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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Directors: Mrs R Smith and Mrs J Gardiner
Headteacher: Ms S Dangerfield



September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 9! We had a lovely week of learning last week; Miss Miller, Mr Booker and I feel very excited about the term ahead and are looking forward to getting to know our brilliant new class better.

If you would like to support your child's learning at home, we thought it would be helpful for you to have a more detailed idea of what we are learning about...

Hidden Figures

English and History will be connected this Half Term - on the theme 'Hidden Figures and Women in History'. We will be looking at the story of the women who helped to put the first rocket into space, exploring the power of the spoken word and how to be persuasive! We will be finding out about segregation and discrimination throughout different periods of history and the impact they have had on individuals and groups of people. We will research key Women from History including the Suffragettes and explore what impact they have made on the word as we now know it. As a part of our learning, we will look at excerpts from the film Hidden Figures. It is a brilliant family film and it would be great if you wanted to watch the full length feature together at home.

You can always help by reading together, either aloud or just encouraging them to make time to read at home. We will be using the school library regularly and will also have a book box which relates to our learning in the classroom. The best homework is to read regularly and this will have the greatest impact on progress, regardless of how fluently your child is able to read.

Philosophy and Ethics

We will be exploring the concept of Human Rights. We will be exploring the idea that rights have responsibilities associated with them and sometimes we have to decide whose rights take a priority.

Geography

We will be exploring Climate Change and what we can do to protect our world. Any of the David Attenborough documentaries would be helpful to watch and the website Earthwatch Europe is really informative too.

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/>

Interventions

Our focus is on Self-concept, Mental Health and Well Being. We will be exploring many different areas of Personal Development, building on our Speech and Language skills and discovering new memory Aides. Within the first couple of weeks, we will be setting personal targets and recording them in planners - please do have a look and let us know if you see anything at home which supports the target.

Maths

We recognise the diversity of our students and the support that is needed to develop mathematical fluency, reasoning and potential in each student. In order to achieve this, Maths is taught in “Stages” (based on students’ current mathematical understanding) rather than in year groups. This allows teaching to be focused at a level appropriate to students and allows teachers to support any gaps in understanding, misconceptions and allows for consolidation of topics. Across the stages, this term focuses on the core concepts of place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. Underpinning this is our aim to develop each student’s confidence, fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Science

In Science this half-term Year 9 will be studying the topic Forces at Work. This topic builds on previous learning about forces, and contains key ideas that feature in the Physics part of GCSE Combined Science. As always we will have a big focus on the keywords and knowledge required to understand the topic, but also development of scientific thinking skills through practical activities.

Art

In Art lessons, year 9s will be exploring the theme ‘Perspective and Surrealism’. An understanding of 1 and 2 point perspective will be taught in relation to the Art movement of Surrealism. The idea that an imaginary piece of art is very much linked to observation and the real world will be emphasised through the investigation of the artists Magritte and Dali.

PE

In practical PE this half term year 9 students will be learning about football and dodgeball. In football they will work on skills such as passing, shooting and dribbling. In dodgeball they will work on skills such as throwing, dodging, catching and blocking.

Music

In Music this term, year 9 will be exploring performance through Boomwhackers using the pentatonic, major and chromatic scales. We will also spend time working together to compose music using the scales we have learnt.

Computer Science

In Computer Science we will be learning about writing algorithms and how they are the basis of all computer programming languages. We will start to link algorithms to pseudocode and then to a programming language.

Drama

In Drama this term year 9 will be developing their drama skills and exploring emotions through performing arts.

Homework

In Year 9, homework will be encouraged but optional. It has the most impact when it is relevant and curriculum related and whenever possible, we will seek to ensure it relates to some aspect of our classroom learning. Homework will be shared on Google classroom and we will print copies for students who have trouble accessing Google classroom from home. Please speak to me if you think your child could manage more or needs less!

If you have any questions, or want to let us know about anything your young person is achieving or concerned about outside of school or at home, please do get in touch. We will be delighted to work together and it is very important to us to see your whole child, not just their school bit!

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Ms Jones (Class Teacher) Miss Miller and Mr Booker (TAs).