



19 June 2015

RE: YEAR 6 TRANSITION SUPPORT – SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are often asked how we can help to make the transition into the Secondary School a smooth process for our Year 6 pupils. As well as the Orientation Day on Friday 21 August, we have gathered together some helpful websites and suggested activities which are recommended by individual departments. Please encourage your child to have a look at these over the next eight weeks; I am sure that you will want them to have some engaging and fun activities to do in the long holiday!

Many of them are online activities, included are the appropriate usernames and passwords. The list is not exhaustive, nor compulsory, but I hope that your child will find them useful. This letter is also posted on the school website so that the links are easy to copy into your browser software.

MATHS

<http://www.myimaths.com/>

Username-**bisspuxi**

Password- **discover**

Students will continue to use this site in the secondary school.

<http://www.geogebra.org/>

GeoGebra is free, multi-platform dynamic mathematics software. It is useful to download a desktop/laptop version, as well as the tablet version (it is great on an iPad from iTunes). Students will be expected to start using Geogebra during Year 7.

<http://tube.geogebra.org/student/m15554>

Students might like to play around with this link, although we are not expecting them to send anything to us unless they are really keen!

<http://www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/mepres/book7/book7int.htm#unit1>

Students are welcome to test themselves on some Maths units of work they might already be familiar with from this link. Each of the links from Unit 1 to 12 are worthwhile looking at, but not compulsory or a requirement if students are not yet familiar with these ideas.

<http://nrich.maths.org/secondary-lower>

Rich and entertaining – students are welcome to try some of the “live puzzles” throughout the summer.



ENGLISH

<http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/grammar-quiz/grammar-glossary-page-1.html>

Oxford Grammar Glossary – a reminder of key grammar terms.

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar>

British Council – range of grammar activities and quizzes useful for EAL and First Language Speakers.

<http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm>

Gamezone – A series of online interactive grammar games.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/>

BBC Bitesize – offers good learning advice and material to begin to explore the key areas of English: Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/games/>

BBC Bitesize Games – great selection of games that test English skills.

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/>

Eastoftheweb – excellent short story website which encourages reading and writing. It also has a series of word games.

<http://www.channel4learning.com/support/websites/english.html>

Channel4learning – A series of games and exercises to improve English skills.

<http://www.sporcle.com/games/MissTreeves/englishtechiniques>

Sporcle English techniques quiz – this is quite a challenging quiz but if a student wishes to learn more complex language terms they can have a go and try to research the answers online.

<https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/index>

Youngwriters offers some great glossaries games and challenges on language techniques and poetry.

<http://englishtutorhome2.blogspot.co.uk/p/blog-page.html>

<http://englishtutorhome2.blogspot.com/2013/04/sounds-in-poetry-sibilant-plosive.html>

This is a great teacher led blog which offers guidance on key texts, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar), ways to analyse and explanations of the effect of language techniques.

<http://www.howtospell.co.uk/spellingquiz.php>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/games/sushi-spell>

<http://www.spellzone.com/games/>

UK Spelling quizzes and games.



Below is a list of the books that students may read as part of the Global Classroom activities at Key Stage 3 – please do not feel that they are obligatory, but your child may wish to pick one or two of them to read over the summer:

EIGHT CONTEMPORARY

The Lions of Little Rock by Christie Levinel
A Long Walk to Water – Linda Sue Park
Mockingbird – Kathryn Erskine
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece – Annabel Pitcher
Cinder – Marissa Meyer
Endgame: The Calling by James Frey
Shine by Candy Gourlay
Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nichols

FOUR CLASSICS

Antigone by Ali Smith (Save the Story edition)
The Outsiders – S E Hinton
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo - The Touchpress App edition
<http://warhorse.touchpress.com/?tptnav=1>

FOUR NON-FICTION

Animalium by Jenny Broom
Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birute Galdikas
Line of Fire: Diary of an Unknown Soldier August-September 1914 by Barroux
The Boy on the Wooden Box – Leon Leyson

TWO GRAPHIC NOVELS

Boxers and Saints Boxed Set by Gene Luen Yang
Rules of Summer by Shaun Tan

TWO POETRY

In the Land of the Giants by George Szirtes
Wayland by Tony Mitton

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

These are just a selection of the many available. You just need to Google **ESL for kids** and choose those sites you like. The British Council and BBC sites are the best for quality control.

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/numbertime/>

<http://www.english-4kids.com/>



The most important thing for ALL to do is read books that are too easy (so pupils don't get bored with its difficulty) and listen to English whenever possible. You can get 'easy-to-read and understand' books here and perhaps also look for them on www.amazon.com. Make sure you get the right level and an easy one for you. Here are some samples:

<http://www.penguinreaders.com/pr/students/index.html>

SCIENCE

The following websites are very useful in giving an overview of Key Stage 3 Science:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/science/>

The BBC bitesize website gives a good overview of the Key Stage 3 syllabus.

<http://www.docbrown.info/ks3science.htm>

Docbrown has a long list of quizzes and extra fascinating facts.

<http://lgfl.skool.co.uk/keystage3.aspx?id=63>

Skool has useful activities and information for linking Key Stage 3 Maths and Science.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The school subscribes to this language learning site. Use the beginner section to learn new vocabulary or revise the words you have learnt over the past few years! It's full of games and activities:

www.linguascope.com Username: bissspuxi Password: bissmfl

These websites are completely free and have lots of games to learn new words. They are all subdivided according to topics:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/default.htm>

This is helpful for French and German but not so much for Spanish.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/>

Good for French and Spanish, but no German section on this one).

<http://digitaldialects.com/>

All MFL subjects.

DUTCH

Kun je niet stilzitten en ben je geïnteresseerd in de totaalopdrachten van volgend jaar? Kijk dan vast op:

www.bruuttaal.nl

inlognaam: Bruut?

Wachtwoord: Taal!

Apps:

www.vakantiebieb.nl

Dit is een app waar het hele gezin baat bij heeft, boordevol boeken en tijdschriften.

www.bru-taal.nl

Niet te verwarren met onze lesmethode, maar goed voor het oefenen van grammatica.

Grammatica en Beter spellen by Dieter Snellen – een app voor het oefenen van grammatica en spelling



ART

Below is the outline of topics that our Year 7 students will follow from August:

TERM 1: Expressive Portraits – An investigation into artists who have explored Portraiture as a subject matter.

TERM 2: Animal Masks – A sculptural project with animals being the inspiration to create a 3D mask.

TERM 3: Pointillism – An exploration into Pointillism and Still Life as an Art form.

Suggested Activities:

Visit a gallery or place where artwork is a central feature of the space.

Take photos in your surrounding environment of interesting objects or places that inspire you.

Make a series of sketches and then more focused and detailed studies of your summer travels.

Experiment with a variety of media to develop your drawing and painting skills.

Look at artworks and activities on the following websites

<http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

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

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/site/art.shtml

<http://www.moma.org/>

GEOGRAPHY

<http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/PagesHomeworkHelp/>

One of the first units that students cover in geography is based on map skills; this site has plenty of activities the students can complete online to develop these further.

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

In the summer term students study Antarctica and this website has lots of background facts and figures as well as video clips that you can read and watch.

<http://www.triviaplaza.com/geography-world-quizzes/>

This is a very good for place geography quizzes, something we'll be starting with August. There are a whole range of online quizzes for students to enhance their knowledge of places.

HISTORY

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zk26n39>

An excellent website from the BBC

www.studyhistory.co.uk

A well-resourced website that covers many topics on the KS3 curriculum

<http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/>

Easy to navigate site that is full of very good resources for years 7-9

THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

An innovative, contemporary and distinctive educational programme unique to Nord Anglia Education where all our students can collaborate, inquire, create, innovate and lead. This can be logged into through moodle. Look on the menu for The Studio where there are a series of interesting debates, puzzles and brainteasers to challenge and stretch your abilities:



THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL SHANGHAI, Puxi
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

<http://learning.puxi.nordanglia.com>

Thank you for your support and please contact me at a-lancaster@bisspuxi.com if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Lancaster
Head of Key Stage 3