



# Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

February 2015

Dear Parents,

Kung Hei Fat Choy! Our fourth half term at NAIS is well underway and it is the shortest half term of the academic year with only five weeks until we break for Easter so it promises to be a busy one! We finished last half term with a fantastic Disco organised by the PTA – all of the pupils enjoyed themselves and both staff and pupils fully appreciated the amount of effort put in by the parents to make it such a successful event. We have passed the significant landmark of one hundred days in our new school and I think everyone would agree that we have come a long way. Our Year Seven pupils have all progressed and after sitting mid-term assessments before we broke for the Chinese New Year, pupils will be receiving their mid-year reports very soon. These reports will be followed up with the opportunity for you to come into school and discuss your child's progress with their individual subject teachers in March so please look out for the information on how to book appointments that you will be receiving soon.

March has been designated 'Active Month' at NAIS and there will be lots of exciting opportunities for pupils to get involved with different activities. These activities aren't going to be restricted to within school however and Head of P.E, Mr. Pate will soon be sending information home regarding how the whole family can get involved too! Whilst I am on the subject of sports and activities however, I will take this opportunity to remind you that school uniform policy requires pupils to be wearing 'predominantly white' trainers to school on the days when they have PE. There has been a rainbow of trainer colours in Year Seven recently so please could I ask you to make sure your child is wearing the correct footwear.

This half term will also see us celebrating Book Week in the second week of March and International Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. Again, you will be receiving information on both of these events closer to the time but along with a combined History and Geography trip for the whole of Year Seven coming up, March promises to be action packed! The specialist teachers have outlined what your child will be studying over the next five weeks below and as always, please remember to check our Year Seven Blog regularly for an insight to what is happening inside the classroom.

We are looking forward to meeting with you to at the Parents Evening in March however, in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Simone Reid (Head of Year 7) [simone.reid@nais.hk](mailto:simone.reid@nais.hk)

**ENGLISH**



This term in English students will be completing work on the Roots of English with a 'The Canterbury Tales' class presentation, practising for the Canterbury Tales production and completing our short films based on Beowulf. We will then move onto a unit looking at general writing skills, focusing on topics such as writing effective sentences, adding structure and using punctuation accurately and effectively. In addition, students will continue work on the reading and writing for enjoyment programme.

Mr. Robinson  
[David.robinson@nais.hk](mailto:David.robinson@nais.hk)

### **MATHS**

Over the course of the next five weeks the pupils will be working on a mini project that will combine their mathematical skills with their geographical and historical knowledge as we look at the various methods of circumnavigating the Earth. We will compare historical times recorded by Phileas Fogg and Ferdinand Magellan against more modern methods such as the Vendee Globe event. Pupils will be required to convert between units of measure, use ratio and proportion and calculate compound measures in their work. We will also be judging whether Earth is a sphere, an egg or indeed something completely different by introducing and using Pi ( $\pi$ ). The half term will finish off with us revisiting algebra and the use of inequalities.

Mrs. Reid  
[Simone.reid@nais.hk](mailto:Simone.reid@nais.hk)

### **COMPUTING**

This half term in Computing we will be looking at developing our work on computer systems by focusing initially on the Binary system and how computers store information. We will then move on to consider very simple logic and how binary allows computers to calculate data.

Mr. Boyd  
[David.boyd@nais.hk](mailto:David.boyd@nais.hk)

### **SCIENCE**

Last term was a huge success for our Year Seven Scientists. As you will have seen from the blog, the pupils are becoming more confident in carrying out practical experiments. They are improving on their investigative skills and are having fun in the process. I was pleased to see all my pupils make significant progress in their tests. The aim this half term is to build on these successes.

Curriculum-wise, we are working on the following topics this term: Sexual Reproduction in Animals (Biology), Mixtures and Separation (Chemistry) and Current Electricity (Physics).



Our Science Department has now doubled since my last newsletter post. NAIS Science has a fantastic new Science Lab Technician, Mrs. Din. Marissa Din has worked for four years as a Science Lab Assistant at another top British International School in Hong Kong, and before that has worked in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Taiwan. She is very experienced and the pupils have already benefited greatly from having her around the department.

Mr. Mackinnon  
[Scott.Mackinnon@nais.hk](mailto:Scott.Mackinnon@nais.hk)

### **GEOGRAPHY**

The outlook in the run up to Easter in Geography at NAIS HK is looking decidedly cooler as we move into studying glaciation and how ice has shaped and molded many of our natural landscapes. Before then our focus will be on developing an understanding of geological time (eons, eras, periods etc.) and the ways in which people on the planet have influenced our environment and how we continue to interact with the world around us. Prior to half term we looked at the development of our planet and solar system as well as life on earth and by the Easter holidays pupils should have been brought right up to date with the spread of modern day humans. A day out at Joss House Bay and Hong Kong Museum of History will compliment our studies. The trip will allow pupils to study the ancient geologic history of Hong Kong and the surrounding area and the migratory history of the people that have lived here. In addition, pupils will be given the opportunity to give their field sketching abilities a try.

Mr. Cross  
[Adam.cross@nais.hk](mailto:Adam.cross@nais.hk)

### **HISTORY**

In History, students will complete their end of unit assessment on Medieval Britain, before moving onto our China in the Middle Ages topic. We will be examining topics such as Chinese beliefs, the Mongols conquest, Chinese inventions and examining the evidence from these times in Hong Kong through our trip to Joss House Bay and the Chinese History Museum. In addition to this, we will be looking for comparisons between China and other parts of this world at this time to prepare for our investigation of the Islamic world and the Crusades.

Mr. Robinson  
[David.robinson@nais.hk](mailto:David.robinson@nais.hk)

### **MANDARIN**



Beginner pupils will focus on the topic of who we are and where we are. They will extend their bank of vocabulary on countries, directions, languages and Chinese culture. Through the on-line Mandarin Matrix and activities such as 'Around the world', Quizlet, memory games and survey activities they will be able to state their own country names and the languages they can speak. They will ask questions about the places they have been to and the places they want to go and will be able to ask what languages others speak.

Intermediate pupils will study more chapters which include 《泰戈尔先生》、《京剧大师梅兰芳》 and 《戴高乐临危不惧》. Through these chapters, they will be able to know more about essay structure and develop their critical thinking. Pupils will also learn how to write different types of essays.

Advanced pupils will study more chapters which include 《三顾茅庐》、《匆匆》 and 《桃花心木》. Through these chapters, they will be able to analyse the characteristics of the characters from the passages. Pupils will also be able to use learnt writing skills in their essay.

Mandarin Team  
[Cheryl.hung@nais.hk](mailto:Cheryl.hung@nais.hk)

## **SPANISH**

In Spanish we are going to finish Modulo3 - Vamos al Instituto (School)

In the second part of this subtopic, pupils will be able to use vocabulary and grammatical structures previously learned in order to produce an oral presentation on the school of their dreams – the main subtopics will be school buildings and transport.

Grammar wise we will continue practicing the present and will introduce the future tense for regular and irregular verb and a quick introduction to the past tense for regular verbs. Pupils will be assessed for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of this half term.

We will finish spring term with a lesson about how Easter is celebrated in Spanish speaking countries.

The textbook we are using continues to be Listos 1 from Heinemann ISBN 978 0435429 04 1, which can be also accessed via the NAISHK webpage as well as BoardWorks Power Points with the topics learned in school

Pupils are also able to practice their Spanish online on

<http://www.Linguascope.com> (ask teacher for username and password)

<http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk/>



<http://www.aprender.org.uk/>

Grammar: <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm>

Revison/Listos: <http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk/>

Mr. Lopes

[Alexandre.lopes@nais.hk](mailto:Alexandre.lopes@nais.hk)

### **MUSIC**

This half term, students will learn about structure in music, or the ways in which music can be organised. They will focus on composition and performance tasks based around binary, ternary, and rondo form. They will use a variety of instruments including tuned percussion, keyboards and their voices as they explore this unit of work.

Miss Rowan

[Naomi.rowan@nais.hk](mailto:Naomi.rowan@nais.hk)

### **DRAMA**

In Drama we are continuing to work in collaboration with the English department. Year Seven are rehearsing an adaptation of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* for a special performance at the end of the Spring Term.

Miss. Bovingdon

[Charlotte.bovingdon@nais.hk](mailto:Charlotte.bovingdon@nais.hk)

### **ART**

Year 7 pupils will complete their previous African Mask unit by creating a clay mask final outcome. Pupils will be introduced to various clay modelling techniques that will enable them to successfully mold, attach and prepare a clay form suitable for kiln firing. Following firing, pupils will be able to decorate the mask and develop their media handling skills further as they use paint to add colour and pattern.

Mrs. Pate

[Sarah-jane.pate@nais.hk](mailto:Sarah-jane.pate@nais.hk)

### **PE**

Pupils will develop movement skills whilst performing in badminton. Pupils will take part in challenging practices and will improve their hand to eye co-ordination. Focus will be placed on improving the required skills and techniques (high/low serves, overhead clears, drop shots, smash and backhand strokes) and tactical awareness for attacking and defending. Pupils will be taught to review performances and be given opportunities to demonstrate



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improvements. Practices with open and closed skills including conditioned games will be carried out to improve performance.

Mr. Pate  
[Martin.pate@nais.hk](mailto:Martin.pate@nais.hk)

Kind regards,  
The Year 7 Team