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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Directors: Mrs J Gardiner and Mrs R Smith
Headteacher: Ms S Dangerfield



September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year Nine! We had a lovely week of learning last week; Mrs Goodgame and I feel very excited about the term ahead and are looking forward to getting to know our brilliant new class better.

If you would like to support your child's learning at home, we thought it would be helpful for you to have a more detailed idea of what we are learning about.

Hidden Figures

English and History will be connected this Half Term - on the theme 'Hidden Figures.' We will be looking at the story of the women who helped to put the first rocket into space, exploring the power of the spoken word and how to be persuasive! We will be finding out about segregation and discrimination throughout different periods of history and the impact they have had on individuals and groups of people. We will research key people from History who have been hidden for different reasons and discover the impact they have made on the world as we know it.

As a part of our learning, we will look at excerpts from the film Hidden Figures. It is a brilliant family film and it would be great if you wanted to watch the full length feature together at home.

You can always help by reading together, either aloud or just encouraging them to make time to read at home. We will be using the school library regularly and will also have a book box which relates to our learning in the classroom. The best homework is to read regularly and this will have the greatest impact on progress, regardless of how fluently your child is able to read.

Geography

We will be exploring Climate Change and what we can do to protect our world. Any of the David Attenborough documentaries would be helpful to watch and the website Earthwatch Europe is really informative too. <https://earthwatch.org.uk/>

Interventions

Our focus is on Self-concept, Mental Health and Well Being. We will be exploring many different areas of Personal Development, building on our Speech and Language skills and discovering new memory Aides. Within the first couple of weeks, we will be setting personal targets and recording them in planners - please do have a look and let us know if you see anything at home which supports the target.

Maths

We recognise the diversity of our students and the support that is needed to develop mathematical fluency, reasoning and potential in each student. In order to achieve this, Maths is taught in "Stages" (based on students' current mathematical understanding) rather than in year groups. This allows teaching to be focused at a level appropriate to students and allows teachers to support any gaps in understanding, misconceptions and allows for consolidation of topics. Across the stages, this term focuses on the core concepts of place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. Underpinning this is our aim to develop each student's confidence, fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Science

In Science this half-term Year 9 will be studying the topic Respiration, Food and Digestion. This topic aims to teach students the names and functions of some major organs in the human body, but also considers aspects of personal health, particularly diet, the effects of exercise on the body and smoking. As always we will have a big focus on the keywords and knowledge required to understand the topic, but also development of scientific thinking skills through practical activities.

The Arts and PE

Perspective and Surrealism – In Year 9, we will be developing an understanding of 1 and 2-point perspective in relation to the Art movement of Surrealism. The idea that an imaginary piece of art is very much linked to observation and the real world will be emphasised through the investigation of the artists Magritte and Dali.

In practical PE this half term year 9 students will be learning about football and dodgeball. In football they will work on skills such as passing, shooting and dribbling. In dodgeball they will work on skills such as throwing, dodging, catching and blocking.

In music this term year 9 will be exploring composition using the pentatonic scale. We will be using our newest resource, boom whackers, to create our own music in groups. We will be exploring creative ways of recording our music and seeing if others can play our compositions.

In Drama this term year 9 will be developing their drama skills and exploring emotions through performing arts.

Homework

In Year Nine, homework will be encouraged but optional. It has the most impact when it is relevant and curriculum related and whenever possible, we will seek to ensure it relates to some aspect of our classroom learning. Homework will be shared on Google classroom and we will print copies for students who have trouble accessing Google classroom from home. Please speak to me if you think your child could manage more or needs less!

If you have any questions, or want to let us know about anything your young person is achieving or concerned about outside of school or at home, please do get in touch. We will be delighted to work together and it is very important to us to see your whole child, not just their school bit!

Ms Jones (Class Teacher) and Mrs Goodgame (TA).

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