

10 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 9 Learning Journey

In June, we conducted a parent voice survey to obtain feedback and support our strategic planning moving forward. One such topic we sought feedback, asked parents to rate how aware they are of what their children will learn during an academic year. In response to this, please find below a learning journey for the forthcoming half-term. This provides an overview of the topics your son/daughter will cover in each of their subjects. Our intention is to publish a Learning Journey each half term so that you can effectively support your child. Additionally, Long-Term Plans that provide an overview for each subject can be found under the 'curriculum' section of the school website.

Year 9 – Autumn Term 2 – Learning Journey

Subject	Topic(s)	
English	The Gothic - Writing (descriptive) - Language P1 The Gothic on stage	
Maths	<u>Foundation</u> Expressions, substitution, expanding and factorising	<u>Higher</u> Averages and Graphs Substituting into formulae
Science	Chemistry - Atomic structure - periodic table Physics - Circuit basics Biology - Cells	
Art	Oil pastels	
Citizenship	Life in Modern Britain	
DT - Engineering	Design unit	
DT - Food	Cakes Principles of nutrition	
Geography	Hot deserts	
Graphic Design	Film poster development	
Health and Social Care	Diet and Nutrition	
History	Weimar and Nazi Germany	
IMedia	Elements of visual identity – layout, composition and alignment	
Modern Foreign Languages - French	Qui suis-je?	
Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish	Past and future tenses	
Music/Performing Arts	Skill development	

Core Physical Education	Students will undertake a variety of game-based activities this term e.g. Basketball, Netball, Rugby, Table-Tennis in addition to Health-Related Fitness
Psychology	Research methods – Evaluating and analysing research
OCR Sports Science	Principles of Training

Students will also continue to have a lesson each fortnight of Accelerated Reader and Reciprocal Reading that will further develop their reading ability and comprehension.

Home Learning

Our home learning policy is built around the importance of retrieval to embed the knowledge and skills students learn in lessons. Home learning will be set by teachers every 2-5 lessons and all home learning tasks will be set through 'Assignments' on Microsoft Teams. Most home learning tasks will be retrieval tasks on Microsoft Forms, for example a multiple-choice quiz or an exam question. Students are expected to record brief details of the task in their planner, along with the completion deadline. We ask for the support of parents/carers in checking your child's planner and assignments on Teams to encourage them to keep on top of the home learning tasks they have been set. Microsoft Teams can be accessed on any device (such as a mobile phone, gaming console, PC laptop, tablet etc), however if students do not have access to an electronic device on which to complete the home learning tasks, home learning support sessions will run daily from 3.10-3.40pm in IT4.

Assessment Reporting and Recording

You will be aware that we use three different forms of assessment at Hungerhill to assess understanding and inform planning. **Low Stakes** assessments involve the home learning quizzes mentioned above in addition to quick, informal assessments that take place each lesson – for example the questioning posed in lessons by the teacher and every lesson starting with a 'Do Now' activity that focuses on the understanding of previous learning. **Medium Stakes** assessments are undertaken at the end of each topic/unit of work and are used to assess students' understanding of the knowledge from that period of learning and the skills they have developed. Your child may refer to these as Check 20s, Progress Checks or STARs assessments. Finally, **High Stakes** assessments are those assessments carried out at set points throughout the year to assess all learning undertaken to that point and to provide a **current working level** for all students. These are reported home along with updated information regarding students' Attitude to Learning, home learning, attendance and conduct information such as the number of achievement and behaviour points received throughout the academic year.

Please note the forthcoming **important dates** for Year 9 students:

- 20.01.22: ATOL grades and subject grades reported home
- 05.05.22: ATOL grades and subject grades reported home
- 02.05.22: Core Mock Exams Week – English, maths and science
- 11.05.22: Subject Teacher Parents' Evening
- 27.06.22: Mock Exams Week – all subjects apart from English, maths and science
- 18.07.22: GL Progress Tests all week
- 27.07.22: ATOL grades and subject grades reported home

Other Updates



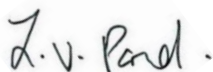
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At our recent Parents Advisory Group (PAG) meeting, the group highlighted parents would like greater clarity on some of the school systems, including the current behaviour policy. At this point, please can we signpost parents to page 9 of the student planner where an overview can be found. The detailed policy, along with other key policies can all be found on the school website here: [Hungerhill School - School Policies](#)

Thank you also to those parents/carers that participated in our online Parents' Evening consultation. The results were close, but the majority of parents/carers voted for the virtual option. Therefore, given the added variables of a rise in Covid cases within the local community and us heading into the winter months, we have decided to hold the upcoming Year 11 evening virtually. We do, however, appreciate that this option does not fully represent all our parents/carers, therefore, we are going to investigate the possibility of holding a hybrid model where parents/carers can select either a face-to-face or virtual appointment for subsequent evenings moving through the year. This will remain under review, and we will communicate more details in the lead up to each event.

If you have any questions about any of the contents of this letter or in general regarding your Year 9 student, please don't hesitate to contact their Achievement Leader Mr Parry or other member of staff via the 'Send us a Message' function of the school website, clearly denoting the intended recipient.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond
Headteacher



Mr P Storey
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs J Laidlaw
Deputy Headteacher

