



Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

November 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our second half term at NAIS! I think everyone would agree that our first half term was a success, It was wonderful to see everyone at the 'Picture of Me' Open Evening, the Year Sevens performed brilliantly and were very proud of the work that we were able to showcase on the evening. It was a very fitting culmination of the first few months. We also finished off the term with the very first Inter-House Competition which everyone enjoyed immensely, the Year Sevens not only competed but also were a credit to the School by helping run the event too so well done indeed! I hope that everyone has had a relaxing, enjoyable break and that the Year Sevens have come back refreshed and ready to start work on lots of exciting new topics which the Specialist Teachers have outlined for you below.

Now that the pupils have been organised into their Houses we are focusing on making sure that the pupils are all settled in their routines. With this aim in mind, the House Tutors are regularly checking planners to make sure that they are being used properly. Could I please ask you to make sure that you are also checking your child's planner regularly and signing them on a weekly basis to help us with this process.

Year Sevens have also now been provided with lockers for their use during the school day. These lockers are unsecured however so please remind your child that they should not bring valuable belongings into school and anything stored inside the lockers is at their own risk. One possession that we would very much like to encourage the Year Sevens to bring on a daily basis however is a reading book, if your child would like some advice on choosing an age appropriate book Mr. Robinson would be more than happy to help!

Finally, please continue to send your child to school with their hat, water bottle and the correct uniform, we really want our Year Sevens to be shining examples to the rest of the school and this includes making sure they look their best at all times!

We are sure it is going to be another exciting half term, especially now that the ECA's have started. Do keep checking the Year Seven blog regularly to see all the fantastic things your child has been doing at school and we will look forward to welcoming you into school again in December!

Simone Reid (Head of Year 7)

simone.reid@nais.hk



ENGLISH

Students will be starting a new unit after the holidays looking at the roots of the English language and how the roots influence the language to this day. We will be analysing several adaptations of the Anglo-Saxon text 'Beowulf' - one of the earliest texts written in English- and will be creating our own epic stories as a result. We will then go on to analyse Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales through several modern adaptations. Through both studies we will be developing our skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will also continue with our study of the parts on speech in our Knowledge About Language lessons on Thursdays and explore our reading and writing for enjoyment programs on Fridays.

Mr. Robinson David.robinson@nais.hk

MATHS

This half term we are going to start by studying Geometry. We will be investigating properties of both two and three dimensional shapes, studying angles and experimenting with constructions. Pupils will be focusing on proving their knowledge rather than just learning facts. We will then move on to study applications of number, in particular the use of percentages in real life situations before finishing the term with a unit of Algebra. The pupils will also be using aspects of Maths in their Computing lessons in a Cross-Curricular project.

Mrs. Reid Simone.reid@nais.hk

COMPUTING

This half term we will continue to follow the new National Curriculum for Computing by joining forces with Maths to look at spreadsheets. In this Cross-Curricular collaboration we will begin to consider how you can use Excel to present and manipulate data.

Mr. Boyd David.boyd@nais.hk

SCIENCE

Over the next couple of weeks in Science we are looking at the topics 'Atoms, Elements and Molecules', 'Energy' and 'Muscles and Bones'. We will be investigating the air that we breathe, we will be making compounds and looking in detail at Chemical Reactions. For the Muscles and Bones topic, we will be looking at muscle groups, our blood, our movement and the effects of drugs on our body, there will be fun cross-curricular links with PE within this topic. In Energy we will look more closely at renewable and non-renewable forms of energy; how these are getting utilised at present and how important these are to our future planet in the years to come.

Mr. Mackinnon Scott.Mackinnon@nais.hk

GEOGRAPHY

The first half term in Geography at NAIS has flown by with the introduction to the subject and acquisition of basic knowledge taking up a large proportion of time in lessons during the first few weeks. Now that we are settling into a routine in lessons, focus up until Christmas will continue to be on providing the skills necessary for successful Geography education, a passport to Geography in essence. Particular attention will be given to map skills and providing a secure foundation for future manipulation of maps and the information they provide. This will include the interpretation of map symbols, 4 and 6 figure grid references,



the 16 point compass, longitude and latitude, scale and distance and how height is shown on maps. A variety of mediums will be used to ensure pupils are familiar with atlases as well as basic Geographical Information Systems (GIS) such as Google Earth.

Mr. Cross Adam.cross@nais.hk

HISTORY

Pupils will complete the 'What is History' unit by identifying the most significant figures in Hong Kong history and exploring cause and effects in historical analysis. Will then have an end of unit assessment followed by identifying targets and methods of improvement. Finally we will start our study of the Middle Ages in Europe by looking at Feudalism, castles, the Norman conquests and the Black Death.

Mr. Robinson David.robinson@nais.hk

MANDARIN

Pathway 1 pupils will consolidate their learning on self-introduction, telling the date and days of the week and continue to extend their bank of vocabulary on the topics of "Countries and Nationalities" and "Family". In addition, pupils will continue to learn more Mandarin consonants and pinyin to help them pronounce the Chinese words.

Pathway 2 pupils will learn more about different kinds of passages. Through these passages, pupils will be able to construct sentences, perform presentations and start to write essays.

Pathway 3 pupils will cover chapters including 《倾斜的伞》、《小青蛙和它的朋友》 and 《黄龙的化身》. Through these chapters, they will be able to make different kinds of sentence and write essays. Pupils will participate in a project, in which they need to develop a presentation and write a report.

Mandarin Team

SPANISH

In Spanish we are going to start the half term by focusing on pronunciation and the Spanish accent, Spanish alphabet and its differences around the world. We will learn about countries and pupils will be asked to produce a presentation about their country of origin in English and Spanish. Pupils who can speak another language will have the opportunity to teach us some important words in their mother tongue.

Our subtopic for this half-term will be 'Family and Friends' which will be consolidated by producing a family tree in Spanish in which pupils will also be able to add personal descriptions such as hair colour, height and pets. Our grammar focus will continue to be using the present tense. We will also be learning new connectives and adjectives. In the run up to Christmas, we will focus on Christmas traditions in Spanish speaking countries around the world and will celebrate with a Spanish Christmas party at the end of term.



The text book we are going to use more often from now on is Listos 1 (Heinemann ISBN 978 0435429 04 1). Pupils are also able to practise their Spanish online on the following websites:

<http://www.Linguascope.com>

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

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

Mr. Lopes Alexandre.lopes@nais.hk

MUSIC

This half term, Year 7 will be exploring the elements of music and instruments of the orchestra through a variety of listening, composition and performance tasks. They will also continue to develop their use of notation, both on the staff and as a 'graphic score'. There will be a specific focus on use of technical terminology and as such, most homework will be learning key vocabulary in advance of an end of unit test which will take place before the Christmas holiday.

Miss Rowan Naomi.rowan@nais.hk

DRAMA

Pupils will be looking at how to tell a story in a variety of different ways by exploring storytelling and various drama traditions. At the end of the project, students will perform an improvised drama incorporating the different drama styles and stories that they have learnt.

Miss. Bovingdon Charlotte.bovingdon@nais.hk

ART

Pupils will be investigating the art of African Masks during their art lessons. They will explore the variety of line, shape and colour used to create African masks as well as investigating the different events that masks are used for by African tribes. Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a variety of media and develop their media handling skills, finally resulting in the creation of a clay mask.

Mrs. Pate Sarah-jane.pate@nais.hk

PE

Year 7 pupils will be improving their performance in basketball and netball. Work will be carried out in order to refine simple and complex motor skills pertaining to each activity. Pupils will be practicing how to dribble and control the ball effectively in addition to enhancing peripheral vision. Various individual, pair and team drills will be carried out to ensure pupils make the correct decisions under pressurised situations. Focus will also be placed on shooting effectively and tackling or intercepting opponents. Pupils will be identifying team strengths and weaknesses and using the CoachNote application to plan strategies on iPads that will ensure team success.

Mr.Pate Martin.pate@nais.hk

Kind regards,
The Year 7 Team