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### **ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL**

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

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year Nine! We have a lovely start to learning; Mr. Slater, Mrs. Upton, Mr. Booker 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 and Women in History'. 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. 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. Our English focus will be writing to argue and persuade (sorry if anyone gets really good at this 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. Students with a Reading Plus account should be engaging with this at home (we will agree manageable amounts with them independently) and all students have access to our new e:readers.

#### **History**

In History we are starting the year looking at Women in History and the Suffragettes. Within this we will recap a woman's role in society in the Victorian era and democracy in the 19th Century. We will also look at specific groups over time who have fought for women's rights. We will continue to 'Think like Historians' by looking at evidence and sources of information to draw and gather conclusions.

BBC Bitesize links:

- [Suffragette movement](#)
- [Fight for female suffrage](#)
- [Emmeline Pankhurst](#)

## **Philosophy and Ethics**

We will be exploring the concept of Human Rights. We will be exploring the idea that rights have responsibilities associated with them and sometimes we have to decide whose rights take a priority.

## **Geography**

We will be exploring Climate Change and issues that are affecting the British Isles and what we can do to protect our world. This includes looking at types of pollution and matters that affect us closer to the school such as coastal erosion.

This BBC Bitesize website is a good starting point for the core content of this course:

- [Climate Change](#)
- [Coastal processes and erosion](#)

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, multiplication and division. Underpinning this is our aim to develop each student's confidence, fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills. In the coming weeks, look out for an email explaining how students can be supported at home with the learning and development of their times tables.

## **Science**

In Science this half-term Year 9 will be studying the topic Forces at Work. This topic builds on previous learning about forces and contains key ideas that feature in the Physics part of GCSE Combined Science. 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.

Useful website: BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p>

## **Art**

In Art lessons, year 9s will be exploring the theme 'Perspective and Surrealism'. Students will explore distortion and define the foreground, middleground and background of an artwork 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.

## **PE**

In practical PE this half term year 9 students will be further developing skills and knowledge previously gained in football and dodgeball.

## **Music**

In Music this term year 9 will be exploring pentatonic jazz compositions, taking inspiration from Herbie Hancock's most famous composition, Chameleon.

## **Computing**

This unit, called "Introduction to Python programming", introduces learners to text-based programming with Python. The lessons form a journey that starts with simple programs involving input and output and gradually moves on through arithmetic operations, randomness, selection and iteration. Emphasis is placed on tackling common misconceptions and teaching the mechanics of program execution.

## **Drama**

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

## **Interventions**

As well as our Intervention lessons before lunch, we will be having personalised intervention time for 10 minutes each morning (except for Tuesdays when we go to college for Catering) The focus areas are in planners under Intervention targets (pg 14-15).

## **Homework**

In Year 9, 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. As well as reading, 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!

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Ms Jones, Mr Slater (Class Teachers)  
Mrs Upton and Mr Booker (TAs).