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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

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9th January 2025

Year 9 Curriculum Newsletter

A **Happy New Year** to all the Year 9 families! Miss Miller, Mr Booker, the Year Nine team and myself are very much looking forward to a new term of teaching our class. Thank you for all the lovely messages and gifts you sent at the end of last term, we were very touched and enjoyed opening them on Christmas morning!

This term, we will start to look at **Options** ready for Key Stage Four and help students to make choices that they will find interesting and purposeful for their futures.

In **Humanities** we will be studying **World War One**, focusing on the causes and tensions that built up to it, life in the trenches and how War impacted on the Home Front. As you know, we like to draw links across the curriculum and our **English** focus will be the study of a novel called **Private Peaceful** by Michael Morpurgo and exploring some of the **War Poets**. This is also good preparation for GCSE English Literature.

BBC Bitesize has some good resources to build understanding of WW1, we will use some of these during lessons, but it would be helpful to have a read at home too.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/search?d=BITESIZE&q=World+War+1>

Our trip to see the **baby seals** at Horsey in January will complete our study of the Norfolk coastline and provide some awe and wonder about the natural world. Mrs Lamb will be looking at Africa and building on what we learned through African Literature before Christmas.

Other subjects will cover:

Maths

In Maths we will be looking at the topics of Addition and Subtraction as well as Multiplication and Division. Students will continue to work on Maths in the groups that provide them with the right amount of challenge and support. Students are able to practice their times tables using TTRockstars (the link is included below).

<https://trockstars.com/>

Science

In Science this half-term Year 9 will be studying the topic Materials and Reactions. This Chemistry topic gives students an opportunity to complete a range of chemical reactions with links to chemicals that are commonly used in everyday life or in industry.

PSHE

We will develop an understanding of what makes healthy relationships and where to find help if relationships become difficult.

Art

In Art lessons, year 9s will be introduced to the art movement 'Cubism' to compare and contrast with their previous studies into 'Surrealism'. They will learn about its development into abstract art and how it is used in the wider field of design for everyday living. Students can find out more about Cubism using this link : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmncdnb>

Drama

Characterisation and script writing. This term we will be looking at creating characters and scenes using the book *Private Peaceful*, which they are studying in English, as the stimuli.

Music

In year 9 music this term we will be looking at Blues music and learning to improvise over a chord structure. We will use a variety of instruments such as keyboards and ukuleles as well as using musical software and developing our listening skills. We will be listening to artists such as Miles Davis, Bessie Smith and B.B. King.

PE

Year 9 Practical 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.

Computing

The focus this half term will move to data Science which will involve learning how to organise data on spreadsheets as well as how to collect and store useful data during a survey. We will then work on designing presentations to help to display the results of our data collection exercises.

Philosophy and Ethics

This half term we will be completing our module on animal rights with a debate on the topic of animal testing. Then we will be exploring attitudes to war from different worldviews including non-religious ones.

Homework

To help your child at home, please keep encouraging them to read and record this in their planners so they can access the reward scheme. We have a curriculum related book box in the classroom and they can visit the library regularly to choose books. You can also help with spelling by looking at the spelling pages in the planner and learning a few each week.

Homework will be set weekly - via Google Classroom. It will be curriculum related. This is optional, but strongly encouraged.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do make contact.

sjones@allsaintslessingham.co.uk or via the school office.

Ms Jones, Ms Miller and Mr Booker.