

Year 7 Curriculum

Art

"Imagination is more important than knowledge" Albert Einstein.

The visual art curriculum aims to involve pupils in a journey of discovery. They will build their creative and technical skills to enable them to realise ideas, enhance their potential and develop confidence to explore and interpret images in an original manner. The curriculum aims to encourage critical appreciation and evaluate their own and others' Art work, and to explore the historical and cultural influences of Art and other artists. In Year 7, Pupils are introduced to a variety of drawing techniques and asked to develop them into a series of challenging and imaginative projects.

Computer Science

Computer science is an engaging subject that explores how computers work and the ways that we interact in the internet age. Using theoretical and practical examples, we investigate all aspects of computing including how to stay safe and how to interact with others. With strong cross curriculum links to maths and Design and Technology we utilise the pupils' curiosity to view the world using computational thinking and install the process that in order to succeed in all subjects we first need to experiment and discover our own path to understanding.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. In Year 7 they will acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on other subject areas such as Mathematics, Science, ICT and Art.

Drama

Students work collaboratively to develop their skills in creating, performing and evaluating. A range of topics are covered, including World War One, Greek Theatre and Different Cultures, promoting links across the curriculum from History to Science and PSHCE. Various techniques and conventions are used in order to present work in different styles, including exploring theatre design. Drama also enhances pupils' confidence and communication skills.

English

Throughout Year 7, students will read and explore fiction and non-fiction, including the study of texts from the 19th century to the present day. The theme studied across all texts is Heroes and Villains. Within the four hour long lessons each week, students follow the National Curriculum for English for three hours, and the fourth hour is a dedicated literacy lesson where independent and guided reading skills are practised and honed. Students are enrolled on the Accelerated Reader programme which charts students' reading performance and allows them to routinely quiz and receive rewards for their wider reading.

Food Studies

Learning how to cook is a crucial life skill that enables pupils to feed themselves and others affordably and well, now and in later life. We hope to instil a joy of cooking whilst teaching the principles of nutrition, understanding where food comes from, food science and healthy eating. In year 7, pupils will acquire a broad range of skills to produce predominantly savoury dishes.

French

In Year 7, students build on their experiences of learning a foreign language at primary school by studying a number of topics and themes. Students will learn how to build sentences in French and express their opinions. They will also develop their language skills through a Senegalese tale, personal descriptions, Francophone countries and school. Through these topics, students learn about grammatical rules and how these underpin language learning.

Geography

In this first year of the Key Stage 3 Geography course, we aim to develop the pupils' geographical knowledge, understanding and skills. We study a balanced curriculum where Physical, Human and Environmental geography are integrated. Pupils carry out a local fieldwork investigation in the Autumn Term to study river processes and features. A variety of topics are covered in Year 7: Landscape shapers, People on the move and the Geography of Sport.

History

The Year 7 History course is an engaging and varied curriculum to develop students understanding of the past. We begin the year by focusing on key historical skills: causation, continuity and change and the use of sources. These skills will then be used throughout all lessons when we look at a range of topics. The topics include the Norman conquest of England, life in the Middle Ages, the Black Death, challenges to authority in England during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Reformation.

Mathematics

We aim to give students a good understanding of the key areas in Mathematics: Number, Algebra, Shape, Handling Data and Ratio and Proportion. This is done through a range of activities and styles aimed at improving the students' knowledge, reasoning and problem solving skills. Whilst encouraging and developing a questioning and explorative approach to the subject, we aim to equip pupils with the numeracy skills for the real world and provide insight into the intrigue and delight that Mathematics offers.

Physical Education

The Physical Education course in Year 7 builds on the work the pupils will have covered at primary school. Pupils revisit activities and further develop skills within games such as netball and football and have the opportunity to experience new activities such as trampolining. Racket sports continue with the introduction of badminton and outdoor tennis. Pupils begin in the summer to become familiar with the named athletic events for example javelin, discus and shot and the implications necessary for safe participation. They also have the opportunity to experience striking and fielding activities such as cricket and rounders.

PHSCE

PSHE lessons aim to promote pupils' personal and social development, including their health and well-being. We hope to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights. Pupils study six modules in Year 7.

The six modules of study are Skills for School, My Neighbourhood, Rights & Responsibilities, How the Law protects Animals, Diversity, and Healthy Lifestyles.

RE

What is religion? How and why are people religious? What do religions teach us? These are some of the philosophical questions Year 7 pupils will engage with during their first year at the Priory Belvoir Academy. The course aims to enable pupils to become more aware of both religious and spiritual elements of human life through the study of the 6 major world religions. Following this, Year 7 students spend lessons doing an alphabet for religion; this includes 'A for Atheism' and 'Z for Zakah'. For the remainder of the academic year, Year 7 are introduced to the key themes and beliefs found in Islam.

Science

Pupils study the three main disciplines of Science — Biology, Chemistry and Physics in a modular course based on the National Curriculum Science Programme of Study. The course aims to develop a deeper understanding of a range of scientific ideas in all three disciplines. Pupils should begin to see the connections between these subject areas and become aware of some of the big ideas underpinning scientific knowledge and understanding. During the year, pupils develop their thinking, understanding, experimental skills, analytical and evaluative skills.

Units covered include the fundamental ideas of cells, particles and forces as well as additional topics such as structure and function of body systems, elements, atoms and compounds and sound.