

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 9 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Content this half term	Assessments
English	Studying an Anthology of poems and Exploring the context of our anthology poems through Reading Comprehension	Formative and summative assessments
Maths	Rotation and Translation, Representing Data inc. Scatter Graphs, Frequency Tables, and Two-Way Tables, Measures of Location and Rates inc. Speed, Distance Time, Pressure and Density	End of Topic Tests and Progress Monitoring Tasks
Science	This term students will begin to look at some of the key concepts and ideas that shape biology, chemistry and physics (cells and cell structure, Energy & the chemistry of the atmosphere.	End of topic tests
MFL	<p>French: Festivals Grammar: present, future and conditional tense verb structures, third person verbs, comparative and superlative structures</p> <p>German: Self, family & friends Grammar: third person opinions, reflexive verb phrases, idiomatic phrases, intensifiers, sentence word order</p> <p>Spanish: Home town & local area Grammar: comparative and superlative structures, verb structures in three tenses</p>	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	<p>Mini NEA1 - An opportunity for students to explore a GCSE style NEA1.</p> <p>Food Provenance - Students explore the ethics of different types of food production.</p>	
Music	The students are studying Film Music and will be creating bespoke music for a scene	They will complete a compositional task and then an individual listening assignment.
Art	Students will produce a geometric art style animal portrait that evidences their understanding of different ways of shading seen in	Formative and summative assessment

	the pen work of illustrator Kerby Rosannes.	
Drama	Let Him Have It - A Case of British Injustice - exploring the case of Derek Bentley through devised performance. Students will utilise the facts surrounding the case to inform their work. An opportunity for collaboration in rehearsal and development of performance skills and repertoire alongside enhancing their reflection and analysis skills.	They will create and participate in a group performance, individually marked.
PE	Students will be discussing life skills that enable them to pass the Life Skills Award. This is a booklet on the google classroom in which students are expected to complete. Section 1 & 2 should be completed by Easter.	
History	2nd half of the Music & 20th century unit: Particular focus on the assessment on the comparison of Motown & 1960s v Hip Hop & 1990s.	Comparing 1960s v 1990s. Source based questions.
Geography	The Living World. We study different ecosystems and their key characteristics; the theory behind why ecosystems are different across the world and the impact that Humans have on these ecosystems. We also explore the challenges and opportunities for people in these ecosystems.	Regular exam questions assessed; knowledge recall tests. Regular assessments throughout the unit.
RS	We have started a brand new module which mirrors the theological and philosophical approach of the ALevel. We have asked the question "Does God Exist" and we will examine the evidence both for and against God's existence, encouraging students to have both an enquiring and critical mind. Within this 'evidence' we explore the cosmological and teleological arguments, assessing rebuttals from Darwin and modern day science. We look at the evidence from religious experience and miracles, near death experiences and conversion. Moving forward after this we will be looking at a more ethical approach to R.S, through social justice issues such as poverty and wealth.	An end of topic exam. Mid point progress task Recall checks every lesson - for this we strongly encourage students to utilise the knowledge organisers provided for them.

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