



# Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

September 2014

Dear Parents,

On behalf of myself and the Specialist Teachers team I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Year 7! We have had a fantastic start to the school year and are really enjoying getting to know your children, we have high hopes for our very first secondary pupils and it is wonderful to see them settling in so well.

All secondary subjects are currently working with the common theme of 'A Picture of Me' and this letter will provide a summary of the topics that your children will be covering over the course of the term. We are looking forward to inviting you into school to showcase the work that has been produced in a few weeks time.

With regards daily life in Year 7, please could I take the opportunity to remind you that all pupils should be wearing school uniform unless it is their PE day (Tuesday/ Thursday for 7A and Monday/ Thursday for 7B). Once the extra curricular activities start pupils participating in a PE Club will also be allowed to wear PE kit on that day, however at all other times Year 7's act as role models for younger pupils so we are encouraging them to be smartly dressed!

All Year 7 pupils should come to school equipped with basic writing materials, we are encouraging the pupils to be responsible for their belongings whilst in school so please make sure that all clothing and equipment is clearly labeled with your child's name and that expensive items are left at home. All pupils should have water bottles and are encouraged to take responsibility for re-filling at the water points them as necessary during the day.

Pupils will soon be organised into Houses (Balmoral, Caernarfon, Sandringham, Windsor) and allocated House Tutors who will be available via email. In the meantime however, if you do have any queries please do contact either David Robinson [david.robinson@nais.hk](mailto:david.robinson@nais.hk) for pupils in 7A or Adam Cross [adam.cross@nais.hk](mailto:adam.cross@nais.hk) for pupils in 7B.

The secondary team look forward to meeting and working with you all over the course of the year!

Simone Reid (Head of Year 7)

[simone.reid@nais.hk](mailto:simone.reid@nais.hk)



## ENGLISH

Pupils will start the year with a short unit “A Picture of Myself” looking at biography and autobiography leading to a short narrated film produced in collaboration with the Computing and Drama departments. We will then move onto “The Roots of English” exploring the historical roots of the English language through study of ‘Beowulf’ and Chaucer’s ‘The Canterbury Tales’. In addition, students will receive a weekly Knowledge About Language class focused on building grammatical awareness and other language skills. This term we will look at the main parts of speech. We also have a rotating class looking at Writing for Pleasure and Reading for Pleasure on alternate Fridays. In addition to regular class homework, we expect students to be reading for approximately 20 minutes per night or 2-3 hours across the week.

Mr. Robinson

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

## MATHS

Pupils will be using a variety of statistical techniques to determine the answer to the question “Who is the typical Year 7 pupil at our School?” The pupils will gather both continuous and discrete data and use this information to solve the problem. We will look at the different measures of central tendency and decide which is the most appropriate to use before working out the best way to present the information visually.

Mrs. Reid

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

## COMPUTING

This year we will be broadly following the new National Curriculum for Computing with its emphasis upon computer systems and programming. In addition there will be a stress on preparing our pupils to use the most common software used in education, enterprise and commerce as well as ensuring they have the skills to navigate safely in an increasingly complex digital world. Computing/ICT has had one of the most radical updates of any subject in the English National Curriculum and is now regarded as one of the most progressive and challenging in the world.

In the first half term we will be learning to create and edit films and presentations in iMovie as part of a joint venture with English and Drama. This cross curricular collaboration continues in the second half of term when Computing and Maths join forces to look at spreadsheets and we begin to consider how you can use Excel to present and manipulate data.

After Christmas we move on to looking at computer systems: concepts of hardware and software, as well as the major components of computers themselves. This leads naturally on to examining the world wide web and search engines, where we will pause to consider some issues of online safety in respect of social media. As our Year 7s move closer to the age of when they can set up their own online social media profiles it is particularly important to inform and educate them about the potential risks of putting too much personal information into an online community.



In the summer we will start to look at algorithmic processes. From this basis we will begin some basic programming in one of the two languages that the new national curriculum sets out pupils must have an awareness of by the end of Key Stage 3.

Mr. Boyd

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

## SCIENCE

Year 7 Science will follow the new English National Curriculum. In doing so it covers the 3 main strands of Science; Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Yr 7 Science promises to be exciting and active for the pupils. In our first term, pupils will do the following topics: Cells, Particles and Energy. Within these 3 topics, pupils will carry out lots of experiments. They will report and present on their findings. They will debate the ethical problems that sometimes arise within Science as well as investigate ways in which we can improve life for future generations.

Pupils will develop excellent skills for which will help them; not just in Science but in all their subjects. They will be asked to work independently as well as well in groups. They will investigate, research and conduct lots of projects and experiments. Presentation of work done will become a regular activity. This will improve their confidence and engage them within Science. It is my hope to foster a love of Science within your child through exiting lessons that leads to proactive engagement.

Mr. Mackinnon

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

## GEOGRAPHY

Your child will be taught two 45 minute lessons of Geography each week and will be closely following the new English National Curriculum (with some slight adaptations based on locational relevance).

The purpose of Geography in Year 7 is to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity in the world around us and to provide pupils with the basic geographical skills they need in order to start exploring and explaining processes at work on our planet.

We will aim to develop your child's geographical knowledge in four key areas; locational knowledge, place knowledge, physical and human geography and geographical skills. This will be done through a highly individualized approach with the year overall being framed under the umbrella 'It's All About Me!'

The first term will be spent answering two key questions: 'Where Am I?' and 'How Did I Get Here?' In these units we will develop basic locational knowledge of the continents and oceans as well as many of the world's major countries. We will focus on the use of maps and the skills needed to interpret them. Attention will then shift to the history of our planet and the development on life on earth, discussing geological timescales, evolutionary theory and some elements of glaciation.

Mr. Cross

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



## HISTORY

Pupils will begin the year with a 4 week “What is History?” unit exploring the methodology behind historical enquiry and key terminology that will be vital to developing analytical skills for the future. We will then move onto exploring some of the key events of the Middle Ages in Europe and an overview of living conditions at that time. Later in the year we will move onto Chinese history and other parts of the globe.

Mr. Robinson

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

## MANDARIN

Children will be following the “Picture of Me” theme in their Mandarin Lessons. Although Mandarin is streamed in to 3 groups all children will be taught skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In Year 6 children will have focused lessons on reading comprehension, grammar for writing and speaking and listening.

Pathway 1 pupils will learn to introduce themselves in Mandarin and talk about their hobbies and interests, likes and dislikes E.g. “你好！我叫 xxx。我十一岁，我上七年级。我很热爱运动，我很喜欢打羽毛球和游泳，每个星期天我都会跟家人一起打羽毛球，我有空的时候还会去跑步。在家里，我常常看一些中文故事书，因为我觉得中文书很有趣。长大了，我希望成为一名文学家”

Pathway 2 pupils will learn to use the future tense by talking about what they want to do in the future and describing their career ambitions.

Pathway 3 pupils will use their skills in extended reading comprehension and in depth writing tasks. Children will give and watch presentations to develop their speaking and listening comprehension skills.

Mandarin Team

[LingLing.ng@nais.hk](mailto:LingLing.ng@nais.hk)

## SPANISH

In Year 7 pupils will receive language instruction in Spanish. Pupils who are new to the language will learn to introduce themselves and ask and answer simple questions such as name, age, where they are from, and how someone is. They will learn vocabulary related to countries and nationalities, school subjects and likes and dislikes.

Pupils will learn regular and irregular foundation verbs. We will focus on pronunciation of the alphabet including vowels, consonants and diphthongs

Native Speakers will follow the theme of ‘A Picture of Me’ through advanced tasks in speaking, listening, reading and writing. *Mr. Lopez*

[Alex.lopez@nais.hk](mailto:Alex.lopez@nais.hk)



## MUSIC

This half term we will be exploring the theme 'A Picture of Me' through a performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Gary Barlow's recent composition, Sing! Students will sing and perform melody, harmony and accompaniments confidently in a large ensemble. They will use their voices and instruments with increasing musicality, accuracy, fluency and expression, whilst using staff notation appropriately and accurately.

Miss Rowan

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

## DRAMA

Year 7 will focus on still image and narration as part of a special film project which will combine Drama, Computer Studies and English.

Miss. Bovingdon

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

## ART

For the "Picture of Me" theme pupils will be designing and creating a personal coat of arms that represents their interests and personality. This project will involve the development of observational drawing skills as well as mixed media handling skills.

Mrs. Pate

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

## PE

Pupils will be following a unit of speed/agility/quickness, testing and training. This block will develop the fundamentals that underline all major sporting movements. This block will complement all activities that the pupils will cover during their PE lessons this year.

PE Team

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Kind regards,  
The Year 7 Team