

# MTP Curriculum Notes

## Year 7 - Autumn 2016

**ENGLISH:** The boys will develop their comprehension skills through an in depth study of 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo. Poetry studies will cover the themes of childhood and war. Emphasis will be placed upon descriptive composition and characterisation, as well as vocabulary acquisition. The boys will continue to build on their analytical writing skills through their study of literature.

**MATHEMATICS:** This term, the initial emphasis will be on pupils achieving mastery in various aspects of number: four operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals; percentage; rounding and estimation; prime factors and their use in HCF and LCM and ratio and proportion. Pupils will revisit aspects of algebra where they will deepen and extend their understanding of concepts and operations through the use of manipulatives and various apps. Pupils will also explore aspects of geometry, including properties of shapes. Mastery of mental arithmetic will continue to be of importance and regular practice and testing will help to identify any pupils who need to do extra work in this area.

**SCIENCE:** The boys will start with the Biology topics: cells, the skeleton and movement, followed by digestion. In Chemistry, they will study the characteristics of solids, liquid and gases. They will then study 'Earth in Space' as their Physics topic. We will also continue the Thinking Science intervention work started in Year 6. Please encourage your son to ask for additional help if he finds difficulties with the topics covered this term. Boys may book individual sessions with Mr De Vynck if they need to revisit work covered in class.

**FRENCH:** Pupils will follow the Studio course and will therefore use the Studio 2 Rouge textbook (intermediate level). This term's topics include television programmes, cinema, reading, hobbies, travelling and French landmarks. Lessons will consider new, advanced vocabulary and also build on previous knowledge. Furthermore, great emphasis will be placed on grammatical aspects such as French spellings, articles, adjectives, present and past tense for regular and irregular verbs. Students will also practise for the French Spelling Bee competition, at class level in December and then school level in February. The three winners of the later competition will go on to represent our School at the Regional Finals in April next year.

**CLASSICS:** The boys will continue the *Cambridge Latin Course*, using the second book in the series. The boys' language study is in the new context of Roman Britain. In mythology we will study Odysseus. The boys will begin the task of designing their own language to stimulate their intellectual curiosity.

**GEOGRAPHY:** The boys will be studying plate tectonics. This will involve looking at the causes and effects of volcanoes and earthquakes, building up a series of contemporary case studies and learning about the structure of the earth.

**HISTORY:** The boys will continue their study of Medieval England, focusing this term in particular on the ways in which William I controlled England and on the story of Thomas Becket, the archbishop of Canterbury murdered in 1170. They will be considering the nature of royal power, and how it changed over time. They will then move on to examining the significance of Magna Carta in our politics and culture. Over the course of the term they will build their ability to write analytically, and continue to work on how they know whether to trust historical sources.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES:** The boys will begin their study of the New Testament. They will examine the ministry, miracles and parables of Jesus Christ. They will be encouraged to question the relevance of Christian beliefs in the modern world.

**ART & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:** The boys will be studying the theme of still life this term. They will learn about how still life has been used through the ages. They will work through their own observational study in pencil before using pastels to produce a large scale original work concentrating on form, colour and texture.

**DRAMA:** This term the first cohort of Y7 boys will receive individual tutorials in preparation for their LAMDA Level 1 Grade 3 Communication examinations in The Speaking of Verse and Prose.

**IT:** In IT, the boys will be learning about internet awareness and how to be safe online. The boys will be introduced to computer programming and will use the software 'Kodu' to create a simple game. They will also start preparing for the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge' in November.

**MUSIC:** During Music lessons this term the boys will be introduced to the concept of whole class band. Boys will be given an instrument and basic instruction on this instrument. There will be an expectation that the boys will practice at home to support their learning.

**PE & GAMES:** This term in PE the pupils will be developing previously learnt skills associated with Hockey. In Rugby, the emphasis in coaching will be to improve their ball handling skills as well as tackling and passing.