Curriculum Information
Autumn 2016-17
Year 9

Non Mihi, Non Tibi, Sed Nobis
### English (Ms Emily and Mr Andrew)

This term the pupils will be studying the novel ‘Of Mice and Men’ by John Steinbeck. Within this unit of work the pupils will learn about the social and historical context of the novel, specifically 1930s America, and they will begin to develop an understanding of how the events of that time, including the Great Depression, influenced John Steinbeck’s writing. Furthermore the pupils will develop a clear understanding of the key characters and themes in the novel. They will be working towards an assessment where they must analyse the language used by the writer to create a particular theme or character, and so the pupils will also be revising the key criteria of an iceberg paragraph, and how to write in a developed and analytical way.

### History (Ms. Jan Crompton)

Students will begin their study of history this term with an in-depth investigation of the First World War. We will examine the long-term and short-term causes of the war, including the responsibility of various powers. Our focus will therefore be upon causation. We will then explore and compare the experiences of soldiers in the trenches, using a range of historical sources, with a particular focus on primary evidence. Our study will then move on to the Home Front, in particular the role of women and we will consider how important their work was to the war effort. We will consider the significance and impact of war.

### Maths (Ms. Yogeswari Boghan)

This term, students will be learning five main components: Numbers (fractions and indices), Expressions (factorising, two linear expressions, substitution, changing subject, solving linear equations, inequalities, simultaneous equations), Shapes (maps and scale drawing, bearings), Geometry (parallel lines, angles in a polygon, Pythagoras, tessellation, loci) and Measurement (area and volume). These topics are all underpinned by problem solving which provides a structure for the application of mathematical skills. Besides that, mental strategies are also a key part of the Numbers content. The students will also be exposed to actual Cambridge Checkpoint exam-typed questions as part of their continuous preparation for the exam.
Performing Arts (Ms. Ellie Saunders)

In music, pupils will begin by consolidating their pre-existing theory knowledge by practically exploring melody writing. Later on in the term, the pupils will compose their own Theme and variations inspired by Mozart's “Ah, vous dirais-je, Maman”. They will learn to play the theme, then carefully compose their own contrasting variation using specific compositional techniques. At the end of the unit, the pupils will perform their compositions. They will review their own work and set specific targets showing how to improve.

In Drama this term, the pupils will continue to look at the three key areas of Creating, Performing and Reviewing. We will develop physical pieces of theatre using slapstick and comedic performance as a starting point. Pupils will increase their physical performance skills alongside subtle facial expressions.

Science (Mr. Anthony Binger)

This term in Science we will be looking at the importance of plants and studying how plants form the basis of all the food chains in the world. Investigative skills will be extended along with planning and analysis of data from first-hand experience and secondary sources. Afterwards we will be looking at one of the most fundamental tools in Chemistry as we study how the periodic table evolved and how it can be used to make predictions as well as its importance in everyday situations. Finally, we look at Electricity and build upon the ideas encountered earlier in grade 7.

Business Studies (Ms. Michelle Courtney)

During this term students will learn about market forces of consumer demand and producer supply. They will be able to draw and use demand and supply curves and use them to demonstrate the principle of equilibrium price. Shift in demand and shift in supply and what causes it are also considered in this unit. Students will learn about taxes, subsidies, changes in the costs of the factors of production or changes in the prices of other commodities and how these factors could affect demand and supply of goods and services in the economy.

Geography (Mr. Jeffrey)

During this term students will be introduced to the topic of plate tectonics. We will be investigating the structure of the Earth, the causes of earthquakes and volcanoes and the distribution of these hazards around the globe. We will also be evaluating the impacts of these natural hazards on the natural and human world. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about natural resources and our use of these resources. Furthermore, we’ll be investigating the impacts and problems with resource extraction around the world.
Personal, Social, Health Education (Mr. David Geary)

During the first half-term, students will explore the theme of internationalism. They will focus on learning about the six major inhabited continents and the various cultures, peoples and geographical features of each. Through structured discussion pupils will, students will reflect on their own attitudes toward other cultures. As they progress through the unit, students will develop collaborative skills and essential literacy skills through planning, producing and presenting a group project focusing on the different continents studied. In the second half-term they will focus upon the topic of adventure and concepts relating to resilience and strategies for emotional well-being which will also provide further opportunities for extending their literacy skills through the production of a leaflet promoting strategies for emotional well-being.

Mandarin as a 1st Language (Mrs. Pang Sook Yee)

During the first half term, students will study Charity Heart and analyse the characters and themes. They will have the opportunity to respond to a variety of writing tasks using narrative skills. They will learn a lot of descriptive language from the article and apply it in their writing. In the second half term, they will continue to focus on their expository writing and they will produce an extended writing practice in conjunction with this topic. They will learn the analogy argumentation and example demonstration in their expository writing. They will also distinguish similar words from content by creating phrases and making sentences. Students are encouraged to read more Chinese story books by recording in their Mandarin Reading Report Card.

Mandarin as a 2nd Language (Ms. Soon Saw Imm)

During this term, students will learn about “Body Parts” and “Sickness”. Our main foci will be on the writing and speaking components. Reading will be used as a means of complementing the development of writing and speaking skills. The students will also be exposed to a range of texts which require them to elicit implied meaning as well as making deductions of the writer’s purpose. Vocabulary in context will also be introduced as a means of developing students’ writing skills on subject specific topics. Other than writing skills, the students will be expected to complete oral tasks in pairs or in group discussions on a given topic. Students will practise their listening using the Chinese Made Easy CD. The students will be expected to write 60-80 words using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structures.

Malay Language (Mrs. Rabiahtul Bazariah & Mrs. Pattmagowri)

The themes for this term include “Keselamatan Jalan Raya, Kemajuan Malaysia and Nilai Murni”. The main objective is for students to acquire balanced proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. New vocabulary will be introduced from time to time to enhance their foundation in grammar, reading comprehension, conversation and essay writing. In addition, they will also learn the language by reading newspapers, educational articles and academic papers. During lessons, students will be exposed to three major components throughout the semester, such as Essay writing (Penulisan), Reading comprehension (Pemahaman) and Grammar (Tatabahasa). In addition to this, such lessons will also help students improve their presentation skills through essay writing and oral presentations.
French (Mr. Michael Hayes)

This term, Year 9 will be developing their existing French, notably by expanding their knowledge of French grammar in order to communicate in the present, past and future tenses. The students are starting to prepare to take on IGCSE next year and become more independent in their learning and work. We will be studying different topics such as free time and leisure and future plans and projects. Throughout each unit of work, students will be using key vocabulary and structures such as expressing justified opinions, connectives and adverbs of time and frequency. We will be using a variety of mediums to study such as authentic French and Francophone articles and literature, textbooks and songs and poetry.

Edmodo Code: hg6jwe

Physical Education (Ms. Rowan Barrow & Mr. Dennis Lee)

During the first half of term, students will participate in activities to develop their Football skills. Through the use of drills, students will improve knowledge of game play and rules play such as corner kicks, goal kicks, throw ins and ball control. In the second half of term, students will be introduced to Badminton and learn the basic rules and skills required to be successful. They will work on personal skills for singles games and doubles, improving skills such as batting, serving, and receiving. When batting, students will improve their hand-eye co-ordination when striking the shuttle and improve their tactical thinking when positioning themselves in the court. Both groups will participate in a Swimming unit, where they will learn how to be safe and confident in the water using swim and survive techniques. They will learn to enter and exit the pool safely and begin to improve their freestyle, breast stroke and back stroke techniques.

Art and Design (Mr. Mohd Sharul Hasfis)

This term, students will learn about drawing and painting. For the first half term, they will learn about still life drawing. They will learn about types of drawing and skills. They will focus on skills in drawing such as sketches, analytic drawing and drawing detail. For another term, they will learn about the Self-portrait – Andy Warhol-style painting. Recognising the style of art stream and related painting, they will learn about skills, idea development and art critics.

Malaysian Studies (Ms. Pattnagowri & Mrs. Rabiahtul Bazariah)

The topic of focus for this term will be ‘The Formation of Malaysia’. Year 9 students will be learning about the factors that contributed to the formation and analyse the problems towards the formation. They also will be learning about the issue of the separation of Singapore from the Federation of Malaysia. Activities for this term will focus on discussion, group work, project and presentations which will help the students to develop their interpersonal skills. The values of ‘Straits Seven’ and ‘IDEALS’ will be taught to them during the teaching learning process.
**Humanities (Mr. Jeffrey)**

During this term students will be introduced to the impacts of tourism on both human and physical environments around the world. After acquiring a baseline of knowledge about tourism and its impacts, students will be conducting their own research into an area which has been impacted by tourism. In addition to finding secondary sources of information, students will also develop skills such as mapping, creating graphs and analysing the information in these graphs. For the second half of the term, we will be looking at the global fashion and textiles industry. In particular, students will again be researching a company of their choice and finding that company’s positive and negative contributions to the human world.

**ICT (Mr. Lee Wooder)**

This term, our students will learn about working with podcasting, where they will have experiences in creating their own podcast and editing them in audacity software and make a short movie using Windows Movie Maker. They will be exposed to editing sound clips and working with various online free music editors. In the game-making topic, they will be introduced to Gamemaker 7 free software. They will briefly look into areas such as creating layouts and creating timelines and other designing tools within Gamemakers software. They will experience planning the game-making project by applying the system life cycle methodology.
## Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 August</td>
<td>First day of term</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 August</td>
<td>National Day <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<td>5 September</td>
<td>Malaysia Day <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<td>12-13 September</td>
<td>Hari Raya Haji <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<td>16 September</td>
<td>Malaysia Day <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<td>19 September</td>
<td>Mooncake Festival Celebration</td>
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<td>3 October</td>
<td>Awal Muhaarram <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<td>25 October</td>
<td>Twilight Concert</td>
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<td>27 October – 1 November</td>
<td>Mid Term Break</td>
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<td>4 November</td>
<td>Deepavali Celebration</td>
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<td>8 December</td>
<td>Twilight Concert</td>
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<td>12 December</td>
<td>Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday <em>(Public Holiday)</em></td>
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<td>16 December</td>
<td>Christmas Celebration</td>
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<td>16 December</td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
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