



Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Dear Parent/Carer,

We previously wrote to you explaining what the students had been learning in each curriculum area. Here are the details for each subject for this half term, 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 5 in Year 8 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Content this half term	Assessments
English	Exploring conflict through Shakespeare- 'Having a Voice' in poetry and NF writing	Formative and summative
Maths	<p>8X1-4 and 8Y1-4 Indices and Standard Form Unit: Knowledge includes converting between ordinary, index and standard forms, using index laws to multiply, divide and perform calculations, extension opportunities to negative and fractional indices with standard form. Fractions and Percentages Unit: Convert between fractions, decimals and percentages, use multipliers to calculate a percentage of an amount with a calculator, perform calculations using percentages greater than 100% and calculate percentage change.</p> <p>8X5 - Sequences Unit: (including types of and generalising), Calculations using Fractions and Percentages Unit</p> <p>8Y5 - Brackets, Equations and Inequalities, Indices and Standard Form, Fractions and Percentages.</p>	End of Unit Mini Assessments
Science	<p>Reactions 2 - Students will begin to identify what the reactants and products are in a chemical reaction, and how heat affects the reaction. The students will then understand the difference between an endothermic and exothermic reaction and how catalysts affect a reaction.</p> <p>Organisms 2 - Students will embed their knowledge of the respiratory system and learn how pressure changes are involved in the mechanisms of breathing. They will relate their knowledge of diffusion to the structure and function of the lungs and the importance of oxygen absorption. Students will then go on to relate the importance of a balanced diet and why enzymes are needed in the digestive system for the effective absorption of food molecules.</p>	End of topic tests

MFL	<p>French: body parts, illness phrases, giving advice, opinion phrases and adjectives to describe healthy habits and lifestyles structures - "you have to/must", near-future tense verb structures verbs - to have, to be, to hurt, to eat, to do</p> <p>German: opinion phrases and adjectives to describe jobs, job responsibilities, work places, future plans, daily routine structures - third person structures, future and conditional tense verb structures, comparative and superlatives verbs - to work, to be, to go</p> <p>Spanish: opinion phrases and adjectives to describe school subjects and teachers, school facilities, transport structures - comparative and superlative structures, verb structures in three tenses verbs - to study, to have, "there is"</p>	Ongoing formative assessments and end of topic tests.
Computer Science	This term the Year 8 will move from looking at spreadsheets to a unit that looks at Computer Hardware. We will explain the mechanics of the circuit board and the nature of the computer chip and how it works.	The unit is assessed by the completion of website that shows their understanding of the material.
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	Healthy lifestyles including balanced meals, diet-related diseases, energy needs and nutritional analysis.	Practical assessment
Music	Suites	Performance and End of Unit Assessment
Art	To ensure correct quantities of learning resources are available students will either: build on their knowledge of successful design drawing experience from within the curriculum & develop paper & card 3D work using more advanced construction skills than in the yr 7 insect project to make a mask that links to knowledge of Native American art/culture OR Using a starting point of the contextual study of artist/craft/designer Clare Youngs. Students will produce a series of responses using their knowledge of: mark making/drawing/designing learnt in previous projects. This exploration of mixed media leads into building on prior knowledge of paper collage skills explored in yr7.	ongoing formative/summative feedback given by class teacher
Drama	assessment	Pupils to be assessed on a script they have been studying
PE	Techniques, tactics & composition across a variety of sports. Knowledge and understanding of health & fitness. Introduction to character exam action and its value in sport.	Every 4 weeks on different aspects of physical literacy.
History	First World War	Essay: Causes of the First World War
Geography	Geography of Disease	Decision Making Exercise about Cholera in the developing world
RS	Critical Thinking	Self evaluation
Enrichment	Retrieval Practice RAG rating core knowledge	N/A



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

Associate Assistant Headteacher: Progress and Intervention

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