



# **HOLYWELL SCHOOL**

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

**FOR**

**YEAR 7**

**2017 - 2018**

Dear Parents,

After a busy and successful Year 6, our pupils are now involved in the next Key Stage, which will take them through Years 7 and 8 and onto the Upper School in Year 9 and the Key Stage 3 SATs.

This booklet has been produced in order to build on the strong partnership between school and home that we enjoyed last year by providing you with a clear (and brief) overview of the curriculum that your child will be experiencing.

## ENGLISH



In Year 7 pupils will develop an appreciation and love of reading and read increasingly challenging texts. They will read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They will also read short stories and poems and a selection of literature from around the world. They will improve their vocabulary and learn to respond critically to texts.

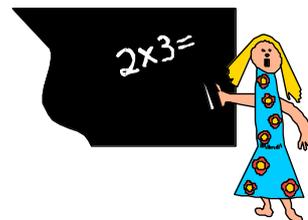
They will continue to improve their writing so they can write accurately, fluently and effectively. Their writing will become more extended and they will be taught to write well-structured formal essays, narratives, arguments and letters. The explicit teaching of grammar, spelling and punctuation will continue and will help them to structure effective writing.

There is also a strong emphasis on speaking and listening skills in year seven where pupils will learn to speak confidently in group and formal situations; to use expression and vocabulary to engage an audience and to be aware of the differences between standard and non-standard English.

The main units of study for Year 7 pupils are:

- Holes – Major study of a contemporary author
- Fantasy Worlds - Exploring different text types to describe an imaginative world
- Radio Shows - Studying the basic elements of good KS3 Speaking and Listening
- Skellig - A major study of a novel by a significant author - close, critical analysis of text
- Journalistic writing - major project based on local news - non-fiction texts
- Second Major Novel - Study of a range of important contemporary fiction
- Seminal World literature - looking at extracts of classic literature from around the world - including major study of Mark Twain
- Poetry unit - War Poetry
- Genre studies - Science Fiction/ Modern Fairy Tales & Traditional Stories

## MATHS



### **Autumn:**

We will learn about place value and applying this to counting and comparing numbers. We will calculate with integers, fractions and decimals and construct 3d shapes. We will start to study more in depth algebra and develop our knowledge of ratio, proportion and fractions, decimals and percentages.

### **Spring:**

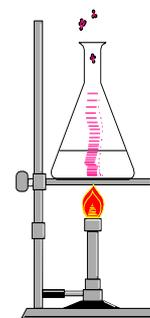
We will be revisiting algebra and number skills. We will investigate measures and angles and introduce key concepts of probability. We will learn about statistics and further our knowledge of fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and proportion.

### **Summer:**

We will look at algebra and how this can relate to geometry and transformations, such as reflection, rotation, enlargement and translation. We will also investigate measures, statistics and probability. Finally, we will complete functional skills projects which will help pupils prepare for Year 8.

## SCIENCE

Pupils in Year 7 will study topics from the new Key Stage 3 Curriculum. They have three lessons a week delivered by specialist teachers. Pupils in Year 7 will be studying the Collins KS3 programme of study. They are taught in form groups. Lessons are divided between practical work, investigations and theoretical work.



<b>Term 1a</b>	<b>Term 1b</b>	<b>Term 2a</b>	<b>Term 2b</b>	<b>Term 3a</b>	<b>Term 3b</b>
Cells – Building blocks of life	Eating, breathing and drinking	Forces and their effects	Energy transfer and sounds	Mixing, dissolving and separating	Elements, compounds and reactions

All learners in Science will be provided with both their effort grades and progress steps after each assessment piece. This will be reported to parents. This assessment progress grade will be based on teacher marked tasks, formal exams and practical work. Students will complete an assessment every half term. Formal examinations will take place in the summer term.

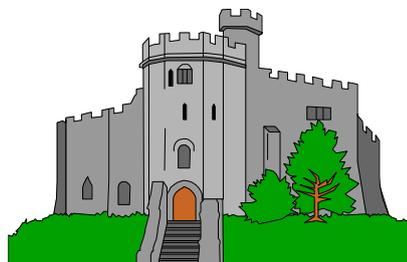
The Science department will use a **DISH THE DIRT** format every half term. The DISH THE DIRT will focus on their half termly assessment and feedback. DISH THE DIRT is a week-long reflection on the progress over the whole of the half term.

## **HISTORY**

History helps pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. In lessons we develop pupil's ability to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

In Year 7 History we study the development of Church, state and society in Medieval Britain 1066-1485 e.g. the Norman Conquest, Christendom, the importance of religion and the Crusades, the struggle between Church and crown, the Magna Carta and the emergence of Parliament. We also learn about society, economy and culture of the time for example, feudalism, religion in daily life (parishes, monasteries, abbeys), farming, trade and towns.

We will look at significant events such as the Black Death, the Peasants' Revolt and the Wars of the Roses. After Easter we again begin to study the development of Church, state and society in Britain but during the later period of 1485-1603 (this theme continues into Year 8). We look at Henry VII's attempts to restore stability, the English Reformation and Counter Reformation (Henry VIII to Mary I) and the Elizabethan religious settlement and conflict with Catholics.



## GEOGRAPHY

During year 7 we will be covering the following topics:

- Map skills: This unit of work develops what pupils learned in year 5 and is based around OS maps.
- Food miles: An investigation into where our food comes from. Answering the question of what, where and why we import more than half the food we eat.
- Tourism: Tourism is the largest and fastest growing industry in the world. Pupils will look at an established tourist location looking at why it has been so successful and a developing tourist industry.
- Settlement: Pupils will investigate how the different sort of settlement and why different towns developed in different ways. Before looking at how and why Milton Keynes was built in such a way.



## FRENCH

In French this year the children will be building on the language learnt in year 6 and will be introduced to verbs in the past tense and future tense. They will be practising listening, speaking, reading and writing French within specific topic areas.



Over the course of the year topic areas will include holidays, France as a tourist destination and family and home. They will be learning the past tense through talking about what they did last weekend and in the summer term will be learning transactional language in shops.

## R.E.

We begin the year with a detailed study of Islam; finding out how and why the religion began and looking at the life of Mohammad and the role of the Qur'an and Sunnah. We then consider how being a Muslim affects your life by learning about the 5 pillars of Islam and finally we think about the importance of the mosque to Muslim worship.



In the Spring term we study the unit: Salvation. In this unit we will consider what happens when we die, the possibility of life after death and ideas of heaven and hell. We move on to examine Jesus' teaching about forgiveness of sins and

salvation before looking in depth at how Jesus' death is believed to have saved mankind.

We end the year by considering love versus prejudice and discrimination. We identify what is meant by these terms and examine Christian teaching related to this. We find out what different religions do to try to end prejudice and discrimination. This unit has a more ethics based approach and is an introduction to the more philosophical nature of RE that is taught in Year 8

## **I.C.T.**

Year 7 student will cover 4 main modules of work in ICT. These modules will build on their work from year 6.



Students will take an extended module using Scratch which develops their programming skills in an interesting graphical format. They will continue to develop their spreadsheet and control skills using Excel and Flowol. They will use a 3D program to explore some of the different elements of developing a computer game. Each module of work will end with an on screen test which will help to assess learning. Scratch is a free program and we encourage students to use it at home.

## **ART**

In Year 7 this year, artists will be studying 'Portraiture' in a variety of forms. They will develop their painting, drawing, collage and sculpture skills; whilst enhancing their understanding of the form and structure of the human face. Artists will be inspired by Cubism and architectural forms, such as Gargoyles.

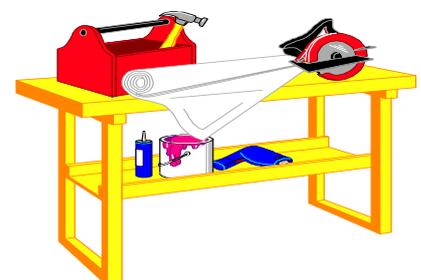


## **DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

Design Technology is a whole curriculum subject, applying learning from other subjects. It gives breadth and balance in the school experience, develops life skills and broadens career horizons.

In Year 7 they will study:

- Safety in the working environment
- Planning and development of designs
- 3D drawing techniques
- Graphic skills and Presentation techniques



- Controlling dyes on textiles
- Hand stitching and embroidery techniques
- Sewing machine skills
- Evaluation of their own and others' work
- The use of ICT for designing and cutting of materials
- Hygienic working practices
- Food groups and nutrition
- Modifying recipes
- Analysing products
- Marking out and cutting of materials
- Workshop machines
- Evaluation and development of their designs

In addition, pupils will complete a number of 'design and make' tasks throughout the year.

## P.E.

Holywell provides all pupils with 2 hours of timetable high quality curriculum PE every week and are offered a varied range of extra-curricular clubs. Units of work will last between 6-8 lessons so pupils will get the opportunity to participate in a vast variety of different sports and activities.



## Autumn & Spring Terms

<b>Football</b>	<b>Netball</b>	<b>Hockey</b>
<b>Gymnastics</b>	<b>Adventure and Challenge</b>	<b>Alternative Sports</b>
<b>Health and Fitness</b>	<b>Rugby</b>	<b>Basketball</b>

## Summer Term

During this term the activities covered are:

<b>Athletics</b>	<b>Tennis</b>
<b>Rounders</b>	<b>Cricket</b>



There are a wide range of extra curricular activities which support the Physical Education curriculum. These clubs are open to all who wish to attend.

## MUSIC

Music at Holywell is fun, accessible to everyone and gives opportunities to celebrate the creative and performing talents of our pupils. We aim to:

- Encourage all pupils to participate in a wide range of practical activities
- Give opportunities to children to learn to play a variety of instruments
- Enable children to express thoughts, ideas and emotions through creating their own music
- Enable children to appreciate a wide variety of different musical styles and cultures
- Provide performance opportunities for children in and outside school to a variety of audiences
- Provide opportunities for musically gifted children to excel
- Provide equal opportunities for all children
- Develop a love and appreciation of music for life.



The department coordinates a wide range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year including, orchestra, Rock School, Ukulele Group, Choir, Samba Band, keyboard club and a host of other lunchtime and after school activities that change throughout the year. We enjoy celebrating our talents by organising concerts, both in school and in the community including carol services at our local church as well as other concerts throughout the year.

We have a wealth of visiting instrumental teachers and over 120 children take instrumental tuition in school. Music is a lively area and we enjoy a high profile in the school and community.

In year 7 music our pupils will build upon skills learned in key stage 2 and use them to explore new areas for example:

- Indian Music
- Blues Music
- Impressionism
- Singing in parts
- Performing on the keyboard using chords, and baselines
- Composing music from different stimuli (eg pictures, poems, colours, graphics)
- Composing complex rhythm patterns and performing them
- Listening to and evaluating a wide variety of music
- Composing and arranging music notating using ICT resources

Pupils will be involved in recording and assessing their own work as well as evaluating the performances of others. Our activities are mainly practical and all pupils who learn instruments are encouraged to use them in the classroom.

## **DRAMA**

In Year 7 Drama, the students focus on building the basic skills needed to put together a performance – using voice, movement, gesture and facial expressions to create a well-rounded character. They will go through a variety of exercises that encourage them to create pieces of drama in groups, thinking about the progression of the performance and making staging judgements. The students then go on to use these skills to direct a scene from a script. This final project should be a culmination of all the skills learnt and practiced throughout the year.



## **CITIZENSHIP AND PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION**

PSHCE develops pupil's personal, social, health and economic awareness and capabilities as well as ensuring that they are aware of their role in the community and how they can effect positive change.

In the Autumn term we begin by considering how we can make a difference in the community, looking at Human Rights (specifically children's rights) and personal safety with regards to the internet and bullying.

In the Spring term we continue by refreshing our first aid skills and considering careers educational and managing money.

We complete the year in the Summer term by Physical and Emotional Health in terms of influences around us and the effects of alcohol. We also deliver an SRE topic covering puberty and personal hygiene (please note there will be an information evening in the summer term which you will be invited to attend in order to find out more about the SRE curriculum).



Thank you for taking the time to read this overview. Hopefully it has given you an insight into the main topics that constitute the Year 7 curriculum.

Please could you continue to sign the personal organisers every week. They are an important point of contact between the school and home. Therefore, please feel free to use them to communicate with us. Please could you also encourage as much reading as possible at home and sign the reading record every second week.

We hope that you will continue to support and help your child with homework. Full information is contained in the 'Homework at Holywell' booklet and a homework timetable is written in your child's organiser, together with other pieces of useful information. Subject Heads will supply your child with full written details of any important assessment tasks.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any queries or problems that arise with your child's education.

Yours sincerely

*A. Norman*

Miss A Norman  
Key Stage 3 Manager