

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 3 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 2: Non-fiction - Reading comprehension and Transactional writing	Paper 1 Trial exam - January 2024 Paper 2- Ongoing formative assessment
English literature	A Christmas Carol and Poetry	Trial exam - January 2024
Creative Digital Media Production (BTEC L2)	Component 3- Responding to a brief Component 1 resit (some students)	Summative assessment- May 2024
GCSE Computer Science	We have finished the work for the 2nd Exam (the theory exam) and have completed the final unit test. This whole term will be refocussing on Python Coding with a tight focus on the sort of coding questions that will appear on the first exam.	A mock examination for the coding exam and each lesson will be in an ebook with typical exam questions - banded on difficulty.
Technology	Theory tests on Units 4 and 5	Continuation of NEA. All students should be 'making'
BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology	Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices - until this point the focus has been on internally assessed units, now we are preparing them for the final examination (which is worth a similar amount of marks to the two internal units that have been completed).	Students will be completing final preparations and practise mock assessments ready to sit the external written 1.5 hour exam
GCSE Business	2.5 Making human resource decisions	Trial exam - January 2024
Enterprise and Marketing	R069 Market and pitch a business proposal	Assignment completed by end of HT4
Physics	Waves.	Trial exam - January 2024 Ongoing progress monitoring tasks and end of topic assessments.

Chemistry	Organic Chemistry	Trial exam - January 2024 Ongoing progress monitoring tasks and end of topic assessments.
Food studies	NEA2	Exam - NEA2 final dishes.
BTEC Tech Award H&S	A1 Factors affecting health and wellbeing B1 Physiological indicators B2 Lifestyle indicators C1 Person-centred approach C2 Recommendations and actions to improve health and wellbeing C3 Barriers and obstacles to following recommendations.	Mock Exam in February Final exam in May 2023  The externally-assessed component in the BTEC Tech Award suite comprises 40 per cent of the total qualification GLH.
Psychology	Criminal Psychology	Trial exam - January 2024
Biology	Inheritance and Variation	Trial exam - January 2024 Ongoing progress monitoring tasks and end of topic assessments.
Maths	Bespoke "ACTION" topics for each class based on January mocks plus an Algebra focus: expanding, factorising, rearranging, solving, straight line graphs, non-linear graphs	Trial exam - January 2024 Paper 1: Non-Calculator Paper 2: Calculator Ongoing progress monitoring tasks and end of topic assessments.
French	Opinions & reasons on: mobile technology, pros and cons of social media, film and T.V Grammar & structures: infinitive structures, comparative and superlative structures, time adverbs Retrieval: school, holidays, jobs	Trial exam - January 2024
German	Opinions & reasons on: mobile technology, pros and cons of social media, film and T.V Grammar & structures: infinitive structures, comparative and superlative structures, time adverbs Retrieval: school, holidays, jobs	Trial exam - January 2024
Spanish	Opinions & reasons on: mobile technology, pros and cons of social media, film and T.V Grammar & structures: infinitive structures, comparative and superlative structures, time adverbs Retrieval: school, holidays, jobs	Trial exam - January 2024
History	Elizabethan Environment: Drake & the circumnavigation of the world & Cold War in Asia: Korean & Vietnam Wars	Trial exam - January 2024
Geography	1. Urban Issues and Challenges - London	Trial exam - January 2024
GCSE PE	Component 2 content - Classification of skill Types of Practice Types of Guidance Types of feedback Mental preparation, visualisation and imagery	Trial exam - January 2024 End of unit tests Homework tasks

	Exam techniques in Explain questions and model 9 mark responses for extended questions.	
Religious Studies	Islam Practices - All students (Class 11A - Finish Christian Practices)	Trial exam - January 2024 End of Topic Tests Recall tests every lesson
GCSE Music	The remaining set works for the summer examination: Purcell's 'Music for a While'; Schwartz's 'Defying Gravity'; Spalding's 'Samba em Preludio' Composition coursework (30%): finishing one brief and one free composition Performance coursework (30%): recording a solo and an ensemble performance	Trial exam - January 2024 End of topic tests Practice exam questions Coursework
GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama Component 3: Scripted Performance	Trial exam - January 2024
Art/craft/design	In January students will be issued with the 2024 GCSE AQA examination paper (40% of final grade). Staff will design lessons to facilitate individual student work that evidences all assessment objectives.	Trial exam - January 2024 practical task that will dovetail into exam project 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