



## Year 7 Curriculum Guide

We are very proud of our Year 7 curriculum at Holmleigh Park High and are working hard at ensuring that it is both broad and balanced. Below are short summaries from each subject giving you a flavour of the skills that will be developed and the areas covered in each of the subjects

Subject	Curriculum Information
English	<p>In English the aim of the key stage 3 curriculum is to provide our students with the wisdom to think about the different ways in which writers have explored what it means to be human. We wish to immerse them in an exploration of different voices and different times by using a wide variety of imagined realities and real experiences in order to develop a love of reading, writing, language and social diversity. Year 7 will begin their journey by studying the 'Origins' unit. This will help them to understand the origins and purpose of narratives and explore how they influence our lives and our writing. We hope to instil a love of literature with an exploration of Mythology, Biblical stories, Fables, Fairy Tales and links to modern texts. Throughout the course of the year, the students will delve into 'Epic Journeys' with a focus on Treasure Island, the Iliad and the Odyssey and end the year looking at different viewpoints on love through Shakespeare's sonnets and the poetry of Duffy, Heaney and Plath.</p>
Maths	<p>The year 7 maths curriculum builds on the skills student have begun in primary school. We initially focus on number, before introducing students to the concept of algebra; by the end of year 7 students will feel confident manipulating simple algebraic expressions. In geometry we learn how to draw and measure accurate angles and to find missing angles in a variety of 2d shapes and on parallel lines. Students will also develop skills in statistics, probability and ratio. We offer students the opportunity to compete in the Junior UK Maths Challenge in year 7.</p>
Science	<p>In Science Year 7 students work to develop a firm understanding of the core scientific principles, a strong enthusiasm for the subject and build the foundation practical scientific skills required for the subject.</p> <p>Science is inherently part of the world we live in, our intent is that our science curriculum will produce students that are scientifically literate, interested, and aware in the world around them.</p> <p>Topics include: The cell, Energy, Particle Theory, Organisation, Atoms, Forces, The Periodic Table, Electricity and Magnetism, Interdependence, Separating Mixtures and Space.</p>
Art	<p>In Art the aim of the key stage 3 curriculum is to develop range of creative skills based on the formal elements in Art. The program in Year 7 is to develop observational drawing skills working from natural form, landscapes and portraits. In Art you will explore many different media including painting, printing and 3 dimensional skills. In conjunction with the Art work you will also explore Artists and Cultures to help inform your own ideas. All these units will lead to exciting final outcomes.</p>
French	<p>In French, the aim of the Year 7 curriculum is to build their confidence manipulating a foreign language. The curriculum is designed to offer students the</p>



	<p>opportunity to develop comprehensive knowledge of the language. In key stage 3, students start with an in-depth teaching of the basic components to ensure that all students are able to access the curriculum but it also challenges them with the use of three time frames and complex structures. At key stage 3, the topic coverage has been decreased to three topics per year in order to encourage more deliberate practice and therefore to let students use the language more spontaneously. In Year 7, the topics are: my family, my free-time and my school. At the beginning of every module, we explicitly teach and recap French phonics in order to develop and consolidate their level of oracy in the foreign language.</p>
Catering	<p>The aim of our key stage 3 catering curriculum is to create the independent and confident practical application of cookery skills, underpinned by a thorough understanding of food safety, nutrition and food provenance.</p> <p>In Year 7 we explore Nutrition by understanding the source and functions of nutrients and the impact of unsatisfactory intake in relation to different life stages and special diets, linking this to the Eatwell Guide. We develop our Practical Skills by nurturing confident and independent application of a range of preparation, cooking and presentation techniques, whilst applying the principles of food safety and hygiene. We work with a range of commodities using the Eatwell Guide to identify different food groups, understanding the properties of commodities and food provenance. In our Food Safety Topics we learn how food causes ill health in relation to hygiene and special diets and develop competency in being able to minimise risks to health and safety. We will introduce how the Hospitality and Catering Industry to understand how different the Catering and Hospitality establishments operate provide provisions and examine relevant job roles, working contracts and legislation. We hope all of this will lead to students being enthused by food using skills and knowledge which can be applied throughout life.</p>
Geography	<p>In Geography, students in Year 7 will build on their knowledge of place and scale through their first topic, Geographical Skills and Ecosystems. In this unit, students will develop their map skills about learn about different biomes around the world. Our second topic is Population and Migration. This involves learning about where people live around the world, and the reasons why people are more drawn to certain areas. We learn about the movement of people from one place to another, and about the impacts of having a youthful population in Mexico and an ageing population in Japan. Our third topic is Weather and Climate, focusing more on the UK, we take full advantage of our school site to carry out a fieldwork investigation. Finally in the summer term, we learn about glaciation and its impact on the UK landscape.</p>
History	<p>In History in Year 7 seeks to understand what it means to be British. Students will start History with what was life like after the Romans had left Britain. Students will look at the death of Edward the Confessor and how that caused a crisis for the Kingdom of England. The Norman Conquest offers students the opportunity to assess how far Britain has been affected by the mass movement of people and ideas. Students are investigating themes like migration, monarchy, feudalism, culture and values in order to understand what it means to be British in 2020.</p>
IT	<p>In IT the aim of the key stage 3 curriculum is to develop a range of IT skills both functional and creative. The program within Year 7 broadens the students knowledge on e-safety and how to use the internet and social media in the right</p>



	<p>manner. In IT you will develop mastery in many of the Microsoft programs and also the online version within the Google packages. Alongside this you will also explore the Adobe software and the creative nature of IT such as image editing and manipulation, animation and website design.</p>
PE	<p>PE in Year 7 introduces students to a range of sports and activities that will be developed throughout the school. The main team sports are rugby, football and cricket for the boys and netball, football and rounders for the girls. In addition during PE lessons students will take part in a range of activities including Basketball, Swimming, Trampolining, Dance and Badminton. Students will be encouraged to attend extra curricular activities and represent the school in fixtures and tournaments against schools from the local area. Club links will be encouraged whereby students who enjoy a new activity can be directed towards a club in the local area where they further develop their skill and understanding. Underpinning all lessons will be the develop of a students fitness and understanding of how to live a healthy lifestyle.</p>
Performing Arts	<p>Performing Arts in Year 7 is a combination of Music and Drama. For Music, you will gain the performance and compositional skills needed to prepare you for the world of work within the music industry. Performance work incorporate instruments such as the keyboard, the ukulele, drumming and singing. Compositional work will involve using instruments and computers to create your own music. Students will also learn to evaluate music through listening and music theory exercises focused on the elements of music. Topics include: the musical elements, reading the treble clef, African music, folk music, working songs and drumming. In Drama the curriculum allows students to engage with the subject practically and theoretically through topics such as the haunted mansion and bullying. Students will also study different practitioners such as Stanislavski and Brecht, styles such as naturalism, pantomime and physical theatre. Students will develop a range of performance skills, techniques and subject knowledge that will embed their understanding of the subject.</p>
Religious Education	<p>Religious Education in Year 7 gives you a chance to try and make sense of this world and the all the people and cultures we have in it. The programme builds on previous learning from KS2 to explore the idea of 'Beliefs' and 'Values'. We begin with an exploration of Christianity and its beliefs about God. We will also explore Sikh and Hindu beliefs about God in year 7 and look at how beliefs can become 'Actions' in how we live our lives. To survive RE, you need to be willing to ask questions, listen to others and to treat other people with genuine respect as we are all unique! The Year 7 programme is designed to create foundations for the rest of key stage 3 and for GCSE as well as preparing students to respect the diversity we have in our society.</p>
Personal study	<p>Personal study lessons are designed to teach Year 7 students the skills needed to learn independently so that knowledge is retained and students can prepare effectively for assessment and exams. Each student has a knowledge organiser that contains the core skills and knowledge require for each subject and this forms the basis of the work done in these lessons.</p>
Choir	<p>Choir lessons happen once a week and when regulations allow the whole year group form a choir in our Sports Hall and sing a wide range of songs. The choir was</p>



	a fantastic success last year with the highlight being their performance in the Greenshaw Christmas concert in Gloucester Cathedral!
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