



Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome to a new term at NAIS! I would like to start this Newsletter by once again extending thanks on behalf of the Year Seven team to all of the parents who contributed to the Christmas celebrations, in particular I would especially like to congratulate and thank our Year Seven Class Reps for the amazing job they did in organizing the fantastic Christmas party. Mari, Carmen, Katja and Emma put in a huge amount of effort into creating a really wonderful event for the Year Sevens and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved, I am sure their good work will continue in 2015 so please do keep an eye out for their emails!

Our Year Sevens continue to flourish and it is lovely to see them settled and working hard in school, our Year Seven blog shows pictures of the students enjoying all sorts of activities in lessons and this term's curriculum promises to continue this trend and you can read more about the plans for each subject as outlined by the Specialist Teachers below. Extra Curricular activities will be starting again on the 12th January and the schedule for these remains the same as it was before Christmas meaning that students will not be able to make changes at this point. There will another rotation of activities in March and students will be able to select new Extra Curricular Activities then.

Now that the School Cafeteria is up and running students are able to make purchases which include hot meals, sandwiches and fruit using their Octopus cards, the Cafeteria do not have facilities to accept cash so please can I remind you to keep your child's card 'topped up' if they will be purchasing food. I would also like to remind you of our 'Healthy School' Policy whereby we would encourage students to consume healthy nutritious meals and snacks so please bear this in mind especially if your child brings in a packed lunch.

Finally, please could I also remind you that all Year Seven students should be bringing in an appropriate reading book (in the English language) on a daily basis. If your child needs help selecting a suitable book, Mr Robinson is always on hand to help and make suggestions!

We are looking forward to another exciting half term, there will be a Parents Evening scheduled and report issued towards Chinese New Year and you will be advised of these dates closer to the time. In the meantime, do keep checking the Year Seven blog regularly to see all the fantastic things your child has been doing at school and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Simone Reid (Head of Year 7) simone.reid@nais.hk



ENGLISH

Students are continuing with their work on the Roots of English by reading Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales through several modern adaptations. We will also be working on a dramatised version of the play in conjunction with the Drama Department. Through both studies we will be developing our skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will also continue with our 'Knowledge About Language' lessons on Thursdays looking at strategies to improve spelling and vocabulary and explore our 'Reading and Writing for Enjoyment' programs on Fridays. In the reading sessions, we will be preparing students for the upcoming Battle of the Books competition.

Mr. Robinson

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MATHS

This half term we are going to extend the geometrical knowledge gained last term by continuing to investigate angles. In particular we will be focusing on using and identifying known angle facts in more complex geometrical diagrams and also linking this with using algebra to solve problems. We will move on to developing proportional reasoning skills with the outcome that students should be able to describe a comparison of two or more measurements or objects and easily convert between different measurements of units. Finally we will also spend some time 'pattern sniffing' by looking at how we generate and describe linear sequences. Students will be required to develop their thinking skills through a variety of rich tasks that require them to apply their knowledge in different contexts.

Mrs. Reid

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COMPUTING

This half term in Computing we will start with computer systems. This covers concepts of hardware and software including understanding the basic parts of a computer and what they do. We will then move to look at binary code, what it is and how it is expressed. In doing so, students will go on to look at how computers use binary code to transmit and receive instructions.

Mr. Boyd

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SCIENCE

Term 1 was a tremendous success in Science. We focused on topics that encompassed Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Students enjoyed the numerous practical experiments that were undertaken. As we approached Christmas it was fantastic to see the students become more inquisitive and confident. We did an end of term assessment and all students showed progress which was good to see. This term in Science we will be looking at Cells, Reproduction, Energy and Chemical Reactions. Students will be looking at their own Human cells and Investigating plant cells. We will go onto look at specialist cells and understand how they function. In Reproduction, we will look at the stages of pregnancy. We will investigate different types of Energy and in particular, the importance of Renewable Energy. We will also look at different types of Chemical Reactions. Students



will make new compounds, produce crystals, purify salt and carry out Chemical Reactions which will cause a bang! Throughout this term students will be assessed on the way that they carry out practical experiments within the lab. I have created challenging and exciting experimental tasks that students will find particularly enjoyable.

Mr. Mackinnon

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GEOGRAPHY

This term the focus of our Geography study shifts from asking 'Where Am I?' to asking 'How Did I Get Here?'

Continuing with our yearly theme (It's All About Me) we will start by improving locational knowledge of Asia, Europe and the Americas. We will then begin our studies into how life on planet earth flourished and indeed why there is a planet for life to grow in the first place! We will look at the origin of human kind and focus on a new area of the English National Curriculum; geological timescales. Students will be made aware of the different eons, eras and periods in geologic time before shifting the focus towards the past 2.6 million years or so and the effect that ice has had on the land, in an introduction to glaciation.

Students will continue to develop their geographical skills in relation to observation, analysis, map work and field skills with particular attention given to developing field sketching abilities.

Mr. Cross

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HISTORY

Students are well underway in our study of the Middle Ages in Europe and will continue by looking at feudalism, castles, the Norman conquests and the Black Death. We will then be moving onto a look at Chinese civilisation during Medieval times and making comparisons to Europe.

Mr. Robinson

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MANDARIN

Pathway 1 students will learn about occupations and daily life, they will be working on describing jobs and the routine of the day. In addition, they will have more conversation about jobs through role play activities.

Pathway 2 students will learn more Chinese vocabulary and try to apply the new vocabulary and structures into their daily life. They will also learn how to understand the main ideas of Chinese passages and try to write a short structured essay. We also hope students will get to know more about the Chinese culture through different learning activities.



Pathway 3 students will learn chapters including 《差不多先生》、《苏东坡该联立志》、《体育学校开放日》 and 《我们成功了》. Through these chapters, they will be able to know more about essay structure and develop their critical thinking. Students will also write different types of essays.

Mandarin Team
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SPANISH

In Spanish we are going to Start Modulo 3 where we are going to do the topic “*Vamos al Instituto*” (School).

In this topic, students will learn how to talk about school subjects, how to express likes and dislikes, asking and telling the time/timetable in Spanish (revision and extension of “numbers” subtopic), talking about meal times (saying what they have to eat and drink at break/lunch time), and vocabulary related to school.

Students will be asked to produce an oral presentation on their school timetable with opinions on their school subjects and to prepare an interview with their partners about NAISHK with the use of opinions and new sentence connectives. They will also have the chance to produce a menu for an imaginary restaurant so that they are able to practice words for subtopic “snacks”.

Grammar wise we will continue practicing the Present Tense for regular and irregular verbs and we will be introducing the Future Tense. We will also be learning new adjectives and connectives in order to produce higher-level sentences.

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 Board Works Power Points with the topics learned in school.

Students 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

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MUSIC

This term, students will study 'instruments of the orchestra' learning to recognise instruments both visually and aurally whilst understanding the families to which they belong. Students will listen to a wide variety of music including Benjamin Britten's “A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra” amongst others. By the end of the unit, all Year Seven



students should be able to listen to and name each instrument of the orchestra, having broadened their musical vocabulary significantly as we move through the unit.

Miss Rowan

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DRAMA

This term we will be working to complement and support the learning taking place in the English Department. To enhance the students understanding of the Roots of English, they will be rehearsing an adaptation of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* for a special performance at the end of the Spring Term.

Miss. Bovingdon

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ART

Students will further develop their observational drawing skills by analysing still life objects. Students will consider their use of scale, proportion and ellipses to create successful still life compositions. ICT will be used to carry our artist research before finally painting a still life in the style of The` Scottish Colourists. This project will enable students to further develop their media handling skills and understanding of the visual elements.

Mrs. Pate

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PE

Students will have the opportunity to assess their fitness levels through participation in the Cooper Run to test aspects of health-related exercise. Students will then explore the frequency, intensity, of different types of training including Continuous, Interval, Fartlek and Circuit training, they will also understand the value of goal setting in terms of planning, developing and maintaining regular involvement in healthy physical activity. To demonstrate progress students will use graphs to explain the use of target zones and training thresholds.

Mr.Pate

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Kind regards,
The Year 7 Team