

What we are learning this term in U4



English (GCSE)

Students will begin to explore Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in the Autumn Term. Pupils will experience a wide range of texts based on this play. This will provide opportunities for learners to enhance their vocabulary and understanding of literary techniques. Alongside this, learners will study extracts from the 19th, 20th and 21st century, including but not limited to: classic literature, non-fiction, reviews, and journalistic works. This will promote an appreciation for reading across various mediums, supporting learner understanding of prominent narrative devices like writing for persuasion for example.

Maths

Most students are working toward a GCSE Mathematics qualification. This course will end with examinations being taken in the Summer Term. Over the course students will cover number and algebra skills, data handling, shapes and measures.

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 Autumn Term students will strengthen their numeracy skills through regular practice. Students will also be looking at their skills with algebra, graphs and consolidate work covered in previous years in preparation for their exams. Work may include practical activities, written questions, practice of skills and past paper questions. Through these we hope to identify any weaknesses in student methods or understanding of these topics and strengthen their skills in these areas.

Science

Physics

In September, pupils will begin to study the action of forces on moving bodies. This topic will cover Newton's Laws of Motion, and so will include looking at balanced and unbalanced forces, the conservation of momentum, and the difference between mass and weight. Pupils will then apply their knowledge to gain an understanding of the reasoning behind stopping distances, and the current technological advances in crash protection systems.

Chemistry

This September pupils will look at neutralisation reactions between a variety of acids, alkalis and carbonates. This will include using practical separation techniques to produce pure samples of different salts, and to determine the effectiveness of different indigestion remedies. Pupils will then look at the reactions possible with the addition and removal of oxygen, and specifically will study how different metals are extracted from natural resources.

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

Preparing for Adulthood

During the course of the next year we will be studying four broad areas in our 'Preparing for Adulthood' lessons.

Employment

In this area we will be looking at routes into work including study programs, traineeships and apprenticeships amongst others. There will also be practical advice on form-filling, preparation of curriculum vitae, collation of records of achievement and interview skills.

Independent Living

This section will give advice on all aspects of living independently. It will include budgeting and managing finances, acquiring and maintaining accommodation, shopping and travelling.

Good Health

All aspects of maintaining good health will be discussed. This will range from simple daily personal hygiene to sexual and mental health issues. There will also be advice on how to arrange appointments at the doctor, clinic, dentist and hospital as well as the necessity for setting up and keeping appointments for any regular checks and immunisations etc.

Friends, Relationships and Community

Developing and maintaining friends and relationships is an important part of preparing for adulthood as is an understanding of community values and how we personally can 'fit in.'

In this section we will discuss the development of positive personal and community relationships and will naturally also include issues such as racism, sexism and toleration of others.

Options

BTEC Sport and Leisure

Students will begin working a new unit titled; "How the Body Works". Students will learn about the Skeletal and Muscular systems as well as the heart, lungs and nutritional requirements of the body. Lessons will consist of both theory and practical sessions. Therefore, appropriate kit should be available for each session.

Astronomy

The Astronomy option will initially focus on the basics of star gazing, such as the definitions of astronomical terms, constellations, and the use of celestial coordinates. Pupils will then study the techniques used in practical observations, the solar system including the motions of moons and planets, and how the different bodies within the solar system are formed. Pupils will then be briefed on how they can begin their own investigation of the night sky, so that they can produce an assessed piece of work for their GCSE.

German

This term the students will explore the topic Travel. They will learn to describe holiday destinations, describe journeys and holiday experiences. They will have opportunity to use more complex sentences including the past tense. You can support your child by asking for new phrases each week and to look for language games on-line.

Home Cooking

Cooking is an essential life skill that benefits our health and wellbeing. The course aims to give the students basic skills and knowledge to be able to cook for themselves in a healthy and cost effective way. This term we will be looking to work on gaining confidence in using different skills whilst cooking, learning basic recipes and understanding food safety and hygiene. Students will be taught how to handle equipment safely during these sessions, so that they are safe at both school and home. Each week students will be given a choice of recipe and as part of the lesson they will plan the meal and calculate the budget for the meal.

Once they gain the correct skills throughout the year and become more confident in the kitchen, we will be looking to work towards a BTEC (Level 1).

First Aid

The group will be following a Heart start UK Course this term. They will learn about Emergency Life Support (ELS) and actions needed to keep a person alive in an emergency until professional support arrives. ELS skills can be used in a wide range of emergency situations, from choking, serious bleeding to cardiac arrest. The group will also be learning basic bandaging techniques including slings, assessing and dressing injuries.

BTEC & ENRICHMENT Art

This term pupils will be exploring painting along with methods, properties and techniques. Initially pupils will be investigating/ recapping the colour theory before being introduced to a variety of artists to inspire their own artwork. Pupils will demonstrate learnt methods on four paintings, exercising a variety of paint, techniques and surfaces. To celebrate learning pupils will finalise project by creating a large scale painting in subject, mediums and techniques of choice.

Students registered on the BTEC qualification will additionally be completing worksheets to reinforce their learning, consider all Health & Safety aspects, document experimentation, demonstrate an understanding of formal elements and complete peer/self-assessments throughout the painting process.

Adventure School

DofE Group

This term the DofE Bronze group will work on expedition preparation: map reading, packing a rucksack, pitching tents and using stoves, resilience when hiking. The final expedition will see the group complete their Bronze Award

Tuesday group

Work this term will consolidate and extend the group's ability safely, and with growing independence:

- Light and control a fire
- Cook simple meals in the outdoors
- Refine skills with using a hand axe and knife to prepare kindling for a fire
- Improve their knife skills when working with pieces of wood (whittling)

Make simple objects and structures out of wood, lashing pieces together and using appropriate knots where necessary

Dog Care / Dog Walking

Each week the group will spend the morning at Jerry Green Dog Rescue Centre where they will learn about how the kennels are run, become familiar with the facilities and meet and learn about the four-legged friends that are temporarily homed there.

The students will learn about:

- Different dog breeds and their characteristics
- Understanding dog body language and how dogs read our body language
- Training techniques

The students will also be helping out at the centre: cleaning out, basic care of the dogs, walking dogs in the exercise field. Gryff will be there too, of course, so he will need looking after and lots of cuddles from time to time.

History

Students will participate in a thematic study unit, Medicine through Time. This will support learners in developing an understanding of how events have shaped various attitudes, beliefs and advances in civilisations throughout history, how this influences modern day society and how causes and effects can be open to interpretation. Cross-curricular skills such as analysing primary and secondary sources will be taught alongside how to construct an argument based on what students have learned. This will develop communication and written skills, as well as the ability for students to independently come to a judgement based on what they have learned.