

MARLWOOD SCHOOL

YEAR 7

KS3

CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

FOR PARENTS

Working together for excellence

Curriculum Handbook for Parents

We aim to work in partnership with parents and we try our best to involve you in the vital business of educating your children; since you are the key influences on your children it would be very foolish of us if we did not. In particular, we aim to keep you **informed** - about school policies and procedures, for example, through the *Parents' Handbook*.

We hope you will find this curriculum information useful: it sets out subject by subject the content of courses throughout the year and indicates ways in which you might consider helping your child. We hope we have made the information "user-friendly" and avoided educational jargon.

You will see too that there is a general reading list on the back page, which is relevant to this particular school year.

**KEITH GEARY
HEADTEACHER**

Key skills in Art & Design

Students will be working with the 'Key Skills' throughout Year 7 to encompass:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Designing
- Making
- Researching



Students will realise their intentions
through 2D / 3D / Craft / ICT / Art
Research and Educational Visits.

Recommended Resources:

A set of colour pencils or paint for using at home would be helpful.

How you can help:

Taking your child to visit a local art gallery/exhibition, eg Bristol City Art Gallery (Park Street - free admission with a Bristol leisure card), Arnolfini Gallery (a Modern Art gallery opposite the Watershed - free admission).

Relevant homework will be set regularly.

SUBJECT**DRAMA****YEAR 7**

TERM 1	Drama is Serious Fun	- Exploring specific Drama techniques and understanding how we work in a Drama lesson
TERM 2	Grange Enders	- A PSHE scheme of work that looks at the transition from Primary to Secondary school. Supported by TCP sessions with tutors.
TERM 3	Darkwood Manor	- As the nights get darker students learn about creating dramatic tension and telling ghost stories
TERM 4	Puppetry	- Students are given the opportunity to explore a very specific genre of performance
TERM 5	The Twits	- Using Roald Dahl's famous story as inspiration students work on creating characters
TERM 6	Putting on a Performance	- A script based unit of work that looks at all the aspects needed to put on a performance

How you can help: Taking your child to the theatre
Encouraging participation in extra curricular activities

The following topics will be covered over the year, in an order to be decided by the teacher:

1. Story – an introduction to analysing and writing stories.
2. Poetry – an introduction to different forms of poetry, responding to poetry, including a pre-1914 text, and writing their own.
3. Writing to argue, persuade, advise – a discussion about the commercialisation of Christmas.
4. Non-fiction and Media – studying film trailers and their features, producing a storyboard for their own trailer.
5. Writing to inform, explain, describe – an individual research project to allow the study of a specific topic.
6. Novel – reading of a substantial text, allowing for the study of themes, characters and ideas.

Recommended resources:

Pocket English Dictionary

A personal reading book (independent reading will take place in allocated library lessons).

How you can help:

Now and again, check your child's English book for accuracy.

Listen to your child read regularly and discuss his/her chosen reading material

N.B: our aim is to develop their skills in Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing as well as develop a cultural awareness of life in France and French speaking countries.

<p>Term 1</p>	<p>Unit 1 - Toi!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greetings • Saying your name • Where you come from • Nationality • Alphabet • French around the world
<p>Term 2</p>	<p>Unit 2 - Chez vous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You and your family, descriptions • Geography of France • French holidays
<p>Term 3/4</p>	<p>Unit 3 - Au marché/Au snack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and drink • Conversation in a snack bar/market • Buying ice-creams • Breakfast items
<p>Term 5/6</p>	<p>Unit 4 - On s’amuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling the time • Sports games activities • Playing an instrument • Weather • Holiday activities

Recommended Resources:

“The Collins Easy Learning French dictionary” will be useful in Years 7 – 11. Pupil guides are given to all pupils.

How you can help:

- Encourage pupils to learn vocabulary and test them at home.
- Encourage pupils to use the language learning websites to reinforce what has been learnt in class. Details and passwords can be found at the front of their pupil guides.
- Ensure that they complete all homework tasks.

SUBJECT

GEOGRAPHY

YEAR 7

Term 1	MYSpace - a personal Geography	Geography 2008
Term 2	ATLAS SKILLS – understanding basic world Geography	In Geography we have 7 KEY CONCEPTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Physical/Human processes- Scale- Place- Interdependence- Cultural diversity and understanding- Space- Sustainability
Term 3	RAGING RIVERS – why are we having more floods?	
Term 4	THE FOUR R's – Reduce, re-use, recycle and repair	
Term 5	RAINFORESTS – the global importance of	
Term 6	CONNECTIONS – my place in the world	
Recommended resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An atlas• Access to geographical websites like Google earth, maps.live.com• First news – children's newspaper		
How you can help		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss news stories about the environment, other countries or hazards		

SUBJECT

GERMAN

YEAR 7

NB: our aim is to develop their skills in Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing as well as develop a cultural awareness of life in Germany and German speaking countries.

Term 1	UNIT 1 - Das bin ich! Introducing yourself, Counting to 20, Asking for help in class, Colours, Alphabet and spelling.
Term 2	UNIT 2 - Meine Familie Numbers from 20 – 69, Dates, Saying when your birthday is, Describing what you have in your school bag, Talking about brothers and sisters and pets.
Term 3	UNIT 3 - Uhrzeit, Essen und Einkaufen Telling the time, Saying when you eat meals, Comparing eating habits in Germany and England, Buying fruit and vegetables from the market (including quantities).
Term 4	UNIT 4 - Essen im Café und im Restaurant Learning how to express likes and dislikes about food, Buying food and drink at a snack bar, Ordering in a café/restaurant.
Term 5	UNIT 5 - Freizeit Sport, Saying what you like and dislike doing, Using verbs, Talking about your other free time activities, Learning to write a basic email to a penfriend.
Term 6	UNIT 6 - Taschengeld und Nebenjobs Talking about pocket money, Learning about part-time jobs, Giving your opinion about both, Talking about a past shopping trip.

Recommended Resources:

“The Collins Easy learning German dictionary” will be useful in Years 7 – 11. Pupil Guides are given to all pupils.

How you can help:

- Encourage pupils to learn vocabulary and test them at home
- Encourage pupils to use the language learning websites to reinforce what has been learnt in class. Details and passwords can be found in the middle of their pupil guides.
- Ensure that they complete all homework tasks.

SUBJECT

HISTORY

Year 7

Each History teacher will plan a route through the following themes. Themes are likely to overlap between terms. Pupils will study at least one topic from each theme over the course of the year.

Term 1/2	<u>Theme 1- <i>What is History?</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Artefact Game• History around us• How can we find out about Romans?
Term 3/4	<u>Theme 2- <i>Civilisation</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Islamic Empires• The Roman Empire• Classical Civilisation
Term 5/6	<u>Theme 3- <i>Struggle and Control</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Battle of Hastings• The Development of Castles• Life in The Middle Ages

How you can help:

Talk to your child about **what** they are learning and **how** they are learning in History. Take your child to any Roman or Medieval places of interest (e.g. Chepstow Castle).

On the few occasions that homework may not be set (due to staff absence etc) encourage your child conduct independent research on any of the above topics.

SUBJECT

ICT

YEAR 7

Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Marlwood system• Multimedia presentations• Internet Safety• Desk Top Publishing• Modelling with Spreadsheets• Data handling• Control
Term 2	
Term 3	
Recommended Resources: If you are thinking of buying a family computer - the school uses PCs with Microsoft Office software. Pupils have access to school files and their school e-mail account through the internet. A faster connection increases the usability.	
How you can help: Encourage your child to use the computer for purposes other than games. Perhaps some homeworks could be produced using ICT.	
Year 7 is taught in discrete lessons. A report is provided at the end of the academic year.	

SUBJECT**MATHEMATICS****YEAR 7**

Term 1/2	<p>Transition Units Algebra</p> <p>Number 1 Shape, space & measures 1 Number 2</p> <p>Handling data 1</p> <p>Algebra 2 Shape, space & measures 2</p>	<p>Work linked to lessons from junior schools. Generating number sequences from a rule and finding the general term of a sequence.</p> <p>Ordering and working with decimals and negative numbers. Area and perimeter of rectangles and shapes made from rectangles. Surface area of cuboids.</p> <p>Cancelling and finding equivalent fractions. Adding and subtracting simple fractions. Percentages as parts per 100.</p> <p>Averages and range. Understand the probability scale and find probabilities using equally likely outcomes.</p> <p>Simplifying and expanding brackets and using formulae. Parallel and perpendicular lines. Angle sum at a point, on a line and in a triangle.</p>
Term 3/4	<p>Handling data 2 Number 3 Algebra 3</p> <p>Shape, space & measures 3 Number 4 Algebra 4</p>	<p>Construct and interpret bar-line graphs, frequency diagrams and pie charts. Rounding numbers, calculations and metric units. Multiples, factors, primes, square numbers and square roots, triangle numbers. Tests of divisibility.</p> <p>Measure and draw lines and angle accurately. Constructing triangles.</p> <p>Write and simplify ratios. Dividing a quantity into a ratio. Use direct proportion. Constructing and solving linear equations.</p>
Term 5/6	<p>Shape, space & measures 4 Handling data 3 Number 5 Algebra 5 Shape, space & measure 5</p>	<p>Reflections, translations and notations. Symmetry.</p> <p>Comparing distributions by interpreting diagrams. Probability experiments. Calculations using standard pencil and paper methods. Plotting linear graphs. Interpreting graphs arising from real-life situations. Solving geometrical problems and explaining reasoning. Constructing nets of 3-D shapes.</p>

Recommended Resources - Key Stage 3 Revision books

How you can help - Mental arithmetic: games, shopping, testing tables. Number / logic games: encourage your child to plan strategies, keep scores.

SUBJECT

MUSIC

YEAR 7

Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• African rhythm squares
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimalism
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground bass
Term 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National anthems
Term 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cubase
Recommended Resources: Access to a piano/keyboard Books/materials which reinforce topics	
How you can help: Ask your child what she/he is doing and show interest/encouragement. Encourage listening to all styles of music and attending concerts/performances of all sorts.	

	BOYS	GIRLS
Term 1/2	Invasion games Rugby Cross Country running Orienteering	Cross country running Netball Gymnastics Orienteering
Term 3/4	Fitness Gym Football	Fitness Hockey Racket skills
Term 5/6	Striking fielding games Tennis Athletics	<i>Athletics</i> Striking / Fielding games

Recommended Resources:

As school uniform list. We also recommend **gum shields** and **shin pads** for contact sports. You may also wish to purchase a hockey stick, tennis racquet, etc.

How you can help:

Ensure your child has the correct kit and towel on the day of his/her PE lesson.

NB: These are the main areas of activity and your child will take part in them. However, due to timetabling implications terms may change. Extra-curricular activities are also on offer.

<p>Term 1/2</p>	<p><u>Questions about the meaning of life</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to religious, philosophical and religious thinking. What does it mean to be human? Who am I? How can I begin to make sense of the big questions? <p><u>Creation stories</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking questions about how we got here and investigating various accounts from different cultures, religions and humanism. Introduction to “religion and science” as a topic.
<p>Term 3/4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Festivals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Why do human beings feel the need to celebrate and mark special occasions?</p> <p>Examining some of the major festivals in the world, such as Easter, Divali and Hannukah - the main events that take place and reasons for them.</p>
<p>Term 5/6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sacred places and spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are buildings symbolic and what do they say to us? What makes a space sacred? Why do people build memorials and commemorative architecture? - (Explored partly through small group creative activities). Exploring the idea of pilgrimage. – where are we going in life?
<p>Recommended Resources:</p> <p>The internet has lots of useful sites (e.g. the BBC and Wikipedia) to download pictures and information. Visits to churches and other religious buildings could be useful. Selective use of film and TV programmes can also deepen and widen learning. Even the Simpsons contain a lot of thought provoking dilemmas!</p>	
<p>How you can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check planners to see the set homework tasks and make sure they do at least one page of work (a quiet, undisturbed environment will help). A homework booklet should be kept at home to provide resources. Give guidance and help with work when necessary and discuss with your child the idea that REP is a valuable subject (see http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj1FF4CP5D4 for ideas). 	

SUBJECT

SCIENCE

YEAR 7

NB The units covered in the order decided by the KS3 Co-ordinator.

September	An introduction to safety, scientific skills and investigations
Remainder of the Year	6 topics covering the areas of: Cells and Reproduction, Organisms and the Environment, Chemical Reactions, Particle Theory, Forces and the Earth in space, Energy and Electrical circuits
Recommended Resources: In class we will be using: "Go Science" (Heinemann) "Catalyst" (Heinemann) "Starting Science" (Oxford) "Spotlight Science 7" (Thornes) It may be useful to have a set of "Starting Science" for background reading at home.	
How you can help: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the learning of scientific words• With preparing for end-of-topic tests• Some online assessments may be used that can be completed from home.	

SUBJECT

TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 7

<p>Terms 1, 2 & 3</p>	<p>Students will be introduced to the Design Process through tasks and projects and graphical skills such as sketching, shading and drawing. Time management and planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Technology - Health and Hygiene (safe working practice); Using Heat - hob, grill, oven, microwave; understanding and using recipes, scales and small hand-held equipment. Time management and planning. Units 1-5 of the Licence to Cook programme will be delivered in Year 7.• Textiles Technology - Joining materials - pinning, tacking, simple joints; use of sewing machines - seams, tests, safety, setting up. Product construction.• Resistant Materials - Health and Safety - safety in workshops, protective equipment use and regulations; Introduction to materials and processes - shaping, recognising, forming and finishing; electronics.
<p>Recommended Resources:</p> <p>Food Robust container to transport ingredients and finished products; research Materials such as books, recipes, etc.</p> <p>Textiles Sewing equipment at home would be an advantage.</p> <p>Resistant Materials Simple graphics equipment - pencils (2H, HB), rubber, ruler, compass and coloured pencils.</p> <p>Generally There is a good range of textbooks aimed at the 11-14 age range, covering a range of technology areas. Good ones are Collins Design & Technology Foundation Course, Textiles Foundation and Food Foundation Textbooks</p>	
<p>How you can help: Allow your child to share his/her experiences with you at home - taste, try and enthuse about their work. Support theory by sharing your knowledge and expertise in making, being a consumer and designing. Remind him/her to bring in ingredients when required.</p>	

List of 12 books recommended for Year 7 pupils

Carrie's War
Warriors of Alavana
"Demon Headmaster" series
Matilda
"Warpath" series
The Garbage King
The Time Witches
Kensuke's Kingdom
Midnight for Charlie Bone
"Harry Potter" series
Harry and the Wrinklies
The Bed and Breakfast Star

Nina Bawden
N M Browne
Gillian Cross
Roald Dahl
Jim Eldridge
Elizabeth Laird
Michael Molloy
Michael Morpurgo
Jenny Nimmo
J K Rowling
Alan Temperley
Jacqueline Wilton

- **Series:** Horrible Histories • The Saddle Club • The Hardy Boys • Animal Ark