

These are the exciting things I will be studying this half term...

English

Students will be thinking critically about a range of prevalent real-world themes. Short stories are used as a springboard to discuss and debate, whilst developing key reading skills such as prediction, inference, and language analysis. Students will be encouraged to draw on knowledge of literary and rhetorical devices from their reading and listening to enhance the impact of their own writing.

We will be using the Diverse Shorts publication which fills a much-needed gap in the educational experience of today's secondary pupils, with its focus on a richly diverse range of texts to promote critical thinking. From Andrea Levy to David Almond, from Angie Thomas to Benjamin Zephaniah, and from Alex Wheatle to Sarah Hagger-Holt, pupils are offered challenging material by renowned authors writing about issues important to the world today.

Science

In Science pupils will be learning about the effect of forces on motion. They will investigate and compare speeds in different scenarios and apply this knowledge to motion graphs. Pupils will also be able to investigate and learn about pressure in solids, liquids and gases and complete a variety of experiments to demonstrate this in different contexts.

Humanities

This half term in history we are continuing to learn about the Stuarts. We are focusing on the Restoration, the return of the plague, the Fire of London and the Glorious Revolution.

In Geography, we are looking at Global Inequality through the development of countries. They will learn what geographical development is, the development gap and how the UK compares to places like Ghana.

Maths

Students will continue their work this half-term on topics being worked in before Christmas, particularly multiplication and division and fractions.

Students will then move on to the topic of time, or where working at a higher level, the topics of decimals, percentages and ratio.

RE

This half term we will be looking at the religion of Sikhism. We will think about the main beliefs of people who are Sikh and their places of worship. We will also spend some time thinking about what Sikhism looks like in our country and how it might be different around the world.

PHSE

This half-term our topic is 'Managing Influence and Getting Support.' This topic will explore different types of drugs as well as vaping, smoking, energy drinks and contraception. We will then go on to explore how we can manage peer influences when making choices about these.

Art

This half term, students will be creating shadow boxes in the style of Joseph Cornell and Betye Saar. Students can choose to explore a memory, express an opinion on a topic of their choice or curate a collection of themed objects.

ICT

This half term students will be introduced to Python - a powerful but easy to use object oriented language. In this unit students will learn how to write basic Python code and create simple Python programs. Students will learn about variables, data types and arithmetic, selection statements, writing algorithms in pseudocode, and iteration. This unit is an introduction to programming so the focus is on getting the pupils to understand the process of developing programs, the importance of writing correct syntax, being able to produce simple programs as well as debug programs.

Music

This half term pupils will be learning about songwriting and songwriters. They will analyse lyrical content and explore what makes a good song; try different lyric writing techniques and begin to craft melodies and chord sequences to accompany words they have written themselves or that were written by others.

Health and Wellbeing

This half term students will be focussing on Outdoor Adventurous Activities. This will include activities such as Team Building Tasks as well focussing on new skills such as Orienteering. This will allow students the opportunity to reflect on their communication, problem solving and creativity in a range of unfamiliar and new environments.