

Date 24 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter- Autumn Term**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Boldon School and thank you for entrusting us with your child's education for the next five years. I hope that they have settled in well, establishing good habits, engaging in their studies and also extra-curricular clubs. It is a big step from Primary School and I hope their journey so far has been a positive experience.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is taught over three years and aims to be ambitious and engaging. The content in each subject is coherently planned and carefully sequenced to allow students to acquire a deep knowledge, develop skills and build solid foundations for future learning. We are extremely proud of our school, staff and students who continue to exceed year on year. This is due to our high expectations, a commitment to constantly improving achievement for our students and our belief that all students are entitled to the best education possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to launch our first Curriculum Newsletter to share the topics and content your child will be learning this Autumn term. Please visit our school website in the Curriculum section for all other information.

If you have any queries regarding your child's curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum, Mrs L Baty

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Baty  
Assistant Head Teacher

English	Students will study "Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone", looking at themes of friendships, friction and morality. Students will refine and perfect their ability to analyse language choices, developing into refining and reshaping their own writing; they are also explicit reading lessons to support their writing skills.
Maths	Students will be exploring algebraic thinking. This unit looks at moving freely between numerical, algebraic, graphical and diagrammatic representations. Using algebra in different contexts including formulating mathematical concepts. Simplify and manipulate algebraic expressions to maintain equivalence. Students will move on to consolidate understanding of number, number system and place value. Move freely between different numerical representations (including fractions, decimals, percentage and standard form. Gain a deep understanding of the links between different representations
Science	Students will begin to develop scientific skills such as planning experiments and producing results tables. They will then have an introduction to biology, chemistry and physics by completing a topic in each of these. Students will study states of matter and how changes of state occur. The students will have the opportunity to use microscopes as they study cells. Forces will be introduced to the students and they will be able to see these forces in action.
PSHE/RSE/ Careers	<p>Year 7 will begin their year by focussing on the transition to secondary school and the issues they may face. Students will then move on to complete their dedicated CEIAG unit of work. (Please see careers). The second half term students will study the topic of 'health and well-being'. They take a closer look at how to identify, express and manage their emotions in a constructive way how to establish and manage friendships, how to improve study skills, how to identify personal strengths and areas for development, personal safety strategies and travel safety, e.g., road, rail and water, how to respond in an emergency situation and basic first aid.</p> <p><b>Links to Careers:</b> Students will explore careers possibilities by drawing connections between their likes, culture, connections and interests. They will explain the benefits of exploring related career options and not focussing on one single dream job. All teachers will link curriculum learning with careers so that every student will have the opportunity to experience how their subjects help people to gain entry to a wide variety of occupations.</p>
PE	Students will be looking at new tactics and strategies to overcome challenges effectively. Students will work as part of a team to problem solve and will look to identify and locate major bones and muscles in the human body. Students will also develop knowledge on how to lead a warm up to small groups and be able to link the warm up to major muscles in the body. This is part of their Heads, Heart and Hands assessment, explored in a range of activities including: rugby, basketball, netball, swimming, fundamentals and benchball.
ICT	Students will develop an understanding of key digital security and they will develop their knowledge of e-safety to stay safe online. Students will also develop their skills in graphics and presentation. Students will be introduced to different graphics and presentation software to create detailed documents.
RE	This term students are introduced to the key elements in RE which allow us to understand this subject area. We will look at symbolism both within and outside of

	religion and how it helps to tell a story. Students will learn how to establish their own views and opinions and appreciate the value of listening to others.
History	Students in Year 7 will begin the academic year looking at the Roman Empire and their impact on Britain. Students will develop an understanding of what an empire is while looking at why the Roman army was successful, what life was like during this period and the legacy they have left behind. Students will end this term looking at the Norman Conquest. Diving into the key individuals, key battles such as the Battle of Hastings and concluding with a local study into Norman buildings around the North East, ensuring that students are connected and immersed into History.
Geography	Students will begin by exploring whether our view of the world is wrong or not. They will be introduced to concepts such as HIC, NEE and LIC and will be able to identify examples for each of them. Students will also explore reasons that cause development as well as the reasons for uneven development. Students will then progress by looking at the UK more specifically to understand why it is a changing country. Elements which will be examined and explored are migration to the UK, jobs, food and extreme weather to name a few.
French	Students complete an Introduction to French. This includes using 'I am called', 'I live in', 'I speak' and 'I am' with a variety of countries, nationalities and languages as well as learning dates and giving ages and birthdays.
Spanish	In Spanish this half term, students begin with countries, greetings, dates and numbers (1-31). Next half term they will move onto colours, opinions and classroom items and language.
Art	<p>The first topic they will study is formal elements. This includes drawing, shading, use of paint, shapes, texture and the study of Van Gogh.</p> <p>Students will study Aboriginal art. This will include looking at the history of this type of art. The skills developed will include the depiction of concentric circles, boomerangs, rainbow weapons and aboriginal animals.</p>
D&T	<p><b>Students work on a 11 week rotation and will be completing one of the units below.</b></p> <p><b>FOOD TECHNOLOGY - An introduction to key skills</b>  Students learn a variety of cooking skills and processes with a focus on health and safety and good hygiene practices. Throughout the rotation, they will make dishes such as: welsh rarebit, scones, pasta salad, apple crumble, bread, small cupcakes and Bolognese. Students will also spend time learning about nutrition, focusing on making healthy choices and the importance of a balanced diet. They will understand the principles of the Eatwell guide and the 5 main food groups. The variation of dishes allows students to build their confidence in the kitchen and understand how to safely use a wide range of cooking equipment.</p> <p><b>CAD/CAM -Plastic</b>  Students acquire new knowledge and skills of the CAD package 2D Design, exploring the basic functions and tools. They then design and manufacture a ruler using the computer program 2D and the Laser cutter using these skills. They research and analyse different types of products and packaging to support the design of their own product. They will use the vacuum former to manufacture packaging for their</p>

	<p>ruler. By researching polymers students understand their characteristics and properties as well as the environmental issues. They follow sequential steps to manufacture a mobile phone holder using a strip heater independently.</p> <p><b>Pewter Cast Brooch – Metal</b></p> <p>Students design and manufacture a pewter cast brooch using a variety of tools, including hacksaws, bench vices, files, centre punches, hammers and machines including the brazing hearth and drill. They learn about different classifications and types of metals. Then research the characteristics and properties of various metals and smart materials.</p>
Music	<p>Students will focus on singing in the first half term. This will allow them to develop the skills needed to listen to a piece of music and analyse the main components. They will transcribe lyrics and identify instruments within different genres of music. They will also interpret lyrics and decide whether they are abstract or realistic. Students will participate in singing activities throughout the half term and will be given the opportunity to do this in a solo and a group setting.</p> <p>In the second half term, Year 7 will be celebrating music for their own enjoyment. Focusing on learning keyboard skills, they will study note theory, musical eras, cadence and composing.</p>