



DUKE *of* KENT  
SCHOOL

**Curriculum Overview**  
**Years 7, 8 and 9**

**Autumn Term 2020**

# Year 7 Curriculum Overview

## Autumn Term

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### Art

Pupils will explore two ancient illuminated manuscripts, The Book of Kells and Sultan Baybars' Qur'an. They will research and record through the use of ICT and drawing from secondary sources. From the information they collect they will design their own Illuminated letter from either the Arabic or English alphabet. They will go on to work these designs up into Japanese woodblock prints.

### Computer Science

Students will start the Autumn Term with an introduction on how to use Google apps effectively. This will involve the understanding of sharing documents, organisation of files and ways of presenting your work. Furthermore, they will learn about the different parts of hardware that make up a computer system.

### Drama

Pupils will learn about the origins of modern theatre, creating a Chorus using Synchronicity, flock technique and building group awareness. They will act for an audience and examining an actor's role and how they use of voice: Pitch and expression and how we use the voice to communicate feelings and intent. They will explore the first Greek plays and devise and share performances based on Greek myths.

### Design Technology

We will start with a creative design based project, looking at Alessi. This will focus on form and function, and culminate in a group presentation. Students will then design and make a night light, where they will develop knowledge and understanding related to design, electronics, CAD/CAM, thermoforming and use of jigs.

### English

Pupils will begin their journey into Senior School English with a novel study: 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne. Throughout the term, the pupils will have the opportunity to research World War Two and apply this knowledge to their own reading of the text. Pupils will begin to develop their analytical skills with the introduction of Point, Evidence, Explain (PEE). The pupils will also focus on a variety of other skills including: informal letter writing and hot-seating.

### French

Year 7 will start the year using the Studio 1 textbook. They will talk about holidays, they will learn how to order food and drink in a café and will use reflexive verbs to talk about daily routine. They will then progress to Studio 2 and talk about which television programmes, films and books they like and how they spend time on the internet. At the end of this chapter, the perfect (past) tense is introduced.

### Geography

This term Year 7 will begin to look at the physical processes taking place at our coastlines. This unit combines the very best of physical geography with human interaction at the coast, placing it in a context that all students can relate to. Who doesn't love the seaside?

### History

Year 7 embarks upon a study of the Tudors by looking at the end of the Wars of the Roses and the problems faced by Henry VII to establish the Tudor Dynasty. This is followed by an analysis of the Henrician Reformation, which examines the roles of Henry VIII, Martin Luther, Cardinal Wolsey, Thomas Cranmer and Thomas Cromwell in 'The Break from Rome' and the 'Dissolution of the Monasteries'.



## **Maths**

After a recap on non-calculator arithmetic pupils will move onto prime factors and powers of numbers. Next we look at operations on fractions before moving onto angles introducing parallel line properties and compass constructions. Pupils will be introduced to the use of algebraic notation and then look at data handling techniques including averages and pie charts.

## **Music**

The term begins with a recap on musical knowledge, looking at performance, theory and appraising, focusing on the 'Elements of Music'. The pupils then look at how composers have used the elements to describe different times of the night and day by examining music from different times and places. Pupils will explore how the elements can be adapted and manipulated to create a composition describing sunrise or sunset, using their instruments or music technology. The term is also full of music, listening and discussion.

## **Physical Education**

The activities that students will develop their performance, knowledge and understanding in are Football, Netball, Cross-Country/Fitness Training, Hockey, Rugby, Swimming, table tennis and Badminton. The focus will be to improve individual skills and techniques, activity specific fitness, knowledge and understanding of rules and tactics and prepare students for competitive matches and competitions.

## **PSHE**

The PSHE curriculum is broken down into three categories that are recommended by the PSHE association. These are Health and Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationships. In the Autumn Term we concentrate on topics covered under Living in the Wider World which includes aspirations, finance, self-esteem, keeping social media accounts private, being resilient and prejudice/stereotyping.

## **Religious Studies**

RS is as much to do with encouraging the students to develop their own views on important issues, as it is to do with learning about religions and beliefs. Pupils will look at the Old Testament in the context of the world today; contemporary issues and modern thinking are at the forefront of our discussions.

## **Science**

Pupils begin by learning about "Working Scientifically" - how to plan and carry out fair and scientific investigations, including recording, analysing and evaluating data, which they put into practice with introductory practical work. The pupils then move on to study a Biology, Chemistry and Physics topic during the Autumn term. The Biology topic is Cells, in Chemistry it is Particle Theory, and in Physics the pupils study Forces. Pupils are given the opportunity to enhance their understanding of science by conducting their own scientific experiments and seeing exciting demonstrations.

## **Spanish**

Students will be using the Viva I textbook. They will learn how to say their name, describe their personality, talk about family and pets, say when their birthday is and describe their likes and dislikes. Grammar points covered will include the verb ser (to be), adjective endings, the verb tener (to have).

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# Year 8 Curriculum Overview

## Autumn Term

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### Art

Pupils will compare and contrast the work of contemporary watercolourist Emma Dibben and Spanish Baroque painter Juan Sanchez Cotan. They will embark on a visual exploration of the subject matter that these artists share through a number of different techniques and processes. These include watercolour, intaglio printing, tonal drawing and individual exploration.

### Computer Science

Pupils will start by designing and programming an app for a specific purpose. Pupils will then go on to learn more about how computers communicate using a base 2 binary system.

### Drama

Pupils seek to reinforce basic drama skills by exploring drama strategies to strengthen the ability to create well defined characters and establish dramatic tension within a scene. Examining Commedia dell'arte and its stock characters whilst looking at status within a performance using the roles of master and servant. They will end the term with an extended improvisation using characters developed over the term.

### Design Technology

We will have creative fun with a range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths [STEM] problem solving challenges. Pupils will develop their technical knowledge and understanding as individuals and as part of a team. Demonstrating their resilience, pupils will develop their research and making skills, along with creativity and lateral thinking.

### English

This term, pupils will be studying Gothic Literature. The pupils will begin by identifying gothic features and conventions and will have the opportunity to read several gothic extracts including: 'Dracula' and 'Frankenstein'. During the course of the term, pupils will have the opportunity to develop their own writing skills by experimenting with various techniques on how a writer can create tension and fear. At the end of the unit, the pupils will have the chance to write their very own gothic story!

### French

Pupils are using the Studio 2 textbook. They will describe their homes, using comparatives and prepositions. They will talk about what they normally eat and make some crêpes. They will talk about a special occasion using the past tense.

### Geography

This term pupils will be developing their understanding of river processes including weathering, river erosion, transportation and deposition. They will also study various river landforms, and the impact of humans on rivers. Ultimately, the students embark on our famous Tillingbourne River Trip to study its characteristics and complete a piece of fieldwork.

### History

This term Year 8 will look at the ascension of James I and his role in the gunpowder plot. This will be followed by a study of the causes and events of 'The English Civil War', with case studies on: The Battle of Marston Moor, the trial and execution of Charles I and the establishment of Cromwell's Republic.



## Maths

We start by developing their algebraic techniques by solving equations with unknowns on both sides. We then move onto calculations with speed and time. Next we will recap on percentage calculations before exploring further angle properties including polygons and bearings. Later topics include extending their use of prime factorisation and dividing decimals. In the handling data topic they will learn about scatter diagrams and finally set 1 will be introduced to Pythagoras's theorem.

## Music

Pupils study and explore Hooks and Riffs, and in doing so learn to identify, explore and make creative use of given musical devices to create an intended effect. They will use, where appropriate, both ICT and/or instruments to compose and record their work. Pupils also learn how hooks and riffs can be created and manipulated using music technology, particularly using GarageBand and Cubase. Pupils will notate their riffs using traditional music notation, either by hand or digitally.

## Physical Education

The activities that students will develop their performance, knowledge and understanding in are Football, Netball, Cross-Country, Fitness Training, Hockey, Rugby, Swimming, Table Tennis and Badminton. The focus will be to improve individual skills and techniques, activity specific fitness, knowledge and understanding of rules and tactics and prepare students for competitive matches/competitions.

## PSHE

The PSHE curriculum is broken down into three categories that are recommended by the PSHE association. These are Health and Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationship. In the Autumn Term we concentrate on topics covered under Living in the Wider World which includes internet safety, caring for our environment, careers, becoming entrepreneurs, homophobia, finance, stereotyping and discrimination.

## Religious Studies

RS in Year 8 is to do with continuing the development of the pupils own views on important issues. The students will look at contemporary issues, such as climate change and racism but with the stories of the Old Testament and the New Testament as templates. They will also study one or two of the major world religions.

## Science

Pupils continue their Senior School Science learning by developing a solid understanding of the building blocks which are required to study GCSE Science. The pupils study a Biology, Chemistry and Physics topic each term. In the Autumn Term, Biology is the engaging topic of Health & Lifestyle, learning the science behind our lifestyle choices. In Chemistry, students look at The Periodic Table with opportunities to explore the properties and reactivity of the most interesting elements. Electricity and magnetism is studied in Physics, with the opportunity to build a range of circuits and learn the science behind the force of magnetism.

## Spanish

Pupils use the Mira 1 textbook in the Autumn Term. They will say what they do in the free time using frequency expressions and the irregular verbs hacer (to do) and salir (to go out). They will learn to tell the time and say why they like and dislike different activities. They will learn the near future tense to say what they are going to do at the weekend.

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# Year 9 Curriculum Overview

## Autumn Term

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### Art

The Year 9 Art curriculum is designed to develop all pupils' self-motivation, autonomy, resilience and organisation while also preparing those thinking of taking GCSE to explore more personalised ways of working. Pupils will explore the theme 'Organic Forms' through a number of drawing and photographic exercises. Through their work they will respond to artists, cultures and different periods, relevant to their visual explorations. Lessons will follow a workshop format, where they will organise their own schedule, source equipment and research independently, fully supported by Art Department staff.

### Computer Science

Year 9 will start the Autumn Term by learning about key Computer Science figures from the past and how they changed the world today. They will also learn about a section of artificial intelligence called machine learning.

### Drama

Pupils will play research roles and a play's background to help understand the playwright's intentions and to question how to bring the script from 'page to stage'. They will use theatre conventions and practices from previous modules to create a small scale performance using combinations of various forms and styles. They will also consider the use of building and creating tension as well as explaining semiotics.

### Design Technology

The first project is all about showing technical creativity in the design and development of a new product. Pupils will be encouraged to look at how they shape and combine a range of materials to meet a challenging design brief. The key to success for this will be for them to develop an interesting and exciting solution fit for our client.

### English

This term, pupils will be studying Mark Haddon's award-winning novel 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'. As part of their study, pupils will research autism and will have the opportunity to apply this knowledge to their own understanding of the protagonist: Christopher - a 15 year old school boy. Throughout the term, the pupils cover a variety of skills including hot-seating, debating and reviewing writing.

### French

Year 9 is using the Studio 3 textbook. They will learn to say which jobs interest them, and practise applying for one. They will talk about their future life plans. They will then move on to the topic of holidays. Grammar points covered will include the imperfect tense and using multiple tenses together. Throughout the year, Year 9 will be accumulating evidence for their Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education in French.

### Geography

This term, Year 9 will begin studying the first unit of the GCSE Geography course entitled Natural Hazards. They will look closely at the processes involved in plate tectonics, tropical storms and extreme weather in the UK. It is a fascinating and enriching unit that captures the imagination of the students with the immensity of Mother Nature.

### History

This term pupils will look at the era of the First World War examining its causes and events. Pupils will study the nature and consequences of the European Alliance System, the outbreak of war in 1914, propaganda, life in the trenches and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles. The 'Battle of the Somme' will be used as a case study.



## Maths

After a recap on some numeracy skills pupils will be developing their algebraic manipulation skills which will include multiplying out two brackets. Next we will explore some shape topics including angles in polygons. We will also be looking at data handling techniques including averages from grouped frequency tables. The final topics are on fractions, rules of indices, standard index form and sequences.

## Music

This term pupils look at the idea of musicals and how they are put together. They cover a brief history of the musical from its origins in opera through to modern day film/stage musicals. Pupils learn how themes can be used to describe different characters, to suggest a time or place etc. Pupils identify structural and expressive features and refine, complete and notate compositions. They also appraise music critically, expressing and justifying their opinions.

## Physical Education

The activities that pupils will develop their performance, knowledge and understanding in are Football, Netball, Cross-Country/Fitness Training, Hockey, Rugby, Swimming, Table Tennis and Badminton. The focus will be to improve individual skills and techniques, activity specific fitness, knowledge and understanding of rules and tactics and prepare students for competitive matches and competitions.

## PSHE

The PSHE curriculum is broken down into three categories that are recommended by the PSHE association. These are Health and Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationship (RSE). In the Autumn Term we concentrate on topics covered under Living in the Wider World which includes knife crime (consequences), how the law deals with young offenders, self discipline to achieve our aims and goals, employability skills, finance, foreign aid and human rights abuses and atrocities.

## Science

In Year 9, pupils commence their GCSE studies in Science. At this stage, they study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects for the first time and have lessons with the three subject specialist teachers. Year 9 provides an opportunity for students to start to consider whether they would prefer to study Separate or Combined Sciences at GCSE. Students start with the study of Cells and transport in Biology, Atomic Structure in Chemistry and Energy and Resources in Physics.

## Spanish

Year 9 will use the Mira 2 textbook. They will learn the preterite (past tense) of regular verbs, as well as ir (to go) and ser (to be) in order to talk about past holidays. They will learn to say what they eat and drink and shop in a market.

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