

13US 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

Functional English

Developing communication skills is important across all lessons for 13US and reading and writing skills will be encouraged where possible throughout the weekly timetable.

OCR Life and Living Skills— Communication

Pupils will be developing their reading skills and learning how to understand short texts and follow simple instructions. A variety of sources will be used to develop these reading skills such as books, audio books, the script of a play, advertising leaflets, lists of instructions and symbols.

Lessons will provide the opportunity for all pupils to work on their own individual learning objectives to develop their reading skills.

Pupils will develop their Functional Skills in English at Entry Level 1 and 2 of the OCR Life and Living Skills course.

Linking to the theme of Africa, pupils will read the story of Anansi the spider and perform the story as a play.

Science

Science will be taught across the curriculum. We will be learning about **Home Management** as part of our **OCR Life and Living Skills course**. Throughout the Autumn term the pupils of 13US will be learning about the importance of clean clothing for self-confidence and personal relationships and to develop the knowledge and skills to wash, dry and store laundry.

Maths

Functional Maths

Pupils will work through a selection of activities that are personalised to each of the pupils' needs.

Pupils will again also have independent Maths time in which they will complete a selection of familiar tasks to consolidate their learning.

Through 'starter' activities, pupils will work together as part of a group to complete short activities to prepare them for their lessons.

The class are working in two groups.

Group 1 are working towards Edexcel Maths Entry Level 1, the focus this term is: counting up to 10, counting small sets of objects and checking the total, read, write and order numbers to 10, recognising and using halves and understanding the operation of addition, subtraction as taking away and the relationship between them.

Group 2 are working on ASDAN Personal Progress or OCR Life for Living Skills. The focus for this half term is 'Recognising time through regular events'. The pupils will be analysing what happens at different times of the day, during the month and during the year including different seasons and celebrations.

P.E. and Fitness

Swimming will take place on a Thursday. During these lessons pupils will work towards individual targets.

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.

Art

Pupils are working on their OCR (and ASDAN) art accreditation focusing on creating a step by step guide as to how to produce an art or craft product. They will research and experiment with ideas, creating pages of reference in their sketchbooks. They will explore and interact with different materials, tools and techniques so that they are gaining skills and knowledge before making an informed choice about the actual product they would like to make.

Computing

During ICT 13US will be working towards OCR accreditations units. This term pupils will be learning to use ICT to communicate and how to stay safe using ICT.

Life Skills

Life Skills will be taught throughout the week by a variety of teachers. In these sessions the pupils will develop everyday independence and thinking skills.

Rebound Therapy

Some pupils will follow the 'Winstrada' programme this term during 'Rebound' sessions on a Friday. This programme aims to improve fitness, posture and balance. It will also build confidence and help provide a sense of well-being.

Food Technology

Food Technology will take place on a Wednesday for those pupils not at THRIVE. In Food Technology pupils will be exploring foods with an African theme and developing our independence skills.

THRIVE

Some pupils from 13US will attend 'THRIVE' (in Kings Heath, Birmingham) to study horticultural skills. This term the pupils are working towards their unit of work on 'identifying trees and shrubs'.

Forest School

Forest School will take place on a Wednesday for those pupils not at THRIVE, run by a qualified Forest School leader. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather.

PSHE

Our PSHE topic for the term in KS4 is Healthy Lifestyles, and developing positive relationships. KS5 pupils will be focusing on keeping safe in the community and marriage. Both groups will look at coping strategies for positive mental health.

Music

Pupils will focus on performing using traditional African instruments, singing songs and completing a range of composition tasks linked to the musical 'Anansi Saves the Village', which features traditional Ghanaian songs and percussion rhythms.

Community Learning

During 'community learning' 13US will be working towards their OCR accreditation units.

Throughout the Autumn term the pupils of 13US will be learning about an individual's responsibilities in the community and the impact this has on the overall community.

The pupils will complete the 'Finding out about and using community facilities' (Entry Level 1) unit and the 'Individual responsibilities in the community' and 'Community Action' (Entry Level 2) units of the 'Environment and community' section of the OCR Life and Living Skills course.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

All pupils are continuously assessed using the SOLAR assessment system. This breaks down levels and targets into small steps, so that we are able to track progression through each level.

Evidence is collected through pupils own work, videos, photographs and observation statements from staff.