

15th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Curriculum Information for Half Term 1 (3rd September – 24th October 2025)

As we begin our second full week back in school, I wanted to write to you all with an overview of learning opportunities here at Huish. The information in this letter outlines Curriculum, Home-Learning, and Extra-curricular activities for this term.

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 connection. 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 1 of this academic year:

Subject	What will my Year 8 child learn in this subject during Term 1?	
English	Exploration of narrative and the Gothic genre using Dracula and other Gothic extracts.	
Maths	Prime Factorisation; Rounding; Multiplying and Dividing Fractions; Solving Equations.	
Science	Chemical Changes; Digestion and Nutrition.	
RE	Pre-Islamic Arabia and the Birth of Islam.	
Geography	Coastal Landscapes and Population Geography.	
History	Henry VIII and the Reformation.	
Languages	Holiday and Travel.	
Art	Proportion and Scale through Drawing and Shading – Andy Warhol.	
Computer Science	Introduction to Python Programming.	
Drama	Devising from a Stimulus.	
Food Tech	Health and Safety; Carbohydrates and Energy.	
Music	Tonality and Structure through Keyboard Pieces.	
PE (on a rotation)	Boys Developing core skills, tactics and leadership through rugby. Developing core skills and analysis of performance through swimming.	Girls Developing core skills, tactics and leadership through hockey. Developing core skills and analysis of performance through gymnastics.
Textiles	How to use the sewing machine – Mechanical Systems.	

Home Learning

At HEA, we know the impact that home learning can have on student progress. The EEF states that 5+ months of additional progress is expected when students regularly complete meaningful homework throughout their time in Secondary school.

Our knowledge-rich curriculum places a high emphasis on the power of knowledge – you cannot apply what you do not know. Therefore, the majority of our home learning heavily promotes the learning of key terms and definitions that will be vital for success within lessons. This Home Learning can be found in our Knowledge Organisers (available on the website) and class teachers will state which section of the KO should be prioritised each week/fortnight. All students receive a physical copy of the KO, and this becomes an important part of their daily equipment.

To complement this learning of key terms, we also ask students to complete ‘application work’; where the knowledge can then be utilised in authentic settings. This emphasis on application work grows over time, and so the weighting of KO-work to application work will alter from Years 7-11. All application tasks should be completed to a 100% success rate or display a total time of 30-minutes minimum for attempting the set questions.

MS Teams

At HEA, we use Microsoft Teams to support with Home Learning. All students have access to this platform through their school email address (ending @huishepiscopi.org) and their Teams are automatically updated through our registers. All passwords remain the same as last academic year for Years 8 – 11.

Homework will be added as ‘Assignments’ for students to check and then ‘Hand-In’, with Guardian summaries automatically enabled to begin from **Sunday 21st September**. Our website offers an overview of using MS Teams, but please do not hesitate to contact your child’s tutor, or our IT team with any queries.

Sparx

Our Maths and Science departments utilise Sparx for application work, and students can log in to these platforms using the ‘Log in with Microsoft’ button. We upload our curriculum plans to the platform, and therefore the questions generated offer consolidation work on what has been completed within class.

Class teachers can view insights into which videos students have used to support them and use this to support future planning on what to reteach. The programme also responds to success rates, and ensures the questions are the correct difficulty level for the student. For this reason, we ask that students complete this independently of you, though we do greatly value your support.

Our literacy home learning takes place through Sparx Reader and you can find out more [here](#).

	Set on the Platform	Due for Completion
Sparx Maths	Every Thursday at 8am	Every Wednesday at 8pm
Sparx Science	Every Friday at 3pm	Every Friday at 3pm
Sparx Reader	Every Thursday at 8am	Every Wednesday at 8pm

Seneca

Our English, History, Geography and Languages departments use Seneca to provide additional application work. Again, students use the 'Log in with Microsoft' button to access the platform, and work is allocated to each class by the Head of Department. Parent guides to the platform can be found [here](#).

Extra-Curricular Activities

Autumn Term 1 Extracurricular Sports Clubs					
Day	Year Group	Club	Staff	Location	Time
Monday	7 / 8 / 9	Girls Rugby	External Coach	Lower Field	15:30 - 16:30
	9 / 10 / 11	Table Tennis	SV	Gymnasium	13:30 - 14:00
Tuesday	11	Rugby	SV	Top Field	15:30 - 16:30
	7 / 8	Hockey	HJD	AGP	15:30 - 16:30
Wednesday	7	Rugby	GB	Top Field	15:30 - 16:30
	8	Rugby	MC	Top Field	15:30 - 16:30
	9 / 10	Hockey	SO	AGP	15:30 - 16:30
	7 / 8	Table Tennis	SV	Gymnasium	13:30 - 14:00
Thursday	All Years	Girls Football	SO / GB	AGP	15:30 - 16:30
	9	Rugby	BW	Top Field	15:30 - 16:30
Friday	10	Rugby	External Coach (SV)	Top School	15:30 - 16:30
	9 / 10 / 11	Table Tennis	SV	Gymnasium	13:30 - 14:00

Club	When?	Who?	Where?
Year 8+ Voices	Wednesdays, 08:30 – 09:10	Open to everyone in Year 8 and above	MU2
Huish Orchestra	Thursdays, 08:30 – 09:10	Open to everyone who plays an instrument	MU2
Karaoke Club	Tuesdays, Lunchtime	All Year Groups	MU2

Yours sincerely,

Mr Davis
Vice Principal – Quality of Education



**Respect
Ambition
Resilience**

Headteacher: Mrs Katie Boyes

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