particle physics is the last area to be considered. Students will sit a mock IGCSE examination immediately before the Spring Festival break which provides them with an excellent opportunity to try some new revision

Year 11 Programme of Study

techniques. There are plenty of resources on the VLE. Homework is set once a week and students should be using any extra time to look back over previous work and begin the revision process. To support them in their efforts the Science department is offering drop-in lunchtime sessions which will cover all year 10 material over the course of the term; all students are welcome to attend.

SCIENCE (Sheltered Curriculum)

Students continue to study a range of key ideas from each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Lessons aim to help students develop as much familiarity with core vocabulary as possible as well as acquainting them with some of the most important scientific concepts from the IGCSE specification. In Biology the students will study breathing, respiration and the circulatory system. Having then covered a significant number of the major organ systems, we will divert to the topic of genetics. In Chemistry students will study the Periodic Table, paying attention to the trends in the properties of the elements. This will be followed by the reactivity series which will allow them to develop their equation writing skills. The term will finish with mole and relative formula mass calculations. In Physics the work on electricity begun last term continues with the study of magnets. This will be followed by electromagnetism and the motor and generator effects. The applications of the ideas will be considered in relay circuits and the electric bell. The students will then be in a position to understand the workings of transformers. Homework is set for each subject once a week. 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.

