



ST PETER'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The transition from primary school to secondary school can be exciting as well as a little worrying on occasions and your time in Year 7 is dedicated to helping you settle in and set the best foundations for a successful educational career at St Peter's as well as to grow and mature spiritually and personally.

In many ways, Year 7 is an adventure. There are new friendships to be made, lots of new teachers to meet, a wide variety of subjects to learn, and many new skills to develop. It is important that everyone is respectful, kind, organised and hard-working in order for you to make the most of every opportunity and be successful at St Peter's.

Your first year at St Peter's provides you with the support you need to set good foundations, build relationships, develop a positive attitude to learning and establish good learning habits that will help you to throughout your future years here. School, parents and students working together is the best recipe for success. Students must have high expectations of themselves and treat everyone with respect and kindness so that they really can become the very best that they can be.

Curriculum Subjects

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In lessons students will understand the Roman Catholic Church as a community of believers. To develop an appreciation of faith and revelation, in the Bible, and through sacramental practice today.

Topics

- The Catholic Community on a local, national and global level
- Revelation and Faith in the Old Testament
- The Mission of Jesus
- Catholic Sacraments
- Sikhism

Extra-Curricular

- Young Lasallians
- Lasallian Camp at St Cassian's, Kintbury

Home Learning

An onus on personal achievement to complete home learning to a good standard every time. Home learning is set weekly and is varied in its content.

Assessment

Half termly assessments comprising end of module class tests and key terms.

ART & DESIGN

Art lessons set out to promote Art & Design as a powerful tool for creative development, experimentation and self-expression. All lessons aim to develop practical skills alongside visual literacy, contextual understanding and critical thinking.

Topics

New themes are developed each year, in response to a range of inspirations such as artists' work, gallery visits, news events, and personal, practical explorations. Across the year students will have the opportunity to experiment within key themes of:

- Drawing
- Mark making
- Colour
- Structure & form

Extra-Curricular

A key stage 3 art club is available one day a week during lunchtime.

Home Learning

Home learning tasks promote independent creative study and provide opportunities for students to prepare for, and reflect upon, key classwork themes. Home learning is set each week alternating between practical tasks and materials preparation or research activities.

Assessment

Creative development and practical activities are assessed regularly to inform planning. This is done through a range of assessment strategies, including one to one discussions and sketchbook looks, also peer and monitored group assessments. Formal tracking grades are recorded across the school year in line with school policy.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science will familiarise students with technology they can use to accelerate their learning in a safe and responsible way.

Topics

- The Law and E-safety
- Word Processing
- Presentation Techniques
- Spreadsheets
- Website Development

Home Learning

There is an expectation that students use the knowledge and skills they acquire to support and supplement their studies in other areas of the curriculum.

Assessment

Each mini project is assessed (approximately every 7 weeks)

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Design & Technology is an introduction to workshop-based safety and practical skills. Using a range of tools and equipment including computer-based design and manufacture. Each student follows a rotation including all Technology material areas and Food.

Topics

- Skills building using a range of tools and equipment safely and confidently
- CAD/CAM
- Woods, polymers, metals and textiles
- Methods of printing including sublimation and block

Extra-Curricular

- Textiles lunchtime club
- Rotary club challenge
- glider challenge collaboration with Science

Home Learning

An onus on personal achievement to complete home learning to a good standard every time. Home learning is set every other week and is in preparation for the next lesson.

Assessment

At least two assessments will be undertaken in each rotation, every term.

DRAMA

Lessons are an exploration of key skills in Drama to understand the world in which we inhabit. To develop imagination, creativity, confidence and sensitivity. To implement key learning areas of the GCSE at a Year 7 level.

Topics

- Ishi (key skills through a real life event)
- Shakespeare (exploring design)
- DNA (script work and duologues)
- Tsunami (live theatre assessment)
- Year 7 Production (directing)
- Devise

Extra-Curricular

Year 7 production in conjunction with dance and music.

Home Learning

An onus on personal achievement to complete home learning to a good standard every time. Home learning is set twice termly and is varied in its content.

Assessment

Half termly assessments comprising end of module class tests and key terms.

ENGLISH

The course contains a full range of experience in English, based upon the principal skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Topics

- Autobiographical writing/recount writing and structural skills.
- The study of a novel (Point Blanc)
- Essay writing skills
- Poetry study
- Writing to persuade/formal and informal writing
- An introduction to soliloquys and monologues
- The study of a play (Oliver Twist)
- Development of reading skills.

Weekly literacy lessons devoted to personal reading and grammar

Extra-Curricular

- Year 7 lunchtime reading club
- Debates
- Writing competitions

Home Learning

Home learning is set weekly from modular home-learning booklets and is varied in its content.

Assessment

Half termly in-house assessments comprising end-of-module class assessments, combined with peer, self and additional teacher assessments.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Food Technology is an introduction to food preparation and nutrition including the essential skills needed when working in a kitchen. Each student follows a rotation including all Technology material areas and Food.

Topics

- Skills building using a range of tools and equipment safely and confidently
- following a recipe to make a successful product
- learning practical skills to make a product

Home Learning

An onus on personal achievement to complete home learning to a good standard every time. Home learning is every other week and is linked to the work taught in lessons. Students who study Food Technology will be expected to bring in ingredients on a regular basis.

Assessment

Two assessments will be undertaken in each rotation, every term.

GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 Geography is an introduction to geographical skills, concepts & language.

Topics

- Map skills
- Globalisation
- Weather & Climate
- Oceans on the edge
- Tour of Britain
- Microclimate fieldwork on site

Extra-Curricular

- Geography in the news group
- Flat Stanley project
- Geographical Association competitions as appropriate

Home Learning

A range of home learning including research, learning and written tasks set once a week

Assessment

End of unit assessments on each unit and internal annual exams.

HISTORY

In Year 7 History students will be introduced to the key skills of the subject including source analysis, critical thinking and communication whilst allowing them to develop a deep interest in the ancient and medieval worlds.

Topics

- Introduction to History
- Romans
- Saxons & Vikings
- Medieval England
- Civil War
- Islam & the Crusades

Home Learning

Home learning will be set by the class teacher to support learning, usually once a week with a range of tasks being set.

Assessment

End of unit assessments to test the key skills and knowledge.

MATHEMATICS

Lessons will stimulate your brain and develop your confidence, resilience and determination so that you will have the ability to learn from mistakes and solve problems both in the Mathematics classroom and in real life. To embed and develop the knowledge, skills and concepts that are essential for starting the GCSE (9-1) Edexcel Mathematics (MA1) course in Year 9.

Topics

- Patterns (Calculations, Sequences, Solving equations)
- Area
- Calculations
- Algebra
- Angles
- Ratio
- Graphs
- Percentages
- Shape
- Estimation
- Algebra: problem solving

Extra-Curricular

- Junior Mathematics Challenge
- Southampton University Mathematics Challenge

Home Learning

Set by the teacher once a week (handed in on the same day each week) to take 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

Assessment

Baseline assessment (week 4) and calculator and non-calculator examinations will take place during Year 7 exam week.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In lessons students will enjoy learning a foreign language and develop an awareness of the French and Spanish speaking worlds. Learning how to use the present tense, opinions and reasons.

Topics

- French
- My Identity
 - Family & Friends
 - My Home
 - Out in Town
 - My School Day
 - Sports, Hobbies & Holidays
- Spanish

- My Identity
- Family and Friends
- My Home
- My School Day
- Places and Activities in Town
- Free Time and Hobbies

Extra-Curricular

French & Spanish Club

Home Learning

Home learning is set weekly and will vary between learning vocabulary, reading and writing activities and practising conversations.

Assessment

One module assessment every half term.

MUSIC

At Key Stage 3, Musical history and aural skills are taught practically and through composition using music ICT, preparing students to be confident musicians with strong language for learning.

Topics

- Pachelbel's Canon
- I Feel Good – Soul
- Into the 20th Century
- Oye Como Va – Salsa
- Advert Soundtracks
- Watermelon Man – Blues
- Year 7 Musical

Extra-Curricular

- Concert Band
- Choir
- Music Theory
- Cubase Club
- Practice Rooms are open every lunchtime, and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Home Learning

Home learning will be set twice a half term, usually relating to the learning of key vocabulary to help students access aural and written aspects of music lessons.

Assessment

Half termly practical assessment with short keyword tests.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through the development of employability skills and the medium of physical activity we aim to enthuse the desire to be active for life, encourage the drive for achievement, celebrate the success of others, allow freedom of thought and accept the differences of the individual.

Topics

A number of activities will be on offer encouraging a wide variety of active and competitive opportunities with the intention of developing the students core values of:

- Empathy
- Community
- Persistence
- Aspiration
- Collaboration
- Imagination
- Morals and ethics.

Extra-Curricular

A full programme of extra-curricular activities is on offer ranging from boxing to badminton in excellent facilities with a combination of paid coaches and PE staff. Opportunities involving coaches from outside of school may have a termly charge.

Home Learning

Home learning is not methodically set although there is an expectation that students and their families should take a positive and responsible approach to regular weekly exercise and a healthy food regime. This may include park run, visits to the gym, cycling and running or some form of daily outdoor activity.

Assessment

Students will be assessed throughout the year on the PE core values: Empathy, Community, Persistence, Aspiration, Collaboration, Imagination, Morals and ethics.

SCIENCE

Science in Year 7 looks at the basic concepts which provide the platform on which GCSE studies are built.

Topics

- Organisms
- Matter
- Forces
- Ecosystems
- Reactions
- Electromagnets
- Genes
- Earth
- Waves
- Energy

Extra-Curricular

- Science Club
- Usually one guest speaker per year group, topic varying each year
- Evening Science lectures open to all

Home Learning

Home learning is set weekly in the form of learning key words and concepts from set pages. This is checked by a 10-mark quiz once a week. A detailed letter explaining the expectations and rationale for these tasks will be sent to all parents at the start of September.

Assessment

Personal Assessment Tasks (PATs) for diagnostic (formative) use. End-of-topic tests for summative assessment purposes and an end-of-year test.



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