

12US 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.

Art

Pupils are working on WJEC Creative, Media and Performance Arts under the title 'Painting and Drawing'. They will focus on the theme of portraiture and begin by completing some observational drawing. They will then research into 3 very different artists and explore style, presentation and technique. The artists will be Frida Kahlo, Picasso and Van Gogh. All work will be gathered, annotated and thoughtfully presented in a working sketchbook.

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 begin rehearsing for the Upper School Christmas performances.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

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.

Science

12US are set for science this year. In addition to working towards their Entry Level qualification pupils will also be following our science curriculum. Mr Newman's group will be learning about reproduction and growth followed by Earth and Space.

Mrs Hockey's group will be learning about nutrition, skeletons and muscles followed by exploring light and mirrors. All pupils will continue to develop their ability to conduct scientific enquiries.

P.E., Swimming and Fitness

PE takes place on a Friday.

The focus this half term is Table Games for those studying Entry Level P.E and New Age Kurling for Core P.E.

After half term the focus will be Fitness or Powerchair Football.

Selected pupils will be studying for OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies, this will take place on a Tuesday afternoon.

Swimming/hydrotherapy:

Some pupils will have an opportunity to go in the hydrotherapy pool on Wednesdays.

During this lesson they will work towards their own individual swimming targets.

Emma Nolan's English Group:

The literacy focus for this term is "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.

Ms Taylor's English Group:

Pupils will be studying the text, 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio. We will be focusing 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.

Gareth Brown's English Group:

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.

Relationships

12US will be learning about the existing laws in relation to drugs and alcohol, they will explore the social, emotional and health problems caused by addiction to substances and alcohol.

The pupils will also study the topic of relationships and look at how theirs and others behaviour affects people. They will learn about different types of bullying, how to recognise it and who to go to for help.

Computing

Pupils will be working on their Functional Skills Entry Level Qualification with more able students beginning work on a BTEC IT qualification. They will be covering the topics of On-line Safety, particularly with regard to social networking, Music/Sound and Data Handling.

Humanities

Some pupils from 12us 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.

Maths

Mr Newman's group will spend the first part of the 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.

Mrs Evans' group are starting a two year Entry Level 2 or 3 course. This term's topics 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.

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 in "Working with whole numbers", whilst the remainder of the group will be completing an ASDAN accredited unit "Developing Number Skills".

Mr Roger Dill-Russell's group will be undertaking an ASDAN Mathematics short course to embed their existing skills.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

The children will be working from the National Curriculum, modified and differentiated to their individual needs, and will be assessed using the P Scales and SOLAR.

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