

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum; our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, interesting and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the 'Curriculum and Learning' tab. You will also find links to your child's learning manager page where we are building up a bank of additional resources and information relevant to your child's stage of learning.

The table below outlines what is being studied during Half Term 1 in Year 11 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Content this half term	Assessments
English language	Paper 1: Fiction comprehension and Creative writing	Ongoing formative assessment
English literature	A Christmas Carol Unseen poetry	Ongoing formative assessment
Creative Digital Media Production (BTEC L2)	Technical and creative skills in media/ Adapting products	Ongoing formative assessment & Mock coursework piece
GCSE Computer Science Year 11	Unit 4: networks	1 hour class test at the end of the unit
Technology	Continuation of NEA and revisiting Unit 1 & 2 After school sessions on a Monday evening and at lunchtime most days.	NEA is ongoing assessment and Units 1&2 will be tested in class.
BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology	The BTEC DIT course has three assessments. One took place last year on Interfaces. The second is another in class exam around the use and analysis of data and this will start at the end of this half term and finish before the end of November. Before they start this assessment, we will recap the use of spreadsheets and how to build data dashboards.	The assessment this term is graded externally and this along with the last year's assessment and the summer exam will each make an equal part of their final assessment grade.
GCSE Business	2.1 Growing the business 2.2 Making marketing decisions 2.3 Making operational decisions 2.4 Making financial decisions 2.5 Making human resource decisions	Ongoing formative assessment
Enterprise and	LO4 Understand how to attract and retain customers	Ongoing formative

Marketing	LO5 Understand factors for consideration when starting up a business LO6 Understand different functional activities needed to support a business start up	assessment
Physics	The main unit is Forces, broken down into Changing Motion, and Forces in Action. Students develop skills in using graphs of speed, distance and time, calculating acceleration and collecting data. Newton's laws are studied, alongside vectors and scalar quantities.	Ongoing formative assessments, plus end of topic tests.
Chemistry	The main topic is Chemical Changes (Topic 4). Students study reactivity, extraction, oxidation, and neutralisation. Electrolysis is also covered in greater depth to KS3.	Ongoing formative assessments, plus end of topic tests.
Food studies	Completing NEA 1 in class	Coursework continues this term
BTEC Tech Award H&S	Health and Social Care Services and Values Component 2	Pearson Set Assignment
Psychology	Psychological problems	Ongoing formative assessment
Biology	Unit 7 - Ecology. This covers adaptations, interdependence and competition, organisation of an ecosystem, and Biodiversity and the effect of human interaction on ecosystems. Students also study trophic levels in an ecosystem, and food production.	Ongoing formative assessments, plus end of topic tests.
Combined (double) Science	Biology - Ecology. This topic covers adaptations, interdependence and competition, organisation of an ecosystem, and biodiversity and the effect of human interaction on ecosystems. Chemistry - Topic 4 - Chemical changes, including the process of electrolysis. Physics - Atomic structure - Atoms and isotopes, the development of the model of the atom, atoms and nuclear radiation.	Ongoing formative assessments and end of topic tests.
Maths	Working with Circles (Parts of, Area and Perimeter of circles and sectors) Vectors Types of Number and sequences Percentages and Interest	End of Topics and Interim 1 Assessment
French	Theme 2: Environment Opinions & reasons on: environmental and global problems, solutions to local and international environmental problems Grammar & structures: modal verbs (in present and conditional), simple future tense, imperfect tense, the passive	Ongoing formative assessments in class
German	Theme 2: Environment Opinions & reasons on: environmental and global problems, solutions to local and international environmental problems Grammar & structures: modal verbs, future tense, imperfect tense, Konjunktiv II	Ongoing formative assessments in class
Spanish	Theme 2: Environment	Ongoing formative

	Opinions & reasons on: environmental and global problems, solutions to local and international environmental problems Grammar & structures: modal verbs, simple future tense, imperfect tense, present subjunctive	assessments in class
History	Weimar and Nazi German	Health & People Essay
Geography	Completing Coasts, Natural Hazards (Tectonics and Earthquakes) Weather Hazards, Fieldwork	10 mark challenge exam question on Coasts; Natural Hazards shorter answer questions; Fieldwork exam questions
GCSE PE	Revisit component 1 and introduction of component 2 (Health & Performance)	Homework, unit tests & Ongoing formative assessment
Religious Studies	Islam Beliefs and Teachings	In class assessment: Islam Beliefs
GCSE Music	Set work: Star Wars set work, composition to a brief, free composition, preparation for solo performances	Ongoing formative assessment
GCSE Drama	Completion of Component 2 Devised Performances and Devising Logs / Mock Exam prep / Live Theatre Analysis prep	Practical performance / mock paper / written tasks
Art/craft/design	A focus on refinement of coursework projects	practical task that will dovetail into coursework set by the class teacher

In the coming weeks, you can support your child in a number of ways:

- ★ Check that your child is keeping up with their homework, this will be set through the Google Classroom and will include a clear deadline.
- ★ Use the Google Classroom to check that your child has what they need in their book, you can sit together and go through the lessons to see that they finished the work
- ★ Speak to your child about what they are doing – this could be through asking them what they have done and what knowledge they can remember from the lesson.
- ★ Encourage your child to read for pleasure and ensure they always have their book with them in school for our 5 minutes reading time at the start of every lesson.
- ★ Ensure that they have regular breaks from homework and get a good night's sleep – work in chunks of time, turn off mobile phones and devices at least one hour in advance of going to bed
- ★ Encourage hobbies and interests which are not technology based
- ★ Let children be bored; this is when creativity occurs and reveals their talents

We hope you find this information useful and your child is enjoying learning with us at HCCS.

Kind regards,
Helena Connolly
Progress Lead: Disadvantaged Students
Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School