

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

Subject	Content this half term	Assessments
English	Fiction reading: Society and social reform Fiction writing: Experimenting with perspective and structure	Ongoing formative assessment
Maths	Probability The Data Handling Cycle 9X3 ELC (Entry Level Certificate) - Component 1: Properties of Number - Component 2: The Four Operations	End of Topics End of component Assessments
Science	Physics - Electromagnets (2) - The principles of current in wires and associated field patterns. Permanent magnetism and its properties. Energy 2. This topic encompasses energy and temperature, conduction and convection, insulation, and vacuums. Energy and temperature delve into the concepts of heat and thermodynamics. Conduction explores heat transfer through materials. Convection examines heat transfer through fluids. Insulation focuses on preventing heat loss, while vacuums consider the absence of matter and its thermal effects. Biology - Ecosystems (2) - Respiration, Photosynthesis. Aerobic and anaerobic respiration. Testing for starch, and conditions needed for photosynthesis to occur.	Ongoing formative assessments and end of topic tests.
MFL	French: Topic: Home, town and neighbourhood Grammar: comparative and superlative structures, verb structures in three tenses German: Topic: Free Time and Eating Out Grammar: third person opinion and present tense verb structures, conditional voice, time phrases, question words and forming questions, opinions and infinitive structures, three time frames; past, present and future tense Spanish: Topic: Family, Friends and Relationships Grammar: third person opinions, reflexive verb phrases,	Ongoing formative assessments and end of topic tests.

	<p>conditional voice structures, past tense verb structures, comparative and superlative structures</p> <p>French beginners: Topic: School Grammar: 3rd person & future tense, comparatives and superlatives</p> <p>German beginners: Topic: Holidays Grammar: future tense, comparatives and superlatives, word order</p>	
Technology	Health and Safety in the workshop. Building upon best practice.	Completion of practical exercises.
Music	Variation on a Theme, creating melodic variations on a theme.	Group performance, individual listening test.
Art	<p>In accordance our KS3 Art curriculum planning and management of resources students will either be: inspired by the contextual sources of</p> <p>Geometric art & design, specifically artist M C Escher and the concept of tessellation and will apply knowledge of the formal elements: colour/pattern to extend their knowledge of drawing/paper collage techniques. Or students will respond to the theme of</p> <p>Sea life and work of artist Yellena James leading into the building on knowledge of painting skills explored in yr 8.</p>	ongoing formative & summative assessment
Drama	The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty - Explorative strategies with a play text	Group performance at the end of the scheme
PE	We explore the 4 disciplines of physical literacy. We discuss the importance of our behaviours through the Life Skills program. Students complete their log book on the google classroom, on the physical benefits of exercise.	What we see, read & hear.
History	20th Century & Music: 100 year study of how historical events have influenced music and how music has influenced key events.	Assessment: 1920s and 1930s (From boom to bust- Jazz and Blues).
Geography	A study of natural and human ecological crises: From Volcanoes to Blood Diamonds, Hurricanes to Plastic.	World Under Threat Synoptic Assessment- factual knowledge test based on all content
RS	Moral Issues: Introduction to Moral & Ethical Philosophy (from Absolutism to Utilitarianism) & Individual Case Studies	Moral Issues factual assessment

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