

YEAR 13 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, Subject Teacher or Head of Sixth Form. Parents are also invited to make an appointment to see Mr. MacRae if they wish to discuss any academic issues.

ART

During the next term Year 13 students will work on their final coursework piece preparation and they will also start working on their Related Study analysis. This will mean that they will be working on their coursework and Related Study at the same time. The students will further develop their practical skills and produce bigger size experiments using their chosen media. Going through the process of experimentation they will finalize the ideas that they would like to communicate. They will start working on their final piece towards the end of February to allow plenty of time before the coursework deadline.

BIOLOGY

Students are completing their preparations for the AQA Biology examinations this term. Miss Butcher's lessons will complete the study of photosynthesis and then consider energy and ecosystems, ecological succession and nutrient cycles. Mrs Fournier will start the term with homeostasis and then cover populations and feedback mechanisms. All the new material will be taught by the end of the term leaving plenty of time for students to revise and practise their examination technique. Students will sit a mock A2 examination before the Spring Festival break and they will also take two official A2 practical examinations (the 'ISA exams') during this term. A highlight of the term will be a residential field course in March. Homework is set regularly and students should also be spending time in private study, reading around the subject and practising exam questions. There is a wealth of support material on the VLE and we encourage students to seek help outside lessons, in person or through email, as needed.

BUSINESS STUDIES

In Term 2, students will study Unit 4 The Business Environment and Managing Change. It is a

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synoptic unit which means that it draws knowledge from other units studies through the A level Business Studies course. It considers the relationship between businesses and external factors and examines how these factors can impact upon businesses. It also analyses how businesses can manage change successfully and addresses themes such as leadership and corporate culture which are important to the strategic management of businesses.

All students are issued with a course textbook and a dictionary of key business studies terms with definitions (Complete A-Z Business Studies Handbook). They are also given a copy of the course specification which outlines in more detail the topics cover in each unit. References will also be provided to the relevant chapter in the textbook. There is also a wide range of resources available via the school learning network.

Parents should continue to encourage their children to watch the news regularly. Magazines such as the Businessweek or the Business Review are crucial to success in this subject at A2. Knowledge about current business issues will enable students to better link businesses in real life contexts to the questions asked on exams. Parents can also support their child by discussing current issues and the topics studied during class regularly.

CHEMISTRY

Students are completing their preparations for the AQA Chemistry examinations this term.

They will start the term finishing off Organic Chemistry before moving on to look at further Inorganic and Physical Chemistry topics. The main areas will be Thermodynamics, Redox Equilibria, Period 3 Elements, Transition Metals, finishing the term learning about reactions of Inorganic Compounds such as Lewis Acids.

All the new material will be taught by the end of the term leaving plenty of time for students to



revise and practise their examination technique. Students will sit a mock A2 examination before the Spring Festival break and they will also take two official A2 practical examinations (the 'ISA exams') during this term. Homework is set regularly and students should also be spending time in private study, reading around the subject and practising exam questions. *There is a wealth of support material on the VLE* and we encourage students to seek help outside lessons, in person or through email, as needed.

ECONOMICS

Students were introduced to Unit 4 The Global Economy in term 1. The knowledge and skills gained in Unit 2 are developed and applied to a global context. Students will learn to apply, analyse and evaluate economic models and to assess policies which could be used to solve economic problems.

An awareness of trends and developments in the global economy and within the UK over the last 10 years is required. Although analysis and discussion will take place during class, it is important that students continue to read the newspaper and watch the news to gain a wider understanding of current events. It is vital that parents continue to encourage their children to watch the news regularly. Magazines such as the Economist or the Economic Review are also helpful in preparation for exams and stimulate interest in the subject. They can also support their child by discussing current issues and the topics studied during class. Students will be assigned past papers regularly to develop exam skills and tests will assess whether or students are revising regularly and how well they grasp economic concepts. This term parents should discuss their child's progress with them and focus on results from past paper homework and tests.

All students are issued with a course textbook and a support textbook which is primarily used during class. They are also given a copy of the course specification which outlines in more detail the topics cover in each unit. References will also be provided to the relevant chapter in the textbook.

ENGLISH

Year 13 English Literature students will complete Units 3 and 4 of the A2 syllabus.

Unit 3 (Interpretations of Prose and Poetry) is an

examination unit that compares the texts *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, a post 1990 novel by Kate Atkinson and Chaucer's *Wife of Bath, Prologue and Tale*. Students will finish reading and studying the texts and begin to work on comparative essays. They will also begin to respond to unseen poetry and prose extracts and practise writing in timed conditions.

Unit 4 (Reflections in Literary Studies) is a coursework unit in which students will continue their studies of eccentric women throughout literature, using Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* as their core novel. They will complete their final draft before the end of term.

Students will also be revising *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Yellow Wallpaper* and seen and unseen poetry and prose for their Unit 1 exam resit.

Parents should encourage students to discuss the texts with them and read through their coursework draft to support them. In addition, they could encourage them to use Moodle as a communication tool with their teacher and peers.

FRENCH

Students will complete 2 topics over the course of the term.

The first topic focuses on moral dilemmas in the context of one's own life and society as a whole. The students will be encouraged to analyse and make moral judgments on such issues as, animal rights, modern day slavery, violence and the French judicial system. Grammatically, work will focus on modal verbs, and compound tenses such as the pluperfect, future perfect and conditional perfect.

The following topic focuses on the future in terms of technology, medical advancements and progress as a whole. The students will be encouraged to make comparisons between life in the past, present and the possible future and to speculate on the kind of world we may live in the future. Grammatically, work will focus on the use of the subjunctive and negative constructions.

GEOGRAPHY

This term students will be working through the final challenging units of Unit 3, The Contested planet, which looks at Superpower geographies, Bridging the development gap and the technological fix, whilst also exploring the



synopticity of Unit 3 by understanding the linkages between the units studied.

Following Unit 3, students will then move onto their Geographical research. This unit requires students to learn Geographical research techniques whilst concentrating on a subject area of their choice. In consultation with their teacher, they must design a research study or question on a particular theme and then explore a number of different methodologies and techniques by which to answer this question. There is an aspect of self management to this section and parents are encouraged to become actively involved with their child's project, asking question, monitoring progress and so on.

ICT

Students have almost finished receiving information related to the course content required to sit their theoretical assessments. Outstanding areas of study include Introducing large ICT systems into organisations, Training and supporting users and external and internal resources. Practical work continues with Mr Fall. Students will have to implement, test and evaluate their web solutions. When this is complete, time spent in ICT will be used to consolidate knowledge and understanding of the course content, with consideration being given to suitable case studies that can be used to support answers given in exam situations. Students will also be taught exam answering techniques to support them when they undertake their assessments. On the practical side, students will finalise their major project and make sure that their solution is consistently tested, evaluated and well documented. We have an excellent VLE facility which allows students to ask questions when they want to. Please encourage students to do so by asking them to show you the ICT A2 online course.

MANDARIN

Focusing on the new Edexcel A2 syllabus, and on the basis of extending the understanding of written response and their research skills in Chinese, Year 13 Mandarin students in Term 2, 2009/10 will carry on being fully challenged in their skills on reading, translation, essay writing and research based essay on the following topics: Food, diet and health; Transport, travel and tourism; Education and employment; Leisure, youth interests and Chinese festival; Environment, energy, pollution and environment campaigns.

By the end of this term, students will be expected to decide on their research essay topic; complete the framework of the essay and the final draft.

Mock exam in Feb. will allow above practice being assessed. More tailor-made revision plan will be given to each student according to the outcome of the mock exam.

Students are expected to logon to <http://vle.harrowbeijing.cn> for further resources and revision material.

MATHEMATICS

In January some students in Year 13 will be taking AS and A2 re-sits of modular examinations. The lessons for these have already happened but students should be putting the finishing touches to their revision and practicing past examination papers. The students will need to check the dates about the examinations that await.

Students will be continuing work on units that will be examined in May / June. It is imperative that students complete all homework on time and not leave revision for these examinations until the last minute. Completion of exercises now will lead to less stress later and revision needs to be a continuous and ongoing process. All students should aim to achieve the best possible grade for these modular examinations FIRST TIME; it leads to great stress for students who fall into the trap of re-sitting modules. We do not want to develop a culture of re-sitting Mathematics examinations at the school.

The units studied and hence content obviously depend upon many factors such as:

- 1 whether the student is studying Single Mathematics (one A level); or Single Mathematics + Further Mathematics (two A levels); or an AS in one of the above;
- 2 the units studied in Year 13 also depend upon the module choices that were made in Year 12 (for example if the student chose Decision Mathematics or Mechanics);

For these reasons, it is impractical to write down all possible permutations of module choices in this newsletter. Please discuss the modules and content with your son / daughter and email or call his / her Mathematics Teacher if you require further explanation:



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PERFORMING ARTS

In this second term, students will select a play script and create a performance based on their choice of text. They will be expected to take responsibility for all aspects of the performance and work as though they are a professional theatre company. They will also complete their careers in the arts research unit where they should take a short work placement and assess their suitability to the researched position. As part of the Drama department's commitment to cultural diversity these skills will be taught using varied stimuli. Local and regional artistic centres will be visited and examined in order to supplement our student's learning.

PE

In Year 13, 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.

PHYSICS

Students are completing their preparations for the

AQA Physics A examinations this term. First they will consider radioactivity and nuclear physics; then we change focus to study thermal physics and ideal gases. After the Spring Festival break we will study for the option paper. This does allow students to choose to self-study a topic to suit their individual preferences but any such decisions should be discussed with Mrs Justham well in advance. All the new material will be taught by the end of the term leaving plenty of time for students to revise and practise their examination technique. Students will sit a mock A2 examination before the Spring Festival break and they will also take two official A2 practical examinations (the 'ISA exams') during this term. Homework is set regularly and students should also be spending time in private study, reading around the subject and practising exam questions. There is a wealth of support material on the VLE and we encourage students to take the opportunities provided to get support outside lessons as needed.

SPANISH

Students will complete 2 topics over the course of the term.

The first topic focuses on the Arts. Students will study Spanish music trends, Spanish art and architecture, Spanish cinema and some aspects of the cultural customs of Spain and Latin America. They will revise all the major tenses used and studied thus far: the preterite and imperfect, the perfect tense, the future, the conditional and the present subjunctive.

The following topic focuses on moral dilemmas in the context of one's own life and society as a whole. The students will be encouraged to analyse and make moral judgments on such issues as the rights of women, euthanasia, immigration and the rights of native Indians in Mexico. Grammatically, work will focus on the compound tenses such as the pluperfect, future perfect and conditional perfect.

