

**What we are learning
this term in U1**



English

Students will begin to examine *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Specifically, pupils will work towards understanding main narrative devices and techniques of the author and relate these to the novel as a whole. Particular attention will be allocated to some grammatical conventions of the author's style through shared class demonstration and guided reading sessions.

Maths

Students are working toward starting the Mathematics GCSE in September. The new GCSE will be a three year course ending in a set of examinations to give a grade from 1 (just below a G) to 9 (just above an A*). In the run up to this they will strengthen their understanding of number and strategies for completing calculations.

Learning could be consolidated at home through regular practise of skills such as telling the time, working out change and playing most card games. You can also access the 'My Maths' website at www.mymaths.co.uk with the username: Derrymount and the password: NG58HN.

In the Summer Term students will strengthen their numeracy skills through regular practice. They will also work on fractions and decimals and look at various ways to make multiplication and division calculations a little easier. Work may include practical activities, written questions and practice of skills. Through these we hope to identify any weaknesses in student methods or understanding of these topics and strengthen their skills in these areas.

Science

This Autumn during science lessons, pupils will be taught the essentials for developing a scientific method of reasoning. Tuition will involve a step by step and hands on guide to scientific methodology. This will include how to make detailed and accurate observations, how to make accurate and reliable measurements, how to evaluate the safety aspects of an investigation, and how to interpret results and draw a conclusion about an experiment. The interpretation of results has cross curricular links with numeracy in mathematics.

Pupils will then learn how to evaluate the validity of their experiment, and learn methods of ensuring that they have made a fair test. They will then be able to put into practice their knowledge by performing their own experiment, producing a practical write up. It is important for the pupils to develop these skills when moving on to studying science at a higher level.

German

This term students will extend their vocabulary building more complex sentences using adjectives, adverbs and expressions of time in different contexts. Doing so, students will have opportunity to practise conversation and translation skills. You can support your child by asking for new phrases each week and to look for language games on-line.

Humanities

Students will begin to examine the Tudor and Stuart period. Specifically, pupils will be taught about the main events, issues and people facing Britain, with a focus on how the power of the monarchy changed in this period. There will be an emphasis on local history, investigating the significance of regional individuals, places and events which shaped the development of the monarchy.

Social Studies

Students will begin to investigate the society we live in on a local and wider level. Specifically, pupils will examine who makes up society by working towards an understanding of key terms. For example, this will include ethnicity, religion, migration, population, demographics and how this forms modern society.

PSVE

Students are involved in the compulsory teaching of personal, social and vocational education. This does not result in a GCSE qualification but the students will benefit from life skills which they will acquire from the teaching of various subjects and topics. The topics covered this term include wellbeing, mental health, the dangers and positives of taking legal and illegal drugs and healthy living.

Also included for PSVE is further Titan training where students continue to develop knowledge and skills for independent living and travel.

Options

Creative Digital Media

Coding group: Mr Scholes will take the group through coding principles such as: variables, data types, loops, lists and functions, as well as testing and debugging.

Photography: The photography students will learn about a range of photographic equipment and techniques as part of a BTEC Level 1 in Photography. They will also refine their skills and control when using a camera on the Manual setting and explore different ideas for photographs e.g. taking photos for advertising purposes.

GCSE Textiles Technology

After completing the first piece of coursework pupils will need to choose their second task. The emphasis for this part of the course is on the quality of making to produce a final product. Pupils will further develop skills and abilities gained while undertaking the first task. They will need to choose suitable fabrics for making their chosen idea. Pupils need to demonstrate their ability to plan, develop and carry out a range of practical activities.

Textiles Enrichment

Pupils are encouraged to choose a theme and explore ideas around it before deciding what to make. It could be a piece of clothing, soft furnishing or accessory. They will learn about choosing suitable fabrics and the different ways to embellish and decorate fabrics alongside construction techniques.

Art– Enrichment

Utilising 3 dimensional skills pupils will first be looking at mask making and coiled pottery inspired by African art. Collaboration and mosaic is the following theme and pupils will be required to exercise their teamwork skills during the creation of a flower inspired mosaic. Pupils will be taught Health & Safety, tool usage, design and application of tesserae during this project. Focusing on holiday celebrations, pupils will end the term by exploring the possibilities of decoration on cards, glass and clay tree decorations.

Art- Wednesday

This term pupils will be starting a new BTEC unit titled 'Explore Painting'. This unit will require pupils to explore a variety of painting techniques, processes, paint mediums, scales and artists whilst practically experimenting. Pupils will demonstrate their gained knowledge and understanding through their sketchbooks, worksheets and Health & Safety logs, finalising practical skills with a series of landscape paintings focusing on trees. Peer and self-assessments will complete the project to help pupils recognise any development points and celebrate their successes.

Art –Friday

This term pupils will be starting a new BTEC unit titled 'Explore Drawing'. Pupils will explore a variety of drawing techniques, mediums, processes, scales and artist whilst practically experimenting. Pupils will demonstrate their gained knowledge and understanding through their sketchbooks, worksheets and Health & Safety logs, finalising practical skills through series of still life drawings. Peer and self-assessments will complete the project to help pupils recognise any development points and celebrate their successes.

Land Base Studies

Within this unit student will be learning how to prepare and select the certain plants needed for the seasons, create and display their work and have an understanding of using a range of different equipment needed to complete the task set out.

Adventure School

The first term of Adventure School will focus on Bush Craft and Camp Skills, predominantly in and around the newly developed Adventure School area. The sessions will cover setting up a camp, making shelters, learning knots and lashings and making simple structures, knife skills and whittling, cooking outdoors, first aid and navigation. During this term, there will be two overnight stays (in the school grounds) and an optional survival camp.

Health and Social Care

The aim of this unit is to introduce pupils to physical and emotional needs, factors that affect health and the general health and social care available for individuals. The unit also helps pupils to understand how health may be affected by different factors. The group will also visit different health centres and care providers.

First Aid

Heart start- Emergency Life Support: The aim of this course is to teach pupils a set of actions needed to keep someone alive in an emergency situation until professional help arrives. Pupils will be taught skills step by step from personal safety, keeping calm, acting quickly in situations and use acquired skills learnt on the course.

Animal Care

Floralands: The Animal care course is being delivered by Access Training following ABC Awards in Animal Care and Countryside Skills. The Course will teach pupils how to care for animals, maintain and promote their wellbeing. Pupils will also become aware of countryside and environmental issues relating to animal and wildlife.

Geology Enrichment

In Geology lessons this Autumn, pupils will first gain an appreciation for the bulk structure of the Earth, including the size, composition and origin of its various layers. This will also include an understanding of some of the core principles of Geology, including the law of superposition and plate tectonics.

After studying the large scale structure of the Earth, pupils will then investigate the minerals that make up the rocks that we find on the earth's surface. Using hand specimens, pupils will investigate their various properties, and will use these properties as a means to differentiate between them. Pupils will investigate their crystal structure, their hardness and measure their specific gravities as a means of identification. These skills will have cross curricular links to their studies in chemistry, physics and geography. Pupils will also have the opportunity to visit Wollaton Hall to study their own geological collection, and also to visit the Dinosaurs of China exhibition.

PE

This term, students will be developing and analysing skills in a number of sporting activities including Football, Rugby, Basketball and Badminton. Students will be examining issues such as teamwork, leadership and health and safety in sport. They will also be developing their understanding of both the mental and physical benefits of physical activity