



Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Curriculum Information for Half Term 3 (6th January to 13th February)

Happy New Year!

The information in this letter outlines Curriculum, Assessment, and Extra-curricular activities for this first Spring term, as students continue to push forwards with their learning.

Through our curriculum, we provide a wide range of learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom, aimed at fostering a love of learning and providing opportunities to experience success and fulfilment. Leaders and teachers at HEA and United Learning plan the content, and the sequence of learning, very carefully to aid efficiency and create meaningful connections. We hope that you find the information helpful and a starting point to enable positive discussions at home about subject content and the opportunities that are available within school.

Below is the content that Year 8 students should expect to be taught during half-term 3 of this academic year:

Subject	What will my Year 8 child learn in this subject during Term 3?	
English	Complete 'Animal Farm'. Begin the play version of 'Noughts and Crosses'.	
Maths	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Percentage Calculations	
Science	Organ systems; Interactions and interdependence	
RE	Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for and against the existence of God and the Problem of Evil	
Geography	Ecosystems. How do they work and where are they located? Examples of Taiga forest and coral reefs	
History	The English Civil War and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	
French / Spanish	Film, tv shows, music: giving opinions on different media and learning transactional language to arrange going out to the cinema	
Art	Emotion and mark making through portraits.	
Computer Science	Mobile App Development: Students design and prototype apps, exploring user interface design and functionality.	
Drama	Shakespeare's text interpretation - 'Macbeth'	
Food Tech	British cuisine and making apple crumble.	
Music	The Ensemble Musician – Students will explore the role of the ensemble musician through Reggae, developing their ability to play an independent part against others.	
PE	Boys Developing core skills, tactics and leadership through football Developing core skills and effective communication through table tennis	Girls Developing core skills, tactics and leadership through netball Developing core skills and effective communication through table tennis/badminton
Textiles	Using the Mexican festival, The Day of the Dead, design and make a keyring with an e-textiles circuit	
PSHE	Mental Health and Wellbeing	



Home-Learning Reminder

Further information regarding Home Learning can be found in the Curriculum letter from half-term 1. We utilise Knowledge Organisers alongside online platforms to set student homework, and access to the following sites is key:

MS Teams – Using their school email address and password.

Sparx – Using the ‘Log in with Microsoft’ button. *Used for Literacy, Maths and Science.*

Seneca - Using the ‘Log in with Microsoft’ button. *Used for Humanities and Languages.*

Arbor – Parents/Carers are able to track both positive and negative points within school on the Arbor app, as well as attendance and the school timetable.

If you have any queries regarding accessing any of the above platforms, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s tutor.

Assessment

Assessment, both summative and formative, form a crucial part of education at HEA – knowing what our students know at any given time is crucial in supporting them further. Whilst students receive ongoing feedback during elements of independent work each lesson, a summative point of formal assessment is useful in gathering information on how the curriculum has landed for all.

During each big term, students should expect at least one formal assessment in each subject – these are then used as the main evidence-point for report writing, and feed back into any re-teaching of common misconceptions. To avoid one specific part of the term becoming heavily weighted towards assessment, our assessments are placed at the best point in the curriculum journey for that subject.

All assessment overviews appear on our school website here - [Assessment](#)

Subject leaders will ensure that revision topics, where appropriate, are made clear on Microsoft Teams, but a broader overview is available in our departmental overviews - [Curriculum](#)

Absence and the Curriculum

We understand that it is unavoidable at times for a student to be absent from school, for varying reasons. We are keen, however, to ensure that access to the curriculum, and continued learning, is made available to those who are absent. Completing portions of work, whilst at home, can be vitally important in ensuring fewer gaps in learning upon return – making the return to school far smoother for the young person.

Our full curriculum (outside of practical elements) is available to all students on Microsoft Teams, within a year group folder. This is split by half-term, or titled, to aid students



in identifying which lesson they may have missed. Whilst this is not as purposeful as accessing the lesson with support from the teacher, exposure to the content can ensure greater engagement upon return.

Alongside this, our online home learning portals (Sparx/Seneca) also offer access to 'independent learning' sections for students to access outside of homework.

Extracurricular Activities

Week A			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
NT Script-Writing MA2 Lunch – PM Form All welcome	Sparx Reader Club EN9 Lunch	You-Nique Group RE2 Lunch All welcome	KS5 Book Club Library Lunch Year 12 and 13
Sewing and Craft Club DT6 Lunch Year 8	Year 8/10/11 Netball Netball Courts 15:30 – 16:30 Year 8, 10 and 11	KS3 Dance Club H1 Lunch KS3	Year 7/8/9 Girls Rugby Lower Field 15:30 – 16:30 Year 7, 8 and 9 girls
Year 7/9 Netball Netball Courts 15:30 – 16:30 Year 7 and 9	Year 9 Boys Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30 Year 9	Thunk Club (Philosophy) H12 Lunch KS4 and KS5	Year 10/11 Boys Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30
Essay Club EN7 15:30 – 16:30 Year 11	School Production Main Hall 13:30 – 17:00 All welcome	Girls Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30 All years	
Year 7/8 Boys Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30 Year 7 and 8		Craft Club Library Lunch All years	
School Production Main Hall 15:30 – 17:00			

Week B			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
NT Script-Writing H1 Lunch – PM Form All welcome	Sparx Reader Club EN9 Lunch	You-Nique Group RE2 Lunch All welcome	Year 7/8/9 Girls Rugby Lower Field 15:30 – 16:30 Year 7, 8 and 9 girls
Essay Club EN7 15:30 – 16:30 Year 11	Year 8/10/11 Netball Netball Courts 15:30 – 16:30 Year 8, 10 and 11	KS3 Dance Club H1 Lunch KS3	Year 10/11 Boys Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30
Year 7/9 Netball Netball Courts 15:30 – 16:30 Year 7 and 9	School Production Main Hall 15:30 – 17:00	Craft Club Library Lunch All years	Manga Club Library Lunch All years
Year 7/8 Boys Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30 Year 7 and 8		Thunk Club (Philosophy) H12 Lunch KS4 and KS5	
School Production Main Hall 15:30 – 17:00		Girls Football AGP 15:30 – 16:30 All years	





Yours sincerely,

Mr Davis
Vice Principal – Quality of Education