



# ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## THE YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

### THE YEAR 7 CURRICULUM AT TOWNSEND *(subject to annual review)*

*In response to the national Coronavirus pandemic adaptations are currently being made to this scheduled programme.*

Students in year 7 have fifty one-hour lessons each fortnight as the school operates a two week timetable. The focus of the Year 7 curriculum is to equip children with key learning skills that are transferable from subject to subject and to everyday life in modern Britain. The aim is to deliver a traditional curriculum in an innovative way that provides challenge for every student in the year group.

As part of the curriculum, students are being introduced to a range of skills beyond the acquisition of knowledge. At the heart of all we do is the development of numeracy and literacy. Cutting edge computer programmes such as 'Accelerated Reader', 'Star Maths Assessment', and 'Maths Watch' all enhance the exceptional work undertaken by teachers in the classroom.

All students will complete a two year Key Stage 3 programme; where the traditional curriculum has been restructured into a demanding programme. This ensures a number of essential factors such as pace and challenge and academic rigor are built in to all lessons.

Students get the opportunity to focus a little more on their principle interests in Year 9 while still following a broad and balanced academically rigorous curriculum but with the opportunity to start their GCSE courses and to prepare well for the increasingly demanding GCSE examinations. The aim is to develop all students into confident, motivated and independent learners ready for life in modern Britain.

**The following gives an outline of the different subjects studied in year 7.**

#### **Art and Design**

In year 7 students develop their understanding of the basic elements of Art, such as line, shape, form, colour, tone and pattern. Students are able to explore a wide variety of materials, techniques and processes in order to develop their skills, confidence and independent learning. Students will work in a variety of scales exploring ideas in 2D and 3D media. During the year students will undertake a range of projects such as; tonal drawing, colour theory, 3D model making and work on artistic expression in different cultures.

Through Home Study students will be able to develop a deeper understanding of artists, and the different cultures studied in their lessons.



#### **Design & Technology/Food Preparation**

Year 7 students will engage in different types of design and make activities using a variety of materials and components. The materials will include wood, plastics, textiles and food. Students rotate around all material areas through the year. Throughout the year students will become familiar with the workshop environment and safe working practices for the Design & Technology and Food Preparation areas. Students studying food are encouraged to practice skills learned in lessons when at home.

#### **Drama & Theatre Arts**

All students study drama during Key Stage 3 using our purpose designed drama facility. This course will help students to communicate and to develop self-confidence. In year 7 students will build their basic performing skills while exploring a range of exciting units including pantomime, Macbeth and stage combat. As children progress in Year 8 they will continue to develop their performing, evaluation and independent learning skills by studying units such as masks, improvisation, and script work. GCSE Drama is an option from Year 9.

#### **Information and Communication Technology (ICT – Computer Science)**

In Year 7, students study Computer Science. E-safety foundations are re-enforced and students are introduced to further problem solving. Students also gain a greater understanding of computers, in particular, their construction, how data can be represented and the opportunity to explore programming languages.

Skills include problem solving, application of knowledge and understanding of computer use.



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## YEAR 7 CURRICULUM CONTINUED

### English

The course covers three main skill areas: reading, writing, and speaking and listening. Reading develops students' ability to become active questioners of a text; speaking and listening includes group work and presentations and writing promotes varied writing styles including creative writing. The organisation of writing, including punctuation, paragraphing and direct speech is also part of the course as is the overall use of varied and appropriate vocabulary.

Effective Literacy is the key to raising standards across all subjects and equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need for life beyond school. The overall aim of our Literacy Strategy is to enable all students to develop sophisticated Literacy skills. By the end of Year 9, we expect each student to be a shrewd and fluent independent reader, a confident writer and an effective speaker and listener. With current developments in mind, we are committed to using the best possible classroom practice in all lessons.



### Humanities - Geography and History

These two subjects each have lessons each week with students taught in form groups.

The main aims are to develop enquiry skills of investigation, to improve independent writing in depth and to improve students' use of more complex subject vocabulary.

Students are assessed by a variety of short tasks and long assignments.

### Geography

Students are taught using a skills-based course aiming to develop students' map work, data handling, presentation, and analytical skills. We cover the following topics in Year 7; Map skills, Africa, Earth Sciences, Population and Urbanisation, Hydrology, Coasts, and International Development. These topics teach students about processes and systems in the human and natural world, but also encourage students to consider challenges and issues facing our planet at the moment and what can be done about it.

### History

Students study the Anglo-Saxons, Norman England, life in the Middle Ages, Islamic Civilisation, the Crusades and religious changes under the Tudors. This programme provides an opportunity to explore a range of eras. The students will be taught to develop their historical skills, evidential knowledge and understanding. Students are encouraged to develop their investigative and analytical skills and to use a wide range of historical terminology in their writing.

### Music

Music learning is nearly always practical, with students developing their listening, composition and performance skills. We utilise the many and varied instruments of the St Albans Music School to develop keyboard, drum and ukulele skills, amongst others. A heavy emphasis is also placed on singing, with students developing confidence through ensemble performances and an introduction to singing in harmony. Students learn these skills through a study of a variety of contemporary and classical styles, including musical traditions from around the world. Technology plays an ever increasing role in the production of music worldwide and students will spend time exploring some of the ways contemporary electronic music is composed.

### Mathematics

Students are placed in teaching groups based on their Key Stage 2 data and baseline test results. All groups start to follow a 5 year scheme of work that is based on the National Curriculum for Mathematics and includes Number, Algebra, Ratio & Proportion, Geometry & Measures, and Probability & Statistics. A variety of resources are used to promote problem solving, fluency and reasoning including the use of computers, investigative and practical approaches. Assessment is by teacher-marked classwork, homework and tests. Students may move to different teaching groups during the year based on teacher assessment and test results.



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## YEAR 7 CURRICULUM CONTINUED

### Modern Foreign Languages

The course combines a functional approach to learning French with a clear grammatical progression. It covers key role-playing and conversational topics, the basic structures of the French language and includes information about France and Francophone countries.

Our aim is to give all students the skills and confidence to be able to effectively use the language when abroad.

Four skill areas are developed: - listening, speaking, reading and writing. Topics include: the family; pets; getting to know people; the weather; finding your way; meals; free time; house and home; school; and giving opinions.

### Townsend Learning Community and Life in Modern Britain

The first part of the term involves spending time looking at different issues concerned with joining a Secondary School, focusing on the transition from primary to secondary education. Students are helped with learning about the expectations and procedures at Townsend. They look at what 'Respect for All' means in practice and are guided with advice and support in settling into the Townsend community.

Other aspects of the course involve teaching students about staying safe and making safe decisions, and understanding their role in the community as citizens of the future. They learn about crime and the consequences; look at charity work; develop a greater understanding about emotional well-being; and cover basic first aid.

Students are also encouraged to take an interest in the world around them and are given the opportunity to talk about events and issues in the UK and globally.

### Learning for Life - Citizenship - Personal and Social Education - Life in Modern Britain

(Delivered in form time and across the curriculum)

The programme for the year includes the following topics: being me in my world; the community; celebrating difference; a healthy me; dreams and goals; changing me and relationships (which includes components of positive relationships, social groups and family changes). Lessons also include discussion opportunities on topical news issues – locally, nationally and globally.

### Physical Education

During Key Stage 3, the lessons help students to become more expert in their skills and techniques, and learning how to apply them in different activities. Students are helped to understand what makes an effective performance and how to apply these principles. Students also learn to take the initiative and make decisions to improve performance. Students start to identify the types of activity they prefer and take on a variety of roles, such as leader and official. In year 7, students are taught in a combination of mixed gender and single gender groupings. Activities usually covered include athletics, cricket, cross-country, dance, football, basketball, gymnastics, health related fitness, netball, rounders, rugby, swimming, and tennis. All students take part in inter-form/House competitions and all students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities as well as attending sports festivals and sports events.

### Religious Studies

In Religious Studies, students begin by exploring a number of key Old Testament stories and analysing their importance in Christianity and Judaism. They then examine the life of Jesus by looking at biblical and historical evidence to form their own judgements about whether he was man or God incarnate. Within this topic, they have the opportunity to examine the impact that Jesus had on those at the time as well on communities today. Later in the year, students focus on the Hindu and Sikh religions as a contrast to Abrahamic faiths. As children progress through the school other world faiths are considered.

### Science

In Science students build on what they have learnt in Key Stage 2 and improve their knowledge and understanding of key concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and how these apply to everyday lives. A wide range of topics are taught including cells, plant and animal reproduction, energy, particles, the universe, and forces. During these topics students are given the opportunity to develop their 'working scientifically skills' which includes planning, carrying out investigations, evaluating evidence, and understanding how scientific theories develop over time.

Home study in science usually consists of a choice of two projects or will be based around classroom activities to secure learning, such as questions, research, revision, learning key word spellings and meanings for end of unit tests.