

The logo for Ash Hill Academy features a stylized graphic on the left consisting of a purple shape that curves downwards and then back up, meeting a blue shape that curves upwards and then back down. To the right of this graphic, the text "Ash Hill Academy" is written in a grey, sans-serif font.

Ash Hill Academy

**Parents' and Carers' Guide  
to the  
Year 7 Curriculum**

*Together we are stronger*

# Introduction

We aim to work in close partnership with parents and carers to help support our students.

We hope that you will find this guide useful. It sets out what students cover in each subject throughout the year and gives some ways in which you can help them at home too.

# English

## Term 1

Students work on the theme of **amazing sights**. The skills taught include paragraph use, spelling strategies, improving vocabulary choices, as well as how to write a good description and using PEE to write about a text. Students also work on '**Cool and crazy characters**' which focuses on '**A Christmas Carol**'.

## Term 2

Conflict is the theme this term. The skills taught include PEEL (point, evidence, explain and link to question), debating, viewpoint, paragraphing and poetic terms.

## Term 3

The theme is survival. Students will look at non-fiction and media texts. Skills taught are formality, complex sentences, punctuation and reported and direct speech.

Useful resources: English dictionary and thesaurus. Fact or fiction books (own or borrowed from the Learning Resource Centre).

How you can help: visit the Library and take out books to read at home. (Use the recommended reading list for inspiration.) Listen to your child read, read with your child and talk about what is being read.

# Maths

## Term 1

Students in A1, A2, A3, B1 will study the following modules of work: Geometrical Reasoning, Interpreting & Analysing data, Algebra, Fractions, Decimals & Percentages and Transformations.

## Term 2

Students in A1, A2, A3, B1 will study the following modules of work: Measures, Construction, Ratio & Proportion, Graphs and Probability.

## Term 3

Students in A1, A2, A3, B1 will study the following modules of work: Collecting & Representing Data, Perimeter & Area, Sequences, Volume & Surface Area.

## Numeracy

Students are taught numeracy and problem solving skills discretely one lesson per week throughout the academic year. The majority of students in B2 focus on this in all lessons for the first term.

## Assessment

Students are assessed at the beginning of Year7, formally after each module of work and at the end of the Year7 in order to measure their progress.

Useful resources: scientific calculator, compass, protractor.

How you can help: mental arithmetic: shopping, testing times tables, encouraging students to use the 'My Maths' website. Students should have the user name and password needed.

# Science

## Term 1.

This term all students study safety in Chemistry. A1 and B1 will also look at cells and reproduction in Biology as well as energy in Physics.

A2 and B2 will cover acids and alkalis in Chemistry. And cells and reproduction in Biology.

The class of A3 look at energy and heat transfer in Physics and cells in Biology.

## Term 2

A1 and B1 are taught heat transfer in Physics, acids and alkalis, physical and chemical changes in Chemistry and respiration in Biology.

A2 and B2 are taught about making electricity and electrical circuits in Physics and respiration and photosynthesis in Biology.

A3 cover heat transfer in Physics, acids and alkalis and chemical changes in Chemistry and respiration in Biology.

## Term 3

A1 and B1 cover photosynthesis in Biology, making electricity and electrical circuits in Physics and separation techniques in Chemistry.

A2 and B2 study physical and chemical changes and separation techniques in Chemistry as well as energy and heat transfer in Physics.

A3 look at studying photosynthesis in Biology, making electricity and electrical circuits in Physics and separation techniques in Chemistry.

Useful resources: Scientific calculator

How you can help: learn scientific words.

# Art and Design

## Term 1

The topics covered are Initials and Ceramic Accessories. The artists covered are contemporary ceramic artists. The skills taught are typography, how to analyse art work, colour application and idea development.

## Term 2

The focus this half term is form. Students will study the artists Cezanne, Rembrandt, Giacometti and Averbach. The skills taught are drawing, tone, mark making, analysing artists' work, painting, composition and critical thinking skills.

## Term 3

The theme for this half term is architecture. Students will cover the Gothic, classical, Bauhaus and contemporary styles. Skills taught include drawing, shading, composition, relief technique, idea development and analysis of architecture.

Useful resources: A set of coloured pencils and paint at home might be useful.

How you can help: Visit local art galleries.

# Design Technology

Students rotate topics throughout the year.

All groups stay with the same teacher all year.

They will cover:

Food: The skills taught are kitchen safety and how to follow recipes .

Textiles: Hand sewing techniques are taught.

Product Design: How to work with specific tools and machinery in the workshop is covered in this unit.

Topics are covered in a term. Classes will cover these in a different order.

Assessments take place at the end of each half term.

Useful resources: sewing kits, plastic robust container to transport ingredients and items cooked, coloured pencils.

How you can help: Cook at home with your child. Help by reminding them when ingredients need to be brought to school.

# Humanities

## Term 1

In **Geography** students are looking at the topic of Settlements and the Weather. Skills taught are field sketching, map skills and climate graphs. In **History** general skills of chronology, sources, change and continuity and cause and consequence are taught. Students also study the Norman conquest and medieval life. In **RE** the topics of Hinduism and Diwali are covered.

## Term 2

In **Geography** this term students conduct a country study using research, group work and presentation skills. The monarchy of Henry VIII is studied in **History**. In **RE** the topic to be studied is

## Term 3

In **Geography** students complete a local study doing fieldwork and present information using graphs and charts. They also go on to look at tourism and the changes over time. In **History** students, first of all, study the Tudors, Edward, Mary and Elizabeth and go on to look at the Monarchies in crisis. In **RE** Sikhism is studied.

Useful resources: Atlas, access to internet

How you can help: Discuss environmental news stories such as earthquakes. Take your child to visit historical places of interest.

# Modern Foreign Languages

## Term 1

In French, Year 7 students have learned basic language, such as how to introduce themselves, giving their age and date of their birthday. They have also learned the words for pencil case items and colours. In the second half-term, students develop this, learning about countries and nationalities, as well as personal description information.

## Term 2

Term 2 begins with information on school, such as subjects and daily activities. Students then move on to learn how to talk about their hobbies and interests.

## Term 3

In Term 3, students learn how to describe the house and the area in which they live, before moving on to the topic of holidays.

Useful resources: French-English dictionary.

How you can help: Encourage students to learn new vocabulary and test them.

# Music

## Term 1

The topic studied is Musical Elements. Students are taught over the full term the skills of listening to and analysing music and being able to compose some simple pieces of music on the keyboard. They then move composition forward and learn new compositional skills on garage band via the Apple MAC computers. They learn to use musical language to discuss their ideas, improvements and evaluate outcomes. Assessments take place next half term.

## Term 2

The topic is Rhythm and Pitch. Students are taught over the full term how to play the music keyboard. Firstly, students are to work only on rhythm and use percussion instruments and then move on to the keyboards to work on pitch and rhythm together. At the end of this module students will be assessed on their performance.

## Term 3

The topic is World Music. Students compose and perform a piece of music in the style of the country that they have researched with their peers and teacher. At the end of this module students will be assessed on both their performance and compositional skills.

Useful resources: Access to keyboard

How you can help: Visits to music concerts. Encourage participation in extra-curricular activities. Encourage listening to all types of music.

# Drama

## Term 1

The topic is Silent Movie. Students learn what mime is, which famous people have used mime, and how. The key skills taught and assessed are the ability to work in groups and devise a piece of silent movie through the use of a given genre. Assessments take place next half term.

## Term 2

The topic is improvisation and drama skills. Students now start to learn the 'art' of acting with the use of voice as well as movement. Through learning each of the skills, they then move on to physical theatre which is then assessed at the end of the module.

## Term 3

The topic is a Scripted Play. Students are to use all the knowledge and skills that they have gained and experienced over the academic year and perform a scripted play. At the end of this module, students will be assessed on their acting skills and ideas.

Useful resources: N/A

How you can help: Visits to the theatre. Encourage participation in extra-curricular activities.

# Information & Communication Technology

## Term 1

During this term students will be using the current system, learning standard ways of working (creating folders, naming work correctly and saving it in the correct place). Simple internet searching using Boolean terms AND OR and NOT, advanced internet searching skills and E-safety. Assessments use APP each half term.

## Term 2

During this term students will be developing Desk Top Publishing skills. They will use a range of software to create a leaflet for a specific purpose and audience. They will expand basic tools and techniques to include formatting graphics, text and column layout, design techniques along with understanding the importance of reviewing and refining work.

## Term 3

During this term students will develop problem solving and data handling skills. They will develop understanding of how to use a Spreadsheet system and data base construction. Each project will allow students to enhance and improve their understanding of how to manage money and collect, and organise data.

Useful resources: Access to a computer with Microsoft office software, internet access.

How you can help: Encourage use of the computer other than for games, ask students key words they have used and get students to show you at home what they have done in their lesson. This means that they are practising their skills and becoming more independent learners.

Also, encourage students to complete homework tasks in their booklets and try the extension tasks.

# Physical Education

## Term 1

Students have been covering the topics of striking, fielding and invasion. Key skills covered this term include batting, bowling, fielding, passing and team strategy. They have also covered net and wall games. The skills taught are the rules of serve and basic game play. In gymnastics students have been taught balance, sequence and travelling. Assessments take place every 3-4 weeks.

## Term 2

This term the PE department teach invasion games and health-related fitness. This includes the components of fitness, how the body is affected by exercise and knowledge of the heart rate.

## Term 3

In the summer term it is time for cricket where fielding, bowling, batting and tactics are covered. Tennis is also taught, such as the rules of serve, basic strokes and outwitting their opponent. Later on in the term Athletics covers the majority of track and field events, and rounders covers fielding, batting, bowling and tactics.

Useful resources: Compulsory PE kit, shin pads and gum shield for contact sports. You may wish to purchase a hockey stick/tennis racket, etc.

How you can help: Encourage participation in extra curricular activities, go to watch sporting events of all types. Ensure students are prepared for PE lessons with full kit on the days needed.

# Reading list:

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Magyk by Angie Sage

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

Here Lies Arthur by Philip Reeve

Eagle Strike by Anthony Horowitz

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

Holes by Louis Sachar

# Other useful contacts:

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/ExamsTestsAndTheCurriculum/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/ExamsTestsAndTheCurriculum/) - A guide to the secondary curriculum.

[www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise) - English and maths

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/) - ideas and resources to help support at home

[www.app-assess.org.uk/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/parentprogressguideenglish.pdf](http://www.app-assess.org.uk/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/parentprogressguideenglish.pdf) - Guide to APP levels in English for parents

[www.app-assess.org.uk/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/parentguidemathematics.pdf](http://www.app-assess.org.uk/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/parentguidemathematics.pdf)

A similar guide is available for Maths too.

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