

**Thematic Overview / Year 9 / Autumn 1**

**2016-2017**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Please find attached our Thematic Overview for Year 9 Autumn 1.

As explained in my welcome letter, this year’s Thematic Overviews refer to the YLOs (Yearly Learning Objectives) for the three core subjects (English First Language, Mathematics and Science) covered this half term at Key Stage 3. You will be able to find the complete list of YLOs for the academic year in your child’s Communication Book as soon as the subject teachers have completed their class discussions on how to use them to inform next learning steps.

I would like to take the opportunity of this booklet to highlight the importance of daily school work and Home Learning routines, healthy diet and regular sleep pattern on a child’s achievement.

We hope that this Thematic Overview will give you a clear picture of the work being carried out by your child in school and enable you to facilitate their learning at home.

The activities being carried out encourage your child to review past learning, access and retain new knowledge, as well as develop and practise a variety of key skills to prepare them for ambitious goals.

Yours sincerely

Ms L. Gonzalès

Head of Secondary

**English** --------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**First Language**

This year, the students will be beginning their IGCSE English Language course. This will consist of producing three pieces of coursework and being introduced to the reading exam. They will also be spending one lesson per week preparing for their Cambridge Checkpoint exam. They will be briefly introduced to the Literature course, but will not be properly starting their Literature IGCSE until Year 10. They will be completing question one of a past paper in October, and question two and three later in the year. Towards the end of the year, they will complete an entire mock reading examination paper.

Yearly Learning Objectives covered:

* Demonstrate understanding of explicit meanings.
* Demonstrate understanding of implicit meanings and attitudes.
* Analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions.
* Demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve effects.
* Articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined.
* Sequence facts, ideas and opinions.
* Use a range of appropriate vocabulary.
* Use register appropriate to audience and context.
* Make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

**Second Language**

The students will be following the Cambridge Global English curriculum as part of their preparation for external assessments at the end of the academic year and Key Stage 4. This half term, the students will cover topics including personal appearance, moods and feelings, and music of the world. Each topic is designed to broaden the students’ vocabulary and help develop their language skills to a highly-functional standard.

Key Objectives covers:

* Listen to words and phrases while someone speaks.
* Listen to interviews and show an understanding of key points in the conversation.
* Use a varied vocabulary.
* Use abstract nouns in their writing.
* Listen to an extended discussion and show an understanding of what has been said.

**Mathematics** ----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This year, the students will work towards two official exam weeks. They will also have regular exams hosted in class to review learning over shorter time scales. This is all to benchmark and feedback to your child as well as yourself the progress and areas of development that need further support to establish mathematically-able and confident students. In support of this, the students will be studying the following this half term:

Yearly Learning Objectives covered:

* Plot the graphs of simple linear functions in the form y = mx + c in four quadrants.
* Set up equations to show direct proportion.
* Use expressions of the form y α x.
* Know that the gradient of a line is the change in y over change in x.
* Generate points and plot graphs of simple quadratic functions, then more general functions.
* Find the reciprocal of simple numbers/fractions mentally, e.g. 10 and 1/10, 1/3 and 3 etc.

**Science** --------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term, the students will continue to enhance their knowledge and understanding of various topics in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Year Learning Objectives will help the students to be prepared for Y9 expectations and it is absolutely essential for them to have thoroughly understood them. Continual effort will help prepare them for the Checkpoint exams in April from the beginning of the year.

Yearly Learning Objectives covered:

Scientific enquiry
*Plan investigative work*

* Decide which measurements and observations are necessary and what equipment to use keeping in mind the hazards in laboratory, field or workplace.

*Obtain and present evidence*

* Make sufficient observations and measurements to reduce error, make results more reliable by use of range of materials and equipment, and control risks.

Chemistry

*Material Properties*

* Describe the structure of an atom and learn about the methods and discoveries of Rutherford. Talk about the contribution of scientists.
* Compare the structures of the first twenty elements of the Periodic Table and describe trends in groups and periods.

Biology

*Plants*

* Define and describe photosynthesis, and understand the importance of water and mineral salts to plant growth.
* Understand reproduction in flowering plants, including pollination, fertilisation, seed formation and dispersal.

Physics

*Forces and motion*

* Explain that pressure is caused by the action of a force on an area and explain pressures in gases and liquids (qualitative only).
* Determine densities of solids, liquids and gases.
* Know that forces can cause objects to turn on a pivot and understand the principle of moments.

**Humanities** -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term, the students will learn:

* To comprehend and explain what an ecosystem is.
* To list the components of an ecosystem.
* To comprehend and describe the meaning of adaptation.
* To understand how humans fit into an ecosystem.
* To understand what the Savanna is and where in the world it can be found.
* To discuss why soil is so important to farmers.
* To describe and explain what a rainforest is.
* To explore how animals adapt to a rainforest.
* To investigate life of indigenous people of the rainforest.
* To assess the impact of deforestation.

The study of ecosystems is vital for our students to gain a better understanding of the world around them and how they can affect it. Along other smaller assessed tasks, the students will produce a project during the term, which will count for thirty percent of their grade, and complete an end-of-unit test, which will count for the other seventy percent.

**Hindi** ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term the students will work on:

* Revision and vocabulary taught in the classroom.
* Understanding the written forms of Hindi within defined contexts.
* Developing translation skills from English into Hindi and from Hindi into English.

**French** ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term, the students will:

* Talk about themselves and ask questions to someone else about new topics.
* Memorise, read, write and listen to new vocabulary relating to what they like to watch on TV and at the cinema, and to their hobbies, using the present and perfect tense.
* Read a short text and answer various questions.

**Expressive Arts** ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term, the students will learn:

* About the origins and development of musical theatre, which have led to the modern-day musicals.
* How these influences have led to a wide variety of styles in musical theatre.
* To consolidate understanding of distinction between musicals and opera.

**Creative Design** -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term, through a self-portrait expressive project, the students will learn to:

* Observe and record accurately.
* Use oil pastel to create a realistic, accurate drawing of their nose.
* Use charcoal and dry pastels to create a realistic, accurate drawing of their mouths.
* Use colour pencils to create a realistic, accurate drawing of one of their eyes.
* Experiment with pencil sketching and tempera colours, and to select a medium of their choice based on a self-evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses.
* Create a realistic painting/sketch of their faces.

**Physical Education** -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term, the students will develop movement composition, an understanding of Health and Fitness, and the skills required for a variety of different games. The students will:

* Perform movements requiring agility, balance and co-ordination with precision and fluency
* Build upon techniques whilst running, jumping, throwing, catching, and striking skills
* Improve accuracy, consistency and technique in a variety of skills
* Develop a broader understanding of how the body responds to exercise
* Apply a variety of sport specific skills with consistency to different games
* Continue to develop specific and accurate shooting techniques required in different games
* Pass the ball accurately and consistently between teammates in a variety of games
* Use a range of tactics and strategies successfully to outwit the opposition in games