

What we are learning this term in M4



English

In the Autumn term, pupils in M4 will be completing units focused on media as well as modern and world literature. Pupils will engage with various texts and short films including David Almond's novel 'Skellig.' Students will then have the opportunity to analyse the linguistic features present in various literary mediums and texts.

Maths

Pupils will begin the Autumn term with a unit on ratio and scale. In this unit, pupils will work to consolidate and extend their knowledge of measurement and measuring using scales and instruments. Later on in the term, pupils will begin a unit on shape properties. They will work to name and recall quadrilaterals and 3-D shapes, as well as describe shape properties mathematically.

Science

The topic covered for the early Autumn term will be forces in the world around us. Pupils will look at the effects of forces using real life examples, the measurement of forces, and will investigate the effects of friction. The forces topic will cover balanced and unbalanced forces, speed and acceleration, floating and sinking, and pressure. If pupils could be encouraged to take note of these phenomena in everyday situations, this would help reinforce their learning. Later, pupils will move on and look at the properties of acids and alkalis. They will look at using different types of indicator, uses of acids and alkalis, and the process of neutralisation.

Design and Technology

This term we will be focusing on the following topics:

- Construction
- Celebration Cakes

In Construction we will be covering aeroplanes, how they and objects in general become aerodynamic and how nature is used to inspire this. We will then be looking into the history of the Jet Engine and how this has revolutionised travel. Pupils will be using their creative skills to design an aeroplane of the future using the latest technology available such as electricity and solar power.

In Celebration Cakes, Pupils will be using their research skills to learn how different Cultures use cakes to celebrate special occasions. The Pupils will then be encouraged to bake their own cakes, using piping and icing skills to decorate them.

PE

This term pupils will work on teamwork and sportsmanship as well as build on and embed both their basic PE skills but also start to develop their tactical awareness across a variety of sport such as team sports like Dodgeball and Baseball as well as more individual sports such as Badminton. Parents can support pupils by sending them in every week with a clean PE kit (eg a change of t-shirt, jumper either shorts or tracksuit bottoms as well as a comfortable pair of trainers).

ICT

Pupils this term will be studying changes in technology. This topic will cover the advantages and disadvantages of changing technology as it relates to online safety and privacy. Pupils will therefore extend their knowledge of online safety and data protection.

Humanities

During the first half of the Autumn term, pupils will be completing a history unit related to industries and empires between the dates of 1745 and 1901. During the second half of the term, the unit will be focused on the geographical component of Humanities. This will include locating the major cities of Russia, and discussing the features, landscapes, characteristics, and environment that define it as a country.

PSHE

The beginning of the autumn term will be focused on the topics of bullying, diversity, and discrimination. Later on in the term, they will also be completing topics covering the topic of state, religious, civil, and criminal law. The unit on law will take a specific focus on experiences of youth in the criminal justice system.

RE

Pupils in Year 8 Religious Education will have the opportunity to explore questions related to ethics and morality. M4 will take specific focus on questions such as the distinction between right and wrong, as well as the difference between 'good' and 'right' in the context of different societies.

German

This term the students will explore the topic Travel. They will learn to build simple sentences to describe holiday destinations and refer to different modes of transport reach a destination. You can support your child by asking for new phrases each week and to look for language games on-line.

Art

This term is all about architecture and the interior of buildings. We will be exploring the many types and uses of buildings, researching some famous buildings and find out who designed them and look at some fabulous featured doors and windows across the globe. The term ends with inspiration from Lowry and Van Gogh who have made their mark using architecture and interiors in many famous paintings.

Pupils will be working in 2 and 3 dimensions throughout the term and will be modelling door surrounds in paper pulp, constructing shelters using natural materials, using mosaic to enhance windows and drawing/painting in one point perspective.