

Your child will be studying the following topics:

English

First half term.

Pupils are working towards Theatre Week.

Devising and writing for a live audience. Pupils are using the theme of 'dream and night time' to devise their own performance and scripts.

We are using surrealist stimulus and The Odyssey to explore different realms and worlds.

Whilst imagination is the main focus over all, sentence structure is the main grammatical focus.

I ask that all pupils read aloud to a family member twice a week (at least) to improve their English levels generally.

Second half term.

Students are focusing on factual writing.

Recognising the different forms and grammatical styles that each form require.

They will each produce a magazine that they will pitch towards a 'Dragons Den' style assessment.

Students are encouraged to read magazines and newspapers, blogs and tweets to analyse how the modern use of factual writing and form is constantly evolving

Mathematics

Over the course of the term, pupils will work on a number of mathematical topics to refresh and demonstrate and challenge their mathematical knowledge and understanding. As this year progresses, pupils will have opportunity to deepen their understanding of the general principles they are already familiar with as well as challenge themselves through tackling increasingly complex problems.

As this is a comparatively short term, only three topics will be covered this term:

Geometry: properties of shapes and angles

Geometry: using position and directions

Statistics: graphs and charts

Science

Pupils will explore the topic of acids and alkalis by using the pH scale. They will also learn about how acids react with metals and alkalis and write basic formulae to describe the chemical reactions observed.

Pupils will then consider the impact of exercise, asthma and smoking on the human gas exchange system and the effects of recreational drugs on health.

Towards the end of term, pupils will learn about light and sound, including the structures of the eyes and ears and how we see and hear.

Art

This term pupils will be using line and pattern to produce interesting and original art work. They will look at how mark making is used to communicate surface and texture as well as abstract imagery and optical illusions. They will complete the project with a large piece of work using pen and limited colours. All materials will be provided.

Art Monks Walk School

Pupils will continue to explore techniques and processes used in creating the illusion of depth and scale. Pupils will continue their work on Monet and Hockney through carrying out pieces of work, responding to these artists. Towards the end of the term the group will start a unit on food illustrations.

Design Technology

This term pupils will be doing a Textiles project where they will design and make a cushion cover, using variety of textile materials and techniques. They will have to create a design based upon a given theme and complete a design portfolio. They will utilise many skills taught already and extend them as the project progresses as well as learning new skills.>

Drama Monks Walk School

Pupils will explore a physical theatre performance, called "Sleep No More", based on Macbeth. The work will culminate in a whole class performance.

Geography

Rivers and Coasts - this module studies River Processes and Land forms. There is an in-depth comparison between two British rivers, e.g. the River Thames and the River Lea. Global patterns created by major river systems are studied alongside environmental issues of pollution and flooding.

German

Health and Sport – In this module pupils will have the opportunity to practise and extend talking about themselves. They will learn how to say which sports they enjoy, the names of basic foods and drinks, what they like and dislike and what they eat and drink for breakfast. Pupils will also learn how to carry out a simple conversation in a shop.

History

Pupils will be continuing their study of the Tudor and Stuart periods – 1500 to 1750. The work will be divided into three main sections to develop understanding of political, religious and social changes. Pupils will also develop their source analysis, research and writing.

Information Communication Technology

Internet Research:

Pupils will learn how to research and search specific keywords and information effectively and safely. Pupils will learn the benefits of using search engines and how to use them properly. Pupils will work towards a project at the end which would be to investigate certain search criteria's which would lead to a final project.

Language and Listening

Language and listening lessons are taught in four parts. These relate to the four broad areas of need from the SEN code of practice: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social, emotional and mental health and sensory and physical needs. Each term pupils will spend three weeks developing their skills in each area. Activities include presentations, discussions, observation, group work, thinking skills, and evaluations.

Pupils will cover a variety of topics in the spring term:

Sensory and physical needs lessons, issues with - Environmental listening

Emotional and mental health lessons - Art therapy.

Cognition and learning lessons - Reasoning - Living graphs / audience and purpose.

Communication and interaction lessons - Lego therapy and auditory memory.

Music

This half term, students in Year 8 will take part in a composition project alongside Year 7 and 9. They are creating music which will accompany a short film: 'Metropolis'. The sounds Year 8 create will form part of the musical accompaniment to the film and this work, which involves three year groups is an excellent way to develop collaboration as a collective. Year 8 are also developing understanding of legato and staccato sounds in music through composition with graphic scores and performing on instruments/with their voices. This will enhance the work done for the film composition project.

After half term, we will focus on cyclic patterns with activities involving performances with percussion, composition involving rearrangement of existing pieces of music through changing timbre and duration and listening activities that engage the students to decide whether or not the music has cyclic patterns.

Personal Social and Health Education

This term pupils will be learning about:

Drugs and Alcohol

Emotional wellbeing.

Physical Education Monks Walk School

In the spring term the girls will start with five weeks of football before moving onto a six week block of hockey (or rugby). The boys' group will start with basketball (or netball), followed by football. Please be aware that there are often last minute changes in PE lessons due to weather, matches, staffing, etc. Pupils will need PE kit and swimming kit in school for every PE lesson.

Religious Education

Beliefs and Practices - Judaism. Pupils will study the history of the Jews, their key beliefs and practices, and the similarities with Christianity. Pupils will also develop their independent research skills and group work throughout this topic.