



# Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

March 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our final term of the year at NAIS. I hope you all had a good Easter and enjoyable Spring holiday. Year Seven had a busy term in the lead up to the holiday including educational visits and team building experiences, and finishing with the fantastic international Day which all of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a lot from. All of the teachers also enjoyed meeting you at the Parents' Evenings last month. It is very important to us that you are kept updated on your child's progress so do contact us whenever you have questions.

Year Seven pupils have now started their lunchtime ECA rotations and so far have been embracing the opportunities with enthusiasm! With our Library now open, the pupils are finally able to have their own space in which to meet, study and relax at break times. We would like the Year Sevens to take responsibility for their area so over the coming weeks we will be asking the pupils to make suggestions on and volunteer for responsibilities within the Library.

We have a lot to look forward to this term, starting with a trip to see the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and culminating in our Year Seven Residential Trip to the Getu Valley in June which promises to be an unforgettable experience for all pupils involved. We will also see some of our Year Seven pupils taking part in a special Coding camp designed to enhance their Computing skills and with lots going on in the Global Classroom - it promises to be another action packed term!

The specialist teachers have outlined what your child will be studying over the coming weeks below and as always, please remember to check our Year Seven Blog and NAIS Facebook page regularly for an insight to what is happening inside the classroom.

Finally, as a general reminder, with warmer weather upon us, could I please remind you to make sure that your child is bringing a hat to school and also a water bottle that they can refill as we encourage them to drink as much water as possible during the day.

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 pupils are working on a unit titled "The Write Stuff" looking at general writing skills such as creating effective sentences, adding structure and using punctuation accurately and effectively. We will then move onto a poetry unit looking at the use of imagery with a range of poems from different periods and places. Finally we are planning a short unit looking at rhetoric and persuasive writing and speaking. In addition, students will continue work on the reading and writing for enjoyment programme which will now allow us to use the library to access more books and work on library skills and to prepare for the upcoming Battle of the Books.

Mr. Robinson

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

## MATHS

In our last term in Maths the pupils will be working on the following:

**Checking and Approximating** (*Number strand*) We will be exploring ways of approximating numbers and checking answers. To be successful all pupils should have a good understanding of the use of significant figures. And the effect rounding has on calculations.

**Mathematical Movement** (*Geometry strand*) - We will solve geometrical problems on the coordinate axis and consider how reflections, rotations and translations impact on a shape. In order to be successful pupils should be able to describe and use these transformations.

**Solving Equations** (*Algebra strand*) – We will continue to deepen our knowledge of algebraic notation by practising solving equations and introducing the use of brackets. To be successful pupils should be able to solve three step equations and will understand factorising and expanding brackets.

**Statistical Knowledge** (*Data Handling*) – Pupils will finish the term with a mini project in which they will plan, collect, represent and evaluate their own data to prove or disprove a hypothesis. Successful pupils will use the correct vocabulary to investigate central tendency (averages) and choose appropriate ways to present their findings in a graphical context.

Pupils should make use of the website [www.myimaths.com](http://www.myimaths.com) at home to practice and extend their understanding of the topics we are working on in class.

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**

This half term in Science we will be learning about the following topics: The Particle Model (Chemistry), Muscles and Bones (Biology) and Sound (Physics). As we come to the end of our Year 7, Key Stage Three Curriculum, pupils will be doing some open ended research projects which link all aspects of experimental work covered this term. Also on the agenda is a trip to the Science Museum where pupils will look more closely at some 'cool' Science experiments relating to topics that we have already covered this year.

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

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Year 7 will begin this term with renewed focus on the physical processes that have shaped our planet by studying ice ages and glaciation. Pupils will be made aware of the type and distribution of glaciers on our planet and why glacial environments are under threat. In addition, pupils will be investigating a 5000 year old murder mystery by trying to uncover 'Who Killed The Ice Man?' Our studies will be given context through an investigation into the impacts of tourism in the French Alps. Pupils will be assessed on this topic.

Later in the term pupils will move onto the 'What If I?' unit of work and will be challenged to apply their geographical skills and knowledge in a real life disaster scenario. Pupils will be asked to imagine being shipwrecked on a tropical island and to think about what they need to do in order to survive. Through this unit pupils will learn about the hydrological cycle, microclimates, ecosystems and adaptation as well as practicing their map skills and decision making abilities.

Pupils will continue to be set homework tasks with a high degree of autonomy. Please encourage them to spend as much time and effort as possible on these. An exciting term ahead in Geography.

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



## **HISTORY**

In History, students will soon complete their unit on China in the Middle Ages looking at the lives of peasants, trade, education and the lives of women. After an assessment on the China unit, we will move onto a unit looking at Islam and the crusades followed by a short unit looking at African kingdoms before our end of year assessment. We will end the year with a student led research project looking at significant events during the Middle Ages in parts of the world not already studied in class.

Mr. Robinson

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

## **MANDARIN**

Beginner pupils will focus on the topic of 'Work'. They will extend their bank of vocabulary on introductions to include occupation and the work place through quizlet, 'around the world', memory games and Mandarin Matrix. They will also learn how to express the likes and dislikes of a job in sentences through using survey activities. With the topic of 'Transportation' they will also learn how to compare sentence structure in Mandarin too.

Intermediate Pupils will learn more chapters which include 《卖火柴的女孩》、《凡卡》 and 《跨越百年的美丽》. Through these chapters, they will focus on presentation and oral practice. They will also learn the skills to write an essay.

Advanced Pupils will study chapters including; 《卖火柴的女孩》、《凡卡》 and 《跨越百年的美丽》. Through these chapters, they will be able to analyse the characteristics of the characters from the passages deeply and develop their critical thinking. Pupils will also be able to use the learnt writing skills in their essay.

Mrs. Hung

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## **SPANISH**

In Spanish we are going to finish Modulo 4- 'Mi Pueblo' (My Town). Pupils will learn how to describe their village/town or city and how to ask for directions. We will also be learning how to describe the weather and we will introduce the topic 'El Tiempo Libre' (Free Time) in which pupils will learn vocabulary for sports and hobbies. Grammar wise we will use The Future Tense for regular and irregular verbs and we will also focus on learning the Simple Past Tense fully.

At the end of the summer term, pupils will be assessed for Listening, Speaking,



Reading and Writing with a 'Prueba Final' (Final Test) which will include all topics and grammar learned during this academic Year.

The textbook we are using continues to be Listos 1 from Heinemann (ISBN 978 0435429 04 1), which can be also accessed via NAISHK webpage as well as Board Works 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>  
Revision/Listos: <http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk/>

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

## **MUSIC**

Year 7 will explore chords this term, performing a variety of popular songs through performance and analysis before moving forwards to compose their own. They will also use the music software Sibelius to present their popular song as a score before adding instrumental backing to enhance their piece.

Miss Rowan  
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## **DRAMA**

Now that the Drama Studio is open the pupils will be embracing the opportunity to work in this exciting space, following on from their very successful production of the Canterbury Tales last term. Please keep checking the Year 7 blog to see pictures and read about the work we are producing.

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



## **ART**

Year 7 will be investigating the work of jewellery designer, Peter Chang using ICT before they start to design and produce their own sculptural piece of jewellery. Pupils will follow the design process as they investigate their theme by creating a mood board, develop at least two possible design solutions and then create their own final 3D design using papier mache. Pupils will need to ensure that their design meets the requirements of the design brief and that they fully evaluate their work at the end of the project in order to be successful.

Mrs. Pate

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

## **PE**

Pupils will develop movement skills whilst performing in cricket, rounders, athletics and parkour. 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 (batting, fielding, sprinting, jumping, throwing) and tactical awareness for attacking and defending. Pupils will be taught to review performances and be given opportunities to demonstrate improvements. Practices in open and closed and games will be carried out to improve performance within specific skills. Pupils will also investigate movement, stillness, and how to find and use space in parkour. Pupils will develop their gross motor skills, become increasingly competent and confident and access a broad range of opportunities to extend their agility, balance and coordination.

Mr. Pate

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

Kind regards,  
The Year 7 Team