

13US
Curriculum Newsletter
Spring Term 2020



Our Values...

Welcoming **Teamwork**
Friendship **Trust**
Independence **Fun!**

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

The teaching of **reading** will also continue to be a focus throughout the year.

The teaching of **Maths** will be the focus during this Spring term.

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.

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

Books Beyond Words:

The Books Beyond Words approach supports pupils' social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). It encourages pupils to look at pictures rather than text to understand the story and allows for discussions around key social and emotional issues.

Communication:

Lessons will provide the opportunity for pupils to work on their individual communication targets.

Science

Science will be taught across the curriculum. We will be learning about cleaning, washing, drying and storing laundry as part of the 'Home Management' Unit of our 'OCR Life and Living Skills' course.

Throughout the Spring term the pupils of 13US will be learning about drying and storing laundry.

Maths

Functional Maths:

Pupils will work through a selection of activities that are personalised to each of the pupils' needs and develop their functional maths skills.

The class are working in three groups.

Group 1 are working towards **Edexcel Maths Entry Level 1**.

The focus this term is: Geometry: 2D shapes; 3D shapes; Position, movement and pattern.

Measures: Units; Measuring instruments; Statistics.

Group 2 are working on **OCR Life and Living Skills Entry Level 1**.

The focus for this half term is will be on completing the '**Recognising time through regular events**' unit.

The focus will be on relating familiar events to times in the day, relating familiar events to days in the week and relating familiar events to seasons in the year.

Group 3 are working on the **ASDAN** Personal Progress unit: '**Recognising time through regular events**' and will cover the same content as Group 2.

P.E. and Fitness

P.E takes place on a Friday.

The pupils are working on a carousel of activities that include fitness, Polybat and Boccia. They will be applying tactics and analysing performance.

KS4 pupils are studying for their Entry Level P.E and will be preparing for moderation.

13US will be working on their individualised swimming targets during their swimming lessons.

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

This term pupils will continue to work towards their OCR accreditation units.

This term pupils will research college's they would like to visit and gather relevant information related to the colleges.

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. This programme aims to improve fitness, posture and balance. It will also build confidence and help provide a sense of well-being.

Food Technology

Pupils will continue to develop independence in the kitchen. Each week they will choose their own ingredients to make a simple recipe.

THRIVE

Some pupils from 13US will continue to attend 'THRIVE' (in Kings Heath, Birmingham) to study horticultural skills, working 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

Pupils will cover the Relationships and Sex Education theme during the Spring Term. The focus will be on communicating their feelings and learning about safe relationships and lifestyles.

Music

In Music this term pupils will focus on the performance of two songs – one looking back, one looking forward – and a musical device for linking them. As a class, they will create a musical celebration of each young person's happy memories and their hopes for the future. They will select and sequence images to make a slide show to accompany each song.

Community Learning

Throughout the Spring term the pupils of 13US will continue to complete the 'Finding out about and using community facilities' (Entry Level 1) unit and the 'Community Action' (Entry Level 2) units of the 'Environment and community' section of the 'OCR Life and Living Skills' course.

13US will visit 'Where Next?' in Redditch and participate in Arts and Crafts and Dance sessions.

How is my child's progress being recorded?

All pupils are continuously assessed using OCR assessment criteria. Pupils are assessed on Entry Level 1 or Entry Level 2 unit outcomes. Evidence is collected through pupils own work, videos, photographs and observation statements from staff.