

Main Topics or Activities covered by Year 7

Subject	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Art	The Autumn Term will begin with revisiting a number of basic art practices and standardising students' understanding of Art and Drawing. Students will have had a varied experience of Art and Design. The students will use a number of materials and processes to explore Drawing in its broadest sense developing technical skills and understanding as well as more explorative ways of working.	The Spring term is where students will work with and develop an understanding of colour. This will use lots of processes and materials and will investigate some of the science of colour and important technical aspects like the colour wheel and light. Students will use paint and begin to understand its application and properties. Students will be encouraged to engage with the work of other artists and begin to apply ideas and techniques from these artists to their own work.	In the final term students will look at and work with concepts of space in the art work . This will use perspective and various aspects of creating the illusion of a three dimensional space on a two dimensional surface. The students will use a variety of processes and materials as well as work of others to investigate and apply these ideas to their own work.
English	Your daughter's study of English will begin with a unit which aids her with the transition from junior to secondary school. She will be encouraged to reflect upon some of her experiences of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening over the course of KS2, evaluating how these experiences will help her with future study. Following the transition unit, the order of particular units may vary according to your daughter's class teacher or the specific needs of the form. A typical order of units in year 7 may look as follows:- Following her reflection on her previous experiences in English your daughter may study a unit which explores the features and characteristics of autobiographical writing. She will study the work of authors such as Anne Frank and also write her own autobiographical account about an important event in her life. Typically, in the Autumn term, your daughter will also study a novel. She will be introduced to increasingly sophisticated Reading strategies over the course of this unit and will be expected to write an essay in response to her studies.	Typically, the Spring term may begin with the unit 'Dreadful Tales'. In this unit, your daughter will build upon some of the skills gained from her study of the novel by reading a variety of ghost stories. She will then move on to writing her own ghost story; this will challenge her to think creatively about language, structure and characterisation. In the Spring term your daughter can also expect to study a range of poetry in the unit entitled 'Animals with Attitude'. Here she will analyse the writing of authors from different eras of literature, from William Blake through to Vernon Scannell. This unit will also culminate in an essay, giving your daughter the opportunity to consolidate some of the skills learnt in the autumn term. Throughout the year so far your daughter will have reviewed several strategies to help her speak and listen more competently in class. During the Spring term she may be given the opportunity to review her presentation skills through a book report or individual presentation to the class. During the Spring term students will also study a range of short films in the unit 'Moving Image'. This unit encourages students to appreciate the different types of Reading we do and the subtleties in the presentation of character, mood, setting and atmosphere.	During the summer term your daughter may study the unit 'Top Tips' which reviews and seeks to enhance her knowledge of non-fiction texts. With a focus on texts which seek to advise, your daughter will review a range of different formats from leaflets to websites and produce her own non-fiction advice text. The highlight of the summer term for many pupils is our study of William Shakespeare's play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Students will explore the historical context of Shakespeare's theatre and have the opportunity to explore his work through varied and often active approaches, including drama workshops with their teachers. Following on from their study of Shakespeare many students will move on to a more contemporary play. In this unit they will be given the opportunity to write their own scripts and reflect further on the process of characterisation and overall text structure.
French	Your daughter will start this term with learning to give basic information about herself (name, age, talk about siblings and where they live). During this first term your daughter will cover the language to talk about family members, pets, colours, days of the week and months. She will also acquire the vocabulary to express likes and dislikes. In grammar she will learn about genders (masculine and feminine words), possessive articles (my, your ...) and adjectives (e.g size and colours). Pupils will also start to use verbs such as 'to have' and 'to be' and will learn about French -er verbs in the present tense. Students will start a reading diary of French books and magazines and will use ICT to further practise and consolidate all vocabulary units and grammar covered this term. For all the topics studied, all four linguistic skills are always used: listening, speaking, reading and writing.	In the Spring term, students will continue to practise the grammar covered in the first term and will learn new grammatical aspects such as possession and preposition and will use more verbs in the Present tense. This term pupils will learn vocabulary to describe clothes, weather, seasons and numbers to 100 as well as places in town. In January all year 7 pupils will be involved in a cross-curricular project with the IT Department, requiring them to use both their French and their IT skills. At the end of the Spring Term, your daughter will be more confident with her grammar and will have developed techniques to learn new vocabulary and to deal with unfamiliar language. Pupils will still continue to read books or magazines in French as part of our "Reading weeks" to develop their linguistic skills further. There will also be opportunities for them to use IT in and outside the classroom to practise their language.	During the Summer term, students will learn to ask and say the time as well as how to talk about school subjects (like and dislike) and their day at school and will cover the vocabulary of food and drinks. They will continue to consolidate all the grammatical aspects that we have covered so far but in different contexts and will learn more advanced grammatical points. Pupils are still expected to read for pleasure but also to acquire new language.

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Geography	The Autumn Term begins with identifying the meaning of Geography as well as developing a 'sense of place'. This is then followed by an investigation into 'The function of Woodford Green' where fieldwork and analytical skills can be learnt.	The Spring Term will concentrate on two themes. Initially students look at the regional differences, both physical and human, across the British Isles. This will be followed by a study of Europe and the formation and purpose of the European Union.	During the Summer Term we investigate environmental issues within the British Isles. A study of National Parks and 'heritage cities' culminates in a field visit to Rochester where primary data is collected, presented and analysed.
History	In the autumn term your daughter will undertake an initial baseline assessment to determine her strengths and weaknesses and enable us to devise an appropriate support programme for her. She will then spend a brief period of time exploring the history of Woodford County High School. This short study will introduce her to some basic historical skills such as the use of evidence and the significance of chronology. The main part of her studies will be an introduction to Medieval Realms during which she will examine issues such as medieval kingship and the impact of the Norman Conquest. These investigations will require her to develop an understanding of change and continuity but also an awareness of differing viewpoints on the past. She will complete the term by writing an essay investigating the reason why William won the Battle of Hastings.	The spring term will see your daughter develop some of the themes she initially encountered in the autumn term. Of particular relevance will be the importance of religion in medieval society and the growing tension between the monarch and the church as seen in the conflict between Beckett and Henry II. She will then move on to a study of the impact of the Black Death on Medieval society. The focus of this topic will be cause and consequence. Your daughter will get the opportunity to work on a creative project based around her own independent research on the Black Death. She will be actively involved in the process of planning, researching and assessing both her own work and that of other students.	In the summer term your daughter will undertake an investigation into the Peasant's Revolt. This will give her a vital opportunity to assess the extent to which life for ordinary people in the medieval period changed. She will explore different contemporary viewpoints on the revolt and debate what we can learn from it about the changing nature of feudalism. Towards the end of the year all Year Sevens will undertake a joint project with the Geography Department. The History component will focus on a study of medieval castles and cathedrals. A crucial part of this project will be an educational visit to Rochester to gather information on both the castle and cathedral.
ICT	This term year 7 pupils will begin with an introduction to ICT & the school's network and they will be given a short test to establish their abilities. They will study a unit with a focus on researching and presenting skills. This will include: analysing problems, computer terminology, (Microsoft Word 2007) Hardware classification (input, output, storage etc.), researching/purchasing hardware & software (fit for purpose) (web browser), software classification and definitions, using models (Microsoft Excel 2007 MS) to solve problems, Health & Safety, ergonomics etc., office planning (Open Office 3.1 Draw), learning about what makes a good presentation, production of automated & interactive multimedia presentation (Microsoft PowerPoint). This will conclude with a presentation and peer evaluation.	During this term year 7 will work on a digital audio unit exploring different file extensions and using an audio editing programme Audacity and learning how to import files from selected sources. This unit includes: enhancing communication with audio, editing digital audio files (file extensions), sharing (exporting) audio files, working with stereo sound effects, mixing original track using samples, finding out what makes a good podcast, planning and recording a podcast, editing podcast (downloading from selected sources), sharing and evaluating their work. The second half of the term is focussing on digital video using Ulead Video Studio 10. This unit includes: introduction to video terms and techniques, storyboarding and scripting, editing video clips, identifying characteristics of a good advert, researching possible topics for advert, identifying possible target audiences, creating a story board & script, gathering and creating resources (internet & Adobe Fireworks CS4), editing the advert, producing the advert, concluding with peer evaluation.	The first half term a unit in control technology will be studied using MS Word and Flowol. This includes: introduction to control, flowcharts, modular programming, simple programming, and advanced programming in Flowol (including inputs). The year will conclude with a unit about information systems using MS Excel. It will include: learning what is an information system, creating a web query, copy and paste Vs paste-linking data, formatting data, conditional formatting, formulae Vs functions, writing SUM, Average, Max, Min, IF and Countif functions, creating charts, creating navigation buttons/menu, improving usability (including macros), creating UFI.
Mathematics	In Year 7 your daughter's study of Mathematics will include Number and Algebra, Geometry and Measures and Statistics. Students carry out both written and mental calculations throughout the year. In the Autumn term students study decimal notation and place value, how to multiply and divide integers and decimals by 10, 100, 1000, round decimals to the nearest decimal place, how to use units of measurement to measure, estimate, calculate and solve problems in everyday contexts, how to convert from one metric unit to another, how to use a calculator, negative numbers, to carry out operations with fractions, use the equivalence of fractions, decimals and percentages to compare proportions, simple ratio and direct proportion, probability, estimates and approximations and the order of operations.	In the Spring term students learn about 2-D representations of 3-D objects and how to classify quadrilaterals by their geometric properties, angles associated with parallel lines, triangles and other polygons; how to use a calculator where appropriate to calculate fractions/percentages of quantities/measurements, multiply and divide an integer by a fraction, calculate percentages and percentage increase or decrease, and to use the equivalence of fractions, decimals and percentages to compare proportions, coordinates and transformations, linear equations with integer coefficients and simple sequences.	Topics to be studied in the Summer term include how to recognise and use number patterns, how to measure angles and use compasses for standard constructions, area, perimeter and volume and statistics. Students will also complete a data handling project during the term.

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Music	In the autumn term the fundamentals of music are introduced through both singing and composition. Work is first undertaken in the area of rhythm, followed by an examination of pitch and melody. Pupils will write their own music inspired by graphic scores, and will form a 'class choir' to perform a variety of songs including Christmas and Winter favourites at the end of term.	In the Spring term students are introduced more thoroughly to the skills required to compose music, through a unit on Programme Music, before going onto study Indonesian Gamelan music through a variety of performing and listening tasks.	In the Summer term, students are introduced to Jazz music, including composing through improvisation, and furthering their understanding of musical notation through a range of performance and singing tasks. They finish the year by returning to rhythmic composition in a unit on Rap music.
PE	During the autumn term your daughter will study netball, hockey and fitness. The emphasis will be to develop their ability to perform basic skills accurately under pressure.	In the spring term, pupils study the more aesthetic aspect of the curriculum; gymnastics and dance. They will learn to create sequences that show fluency and control.	In the summer pupils study athletics and rounders. The majority of athletics disciplines will be covered, with pupils being expected to learn the basic techniques, rules and tactics.
PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education)	Students have a series of Citizenship lessons relating to communities, identities, rights and responsibilities. They also learn how to improve their organisational skills and reflect upon issues relating to friendship, bullying, values and emotional challenges. Students are also provided with introductory library and internet safety sessions.	Students are given the opportunity to reflect on their key skills and how to develop these. They will also focus on the physical and emotional challenges inherent in teenage growth and development. This term will also provide an introduction to road safety along with further guidance in the use of the library.	Students will have further opportunities to reflect upon their academic and personal achievements to date as well as being provided with guidance in effective target setting for the future. There will also be a focus on the uses and function of money and further development of students' library skills.
RS	The Autumn Term begins with an introduction to the manifestation of religions in the modern city. Students then study the beginnings of Judaism and Christianity, covering concepts of Sacrifice, Repentance, Atonement, Penance, and Incarnation.	The Spring Term begins with a study of the origins of Islam, followed by ideas in the Genesis creation story. Concepts include Corruption, Idolatry, Slavery, and Revelation.	The Summer Term focuses on Pesach and Easter, including concepts of Freedom, Salvation, Sacrifice and Resurrection and their symbolic representation. The end of year examination is held in the second half of the term.
Science	As an introduction to Science, pupils first learn about safety in the lab while conducting practical experiments. They all produce safety posters based on the lab rules that they have learnt and must follow them throughout their time at Woodford. After this, pupils study a topic in each of the three sciences in rotation. They start with the fundamentals of Biology in the topic Living Things, which involves learning about cells, classification and life processes. Practicals include the use of microscopes to make slides. They then move on to a more mathematical Physics topic about Forces. This involves many investigations looking at how forces are fundamental to the world around us. Pupils are assessed on these topics after which a baseline level is generated. Finally pupils learn through models in a Chemistry topic about Everyday Materials. This topic includes conducting practicals using Bunsen burners for the first time.	Pupils continue learning all three sciences in this term. More complex practicals are conducted as pupils are now more familiar and confident with the lab surroundings, safety rules and the use of scientific equipment. Pupils begin with a difficult and abstract Physics topic of Energy. They learn the basic laws of energy conservation and learn about renewable and non-renewable energy resources. They continue their education of the environment and human impact on the environment in a Biology topic Survival. Practical work includes observing the behaviour of living organisms and sampling habitats. A test is conducted near the end of the term to check pupil progress.	Pupils learn about Chemical Reactions, a topic that mainly focuses on two very important chemicals in Chemistry, acids and alkalis. This topic involves many practicals and really enhances the experimental and investigative skills that have been learnt throughout the year. After this they will move on to the final Biology topic of Development and Change. There is time set aside for revision for the end of year exam in which pupils must revise all the topics they have learnt throughout the year. After the exam, pupils learn through research and presentations about the solar system. This is the final Physics topic in year 7.
DT FS/PD	In Design Technology yr 7 students will spend a term on each of Food Studies, Product Design and an enhancement programme of Visual Arts Technology. There is a cross department theme of promoting healthy eating. Working safely and competently in a kitchen is the main focus for Food Studies with the students making a number of dishes promoting 5-a-day and practising basic food preparation techniques. The students will also design and make party food.	In Product Design the students gain confidence in a workshop environment by using hand tools and machines. They will learn the environmental implications of plastics and how to manufacture products, using injection moulding and vacuum forming. For the rest of the course in Product Design they will learn about how mechanisms are used in systems and control and how to model pop up mechanisms. They will also be introduced to CAD/CAM as they design products that will be manufactured using the Laser cutter.	The new Visual Arts Technology course will provide an exciting cross curricular enrichment programme combining DT, ICT and Art. Through project work students will use a range of digital means such as photography and Graphic software programmes to respond to creative challenges.