

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

PARENTS' INFORMATION 2018-19



What this booklet will tell you

This booklet aims to give you an overview of what your child will be learning this year at Thomas Estley Community College. Information given here will cover, for each curriculum area:

- The main topics covered within that subject area.
- The types of groups that students are taught in.
- When major assessments will occur.

Many curriculum areas will be divided into terms so that you can see the order in which topics will be covered. Some areas operate on a rotating basis, so all topics will be covered, but not necessarily in the order listed.

There will be Year Eight examinations during the year; please ensure that you support your child in revising for these and in attending each session that week; these are designed to provide practice in formal examination skills and an accurate snapshot of progress.

The last section of the booklet will give you guidance about homework at the college, and how you can support your child to achieve their full potential in this area.



What you can do to help

Knowing what your child will be learning at which point in the year can support you as you:

- Talk about their learning with them on a regular basis.
- Keep an eye out for any programmes, films or exhibitions which might help them develop their interest or confidence in a particular topic.
- Encourage them and support them as they revise for assessments
- Look over their homework or offer advice or guidance in where to go for information.

Knowing how homework is given can support you and your child in planning and completing homework to meet deadlines and to a high standard.

Of course, if you have any other questions or need information not covered here, you can contact the College in the usual way.

This information is correct at the time of going to press.

Art and Design

	Groups	Focus - Rotational Courses	Assessment
All topics will be covered by all students by the end of the Summer	Mixed Ability	'Dreamtime' Art: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of Aboriginal Art • Drawing and Painting skills • 3D/Papier Mache skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Assessment during design development stages of each course • Peer Assessment • End of Project Assessment

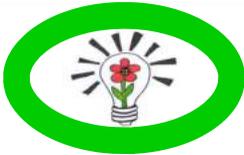


Design and Technology

	Groups	Focus - Rotational Courses	Assessment
All topics will be covered by all students by the end of the Summer	Mixed Ability	Textile Design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighten up - electronic textiles Product Design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headphone wrap Food Preparation and Nutrition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science of food Resistant Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture Frames 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Assessment during design development stages of each course • Peer Assessment • End of Course Assessment

The national curriculum focuses on developing learners who will thrive in the C21st world of life and work. **Functional, personal, learning and thinking skills** are an important part of the modern curriculum, and schools are delivering these through various contexts. We have already rewritten our Citizenship and Modules courses to incorporate these skills, and some will be delivered across the whole curriculum.

These skills fall within six categories:

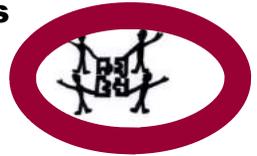


Crea- tive

Effective Participators



Team

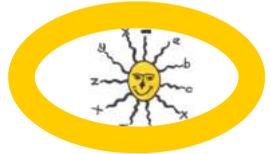


Independent enquiry-

Reflective learners



Self



Computing



Focus

Computing involves the science of computers. We build on the six strands of computing, each unit of work taking around six weeks:

- Algorithms and Computational Thinking
- Programming (Moving-on in Python)
- My Digital World
- Data and Data Representation (Binary)
- Making Websites
- IT Skills*

* IT Skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc) are also taught in other subjects throughout the year.

Assessment

Ongoing assessment of work at the end of each unit
On screen tests



History

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Sets	Revolution and Change c1750-1900 The Industrial Revolution,	Evaluating Sources Explanation and Analysis
Spring	Mixed Sets	Revolution and Change c1750-1900 The French Revolution Slavery and Empire	Interpretations Explanation and Analysis
Summer	Mixed Sets	Revolution and Change c1750-1900 Political protest and change Urbanisation Change by 1900	Interpretations, Evaluating Sources



Geography

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Ability	Structure of the Earth	Model Presentation
Autumn	Mixed Ability	Natural Hazards	Earthquake Assessment End of Unit test
Spring	Mixed Ability	Ecosystems	Rainforest Animal Assessment End of Unit Test
Spring	Mixed Ability	Europe	EU Debate End of Unit Test
Summer	Mixed Ability	Russia	Problem Solving Assessment
Summer	Mixed Ability	Geography of Crime	Skills Test



Mathematics



	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Ability Sets	During each term we cover topics from each of the four strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number • Algebra • Geometry and Measures • Statistics 	Autumn Term Assessment
Spring	Ability Sets		Spring Term Assessment
Summer	Ability Sets		Full suite of GCSE style papers

- Parents can access Mymaths.co.uk along with students to track homework and revision.
- A scientific calculator and geometric equipment are required equipment from day one.
- Lunchtime help is available every day in the Maths Department.
- Students will also receive individualised “Weekly Skills” homework personal to them.

MFL

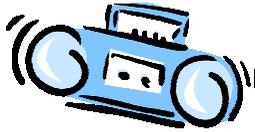
Students will study French for two lessons per week and Spanish for one lesson per week

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Ability Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French: describing my favourite footballer / singer • Spanish: my house 	Students will be assessed three times in French throughout the year 
Spring	Ability Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French: Paris and holidays • Spanish: my hobbies 	
Summer	Ability Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French: writing as story • Spanish: my local area 	

Modules Week

	Subject	Focus
October	STEM	Based on the theme of space, you will: Explore robotics Visit the Space Centre Problem solving Consider safety in aircraft Renewable resources Artistic Interpretations



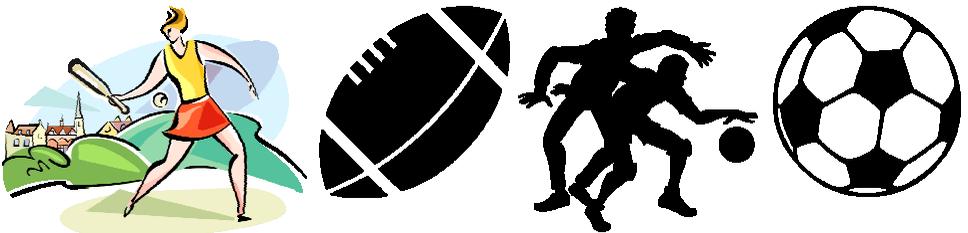


Music

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Ability	The Beatles: Focus on performance Structure, Chords and Harmony	Ongoing assessment Level awarded at the end of each scheme
	Mixed Ability	Film Music: Focus on composition Structure, Harmony, Notation, Pitch and dynamics	
Spring	Mixed Ability	The Blues Reggae Rock and Roll: Focus on performance Structure, How Genres Develop	Ongoing assessment Level awarded at the end of each scheme
	Mixed Ability	Musicals: Focus on performance - Performance Style and Using Notation	
Summer	Mixed Ability	Keyboard Skills: Focusing on performance - How to use the keyboard correctly, using chords and sight reading	Ongoing assessment Level awarded at the end of each scheme
	Mixed Ability	Personal Project: Focusing on performance/ composition - Students to choose which songs	

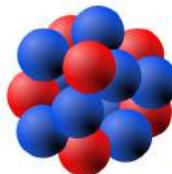


P.E.			
	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Over the year, all students will study:	Mixed Ability	Volleyball (All) Fitness (Girls only) Basketball (All) Cross Country (All) Football (All) Table Tennis (All) Rugby (Boys Only) Gymnastics (All) Netball (Girls Only) Athletics (All) Striking and Fielding (All) Tennis (All) Outdoor/ Adventurous Activities (All)	All sports are assessed during and at the end of units.



English

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Ability Sets	Holidays Advertising Class Novel	Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing Assessments Reading / Spelling tests
Spring	Ability Sets	Story and Poetry	Speaking, Listening and Writing Assessments Formal Examinations in Reading and Writing
Summer	Ability Sets	Romeo and Juliet Advertising	Reading and Writing Assessments



Science

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
All topics will be covered by all students by the end of the Summer	Ability sets based on performance in Year 7 and other available data	Life - Animal Nutrition Life - Plants and food Particles matter 2 - Atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures Shocking electricity Heating and cooling Exploring space Light, Sound and Vision - Properties of light and sound	End of topic tests Assessment activities within topics: written tasks, practical work and some homework. Year 8 Examination (March)

Homework



- In Year 8 your child should spend around 35 - 45 minutes on each subject every week. If you are worried about the amount of time they are spending on their homework you need to ask your child to speak to their teacher, or you need to put a message in your child's organiser.
- Homework will not always be a written piece of work. For example, your child could be asked to make a model or learn vocabulary.
- To help your child with homework tasks, the College Resources Area is open each lunchtime, as well as a computer suite and several classrooms. Staff are on hand to offer help if needed.
- Your child's homework should always be written in their organiser, so that you and they can both see what they need to do. Homework for each subject will often be set on the same night each week.



Your child needs to develop their organisational skills and work towards becoming an independent learner and enquirer. Steps towards this include them learning to:

- Find out exactly what the work is **before** the due date.
- Organise notes and equipment for easy access at home.
- Find a quiet place to work without distractions.
- Set their own targets, eg between 5.00pm and 5.45pm I will ...
- Allocate time to homework, hobbies, relaxation, etc. in advance.
- Work neatly and aim for quality over quantity.
- Ask their teacher for help if needed **before** the due date.
- Catch up on missed work.
- Talk to you about their homework.
- Ask you to sign their organiser each week.
- If no homework is set, choose their own useful task to do (e.g. learning work covered in class, read, listen to current affairs programmes, summarise long pieces of writing, write a letter to an organisation, research an area of interest).

Please contact your child's subject teacher with any queries about homework, either by calling the college or by e-mail. Staff contact names follow the format: jbloggs@thomasestley.org.uk.