

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 8 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Content this half term</u>	<u>Assessments</u>
English	Fiction reading: Conflict Fiction writing: Bringing a story to life	Ongoing formative assessment
Maths	Directed Number (working with negatives) Geometric Notation and Measuring Developing Geometric Reasoning	End of Topics
Science	Energy (2) - This is broken down into 2 sub topics, Energy Costs, and Energy Transfers. Students learn how to calculate energy usage in kWh, and consider the energy content of food as a comparison. Different sources of energy (renewable and non-renewable) are also studied. Energy Transfers looks at energy stores, and the transfer of energy in systems. Matter (2). This topic splits into Periodic Table, and Elements. The Periodic Table looks at Groups 1, 7 and group 0. Elements explores ideas around compounds, mixtures, elements and molecules. Genetics: This topic covers DNA, cell division, genetic engineering, and evolution. DNA explores heredity and genetic information. Cell division looks at cell replication. Genetic engineering deals with DNA manipulation. Evolution studies species' gradual change.	Ongoing formative assessments and end of topic tests.
MFL	French: 3rd person & future tense, comparatives and superlatives School topic German: future tense, comparatives and superlatives, word order Holidays topic Spanish: near future tense, modal verbs, adjectives Health topic	Ongoing formative assessments and end of topic tests.
Computer Science	Unit 1: The development of the Internet and the associated network technology around all of this.	EBook for Unit 1 and the Website about the History of the Internet
Technology	Health and Safety in the workshop. Developing practical skills.	Completion of practical activities.
Music	Rhythm Chants. Recap of notation, performance and evaluation.	Group performance assessment, individual listening assessment.

Art	Students will either be: inspired by the creative process of artist/designer Jon Burgerman, developing art from imaginative & intuitive drawing. They apply knowledge of formal elements/paper collage learnt in yr7 to produce: drawing/designing/card relief work/painting. Or students will develop paper & card 3D work to make a mask that links to knowledge of Native American art/culture.	ongoing formative & summative assessment
Drama	Commedia Dell'Arte	Group performance at the end of the scheme
PE	Strategies & tactics across a variety of sports. Knowledge & understanding of the effects of exercise on the body. Different ways to analyse a performance.	What we see, hear and read.
History	Slavery	Slavery
Geography	Population: Studies of Population & Migration (Case studies of the EU and China)	Migration Assessment
RS	Buddhism: Introduction to an Eastern Philosophy.	Assessment 1 - the importance of the Buddha. Assessment 2 - Assessing the value of Buddhism.

In addition to subject-based assessments, in this half term we also conduct some baseline transition tests in literacy and numeracy.

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