

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum; our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, interesting and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the 'Curriculum and Learning' tab. You will also find links to your child's learning manager page where we are building up a bank of additional resources and information relevant to your child's stage of learning.

The table below outlines what is being studied during Half Term 4 in Year 8 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Content this half term</u>	<u>Assessments</u>
English	Relationships and Conflict in Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet) and Exploring Victorian England through Reading Comprehension.	Formative and summative assessment.
Maths	Brackets, Equations and Inequalities, Sequences (Nth Term), Indices (squares, cubes, roots and rules of), Standard Index Form, Working with Fractions and Percentages.	End of Topic Tests and Progress Monitoring Tasks
Science	The term students will be looking at chemical reactions 2 (Thermal decomposition, word equations, combustion) and organisms 2 (breathing and digesting).	
MFL	French: Health & healthy living Grammar: "you have to/must", near-future tense verb structures German: Jobs & work Grammar: third person structures, future and conditional tense verb structures, comparative and superlatives Spanish: School Grammar: comparative and superlative structures, verb structures in three tenses	End of unit assessments: Vocab, translation and extended writing
Technology	Students will undertake a range of CAD, practical and design exercises in order to develop their DT skills.	Some homework tasks set in line with the topic undertaken where appropriate.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Food science - raising agents and how ingredients work. Food from around the world - Exploring how immigration and migration influences and enriches cuisines.	
Music	The students are doing a complex project on Blues Music using a range of different instruments.	They will complete a compositional task and then an individual listening assignment.
Art	Students will explore mark making techniques and make paper birds inspired by the craftwork by artist Clare Youngs.	Formative and summative assessment
Drama	ASBO - students will explore a scripted piece and engage in group	They will create and

	performances further developing their creation and rehearsal skills, performance and communication skills and their reflection and analysis skills.	participate in a group performance, individually marked.
PE	Students will be exploring Volleyball and Fitness this half term. Developing their knowledge of the rules of competition, the skills required and also some basic tactics to outwit the opposition. In Fitness we explore methods & principles of training and target zones.	
Computer Science/IT	We will move from teaching Python coding to taking them through the world of spreadsheets - how to use functions and graph and then interpret their results.	End of unit assessments and ebook vocab
History	Students will be exploring a chronological SOW assessing people's jobs through time. Students will explore a 1000 years of history and answer 2 main questions - 1: What jobs did people do and how did they change over time, and 2: How did the government supported people through this process.	PEE Paragraph Writing Interactive parent surveys Knowledge recall quiz
Geography	Landscapes of the World. In this unit we look at the formation of different landscapes around the UK including Rivers, Coasts and Glaciation and this impact of Humans on these landscapes.	PEE Paragraph Writing. Knowledge Recall Quiz
RS	We are coming to the end of the Christianity Module and will be starting a brand new module for this year - Sikhism. Sikhism is the youngest of the world faiths and develops on from the knowledge gained in the Buddhism Module. We look at the history of the Sikh migration to the UK after WW2 as well as the Amritsar Massacre in the early 1900s. We identify what it means to be a Sikh in the UK, today and maintain strong religious values.	End of topic exam. Mid point book check - progress task Every lesson students will have a recall test. It is strongly advised to use the knowledge organiser to support this.

In addition to subject-based assessments, in this half term we also conduct some baseline transition tests in literacy and numeracy.

In the coming weeks, you can support your child in a number of ways:

- ★ Check that your child is keeping up with their homework, this will be set through the Google Classroom and will include a clear deadline.
- ★ Use the Google Classroom to check that your child has what they need in their book, you can sit together and go through the lessons to see that they finished the work
- ★ Speak to your child about what they are doing – this could be through asking them what they have done and what knowledge they can remember from the lesson.
- ★ Encourage your child to read for pleasure and ensure they always have their book with them in school for our 5 minutes reading time at the start of every lesson.
- ★ Ensure that they have regular breaks from homework and get a good night's sleep – work in chunks of time, turn off mobile phones and devices at least one hour in advance of going to bed

- ★ Encourage hobbies and interests which are not technology based
- ★ Let children be bored; this is when creativity occurs and reveals their talents

We hope you find this information useful and your child is enjoying learning with us at HCCS.

Kind regards,
Helena Connolly
Progress Lead: Disadvantaged Students
Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School