

15US Upper School Curriculum Newsletter



Autumn Term 2019

The development of the **curriculum** is the **whole school focus** for this year.

The teaching of **reading** will be the focus during this Autumn term.

'**Africa**' will also be a focus for all pupils this term, as we prepare to welcome teachers from our partner school in Nairobi for a week in November.

English

Mr Brown's set: Last term, we did some preparatory work towards our new unit ('Creating Narratives') whereby pupils developed their understanding of 'genre'. This Autumn term, pupils will now work towards being able to plan, produce and structure their own narrative to interest an audience/reader, using language to engage the reader, describing characters and settings in detail and making deliberate vocabulary choices. The pupils' narratives will show an awareness of the features of the particular genre they have chosen. All planning towards the creation of the narrative will be 'scaffolded' to help pupils to develop their ideas. Pupils will also evaluate, edit and improve their work before submitting their final piece.

Mrs Taylor's set: Pupils will be studying the text, 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio. We will be focussing on the use of language in the text and the author's intentions. We will be drawing comparisons between the themes within the text with that of others such as, 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley.

Mrs Nolan's set: The literacy focus for this term "World Literature and Poetry". Pupils will explore the narrative in traditional African short stories and poems, drawing inferences such as characters' feelings, thoughts and motives. The group will have a dedicated reading lesson which will include listening to African folk stories, reading appropriate level books to an adult and participate in guided reading sessions. Some pupils will have their phonics and high frequency word knowledge extended using a multi-sensory approach. The group will develop their literacy skills so that they can be utilised in work, life and further learning; and be able to transfer these skills in ways that are appropriate to real life scenarios. The pupils will be taught through practice and multi-sensory learning.

Maths

Mr Newman's group will spend the first part of the Autumn term developing their place value knowledge and skills. This will be followed by a unit on decimals and fractions, including adding and subtracting to 4DP. The term will end with addition and subtraction, including money.

Some pupils in Mrs Evans' group are starting a two year Entry Level 2 or 3 course. This term's topic will include number and sequences to 1000, positive and negative numbers, basic fractions and decimals, revision of addition and subtraction facts to 20 and multiplication by 2,3,4,5, and 10. Two pupils are working towards Entry Level 3 Functional skills. They will follow similar content but will be applying it to 'real life' situations.

Emma Nolan's group will continue to learn functional maths skills to enable them to access the wider world, they will engage in activities that will help them to reinforce skills in communication, problem solving, time management, money management and team working. Part of the group will be working on an OCR accreditation unit: "Working with whole numbers". The remainder of the group will be completing an ASDAN unit: "Developing number skills".

Humanities

Some pupils from 15us are starting an Entry Level Humanities unit 'Sustainable Tourism.'

This term they will be learning what tourism is, looking at holiday destinations from Worcestershire to around the world, investigating why more holidays are being taken and considering which groups of people take which sort of holidays.

Life skills activities

The life skills focus for the Autumn term is 'personal guidance' to enable the students to start on a structured career path. They will explore their individuality and be encouraged to use their own unique skill set. Several students will start work experience placements ranging from data entry at the local police station to assisting a carpenter with wood work projects.

The students will engage in several experiences of the workplace, for example, visiting Pizza Express and seeing behind the scenes. Travel training will commence later on in the term, enabling the pupils to access public transport confidently.

College and Community

Each Friday this term, 15US will attend HOW College in Redditch. They will be accessing three different courses and each pupil knows which course they are registered onto. These courses are Sport, Catering and Construction. The pupils will join the college population and practice their social and independence skills whilst attending college, including accessing the cafeteria for lunch.

Duke of Edinburgh

This term the pupils will be focusing on one element of the Duke of Edinburgh programme; volunteering, developing a new skill or participating in an hour of exercise.

ICT/Computing

Mrs Macvie

This term the BTEC group will be working on a video editing unit. They will be producing a short advertisement or film on a subject of their choice. We will also be addressing some of the risks associated with social networking. There is an expectation that any homework set will be completed fully and by the date requested as this is an important part of the accredited work.

Creative Arts

Music

Pupils are developing the necessary skills to successfully perform as part of an ensemble and to be able to appraise these group performances. They are working towards Entry Level 2 or Entry Level 3 Ensemble Music Performance (WJEC Entry Pathways Qualifications in Creative, Media and Performance Arts). Repertoire explored will focus on our whole-school theme, Africa, and from November, pupils will also begin rehearsing for the Upper School Christmas performances.

Art

Most pupils will be working on an accredited course practicing and developing their painting and drawing skills. Most pupils will work with WJEC Entry Pathways, some will follow ASDAN. They will spend time researching different artists and experimenting and exploring a variety of techniques. They will develop their artistic skills and gain confidence in their individual abilities. All work will be gathered in personal sketchbooks showing clear progress through their project as it develops and begins to flourish and grow.

P.E. and Fitness

PE will take place on a Wednesday. The pupils will either take part in P.E, Swimming or Art. The P.E group will be working towards ASDAN Sports and Fitness; the focus will be on team games and individual activities.

The swimming group will be working towards individual targets. Selected pupils will be studying for OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies; this will take place on a Tuesday afternoon.

Swimming

Some pupils will take part in swimming in the hydrotherapy pool (on a rota on Wednesday mornings) to support their physiotherapy programmes.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

Pupils are all taking part in various accredited courses at their own individual level in preparation for the next step on their education journey. The pupils will be working from the National Curriculum, modified and differentiated to meet their needs, and will be assessed using the P scales and SOLAR to track their progress.

Each child will also follow their own personalised Individual Education Plan with their own set targets, which will be reviewed and monitored.