



Smith's Wood Newsletter - Spring Half Term 4

Message from our Principal – Mr Huntington

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has been a short term with regards the number of school days, there has still been lots going on and plenty to celebrate. We had our first drop down day of the year. Some of the highlights were JCB coming in to work with our Year 8 students as part of their school challenge programme. This resulted in a number of our students being asked to represent Smith's Wood at the National Final in Doncaster. Year 9 spent the day at local colleges to look at the opportunities available to them post Year 11. This coincided with Year 9 starting their Pathways process which has seen them select their KS4 qualifications.

Year 11 will start their GCSE exams during next half term. Whilst their first exam is getting closer, there is still much they can do to ensure they are fully prepared to do their very best across all of their subjects. We are offering a range of intervention sessions across the Easter period. I hope that all of those students invited to the sessions are able to attend as I have no doubt the effort and revision they put in over the next couple of months can have a major positive impact on the rest of their lives.

I am pleased to see that lots of students continue to attend our extra-curricular programme. Whilst exam results are extremely important, we are also keen that our students have a range of opportunities to continue to grow and develop outside of the classroom. Our extra-curricular offer has been enhanced further by the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is something that has created a lot of interest amongst our students. I look forward to seeing students working hard towards achieving their bronze award in this programme in the near future.

Attendance at Smith's Wood continues to improve. As a whole school our attendance is 5% higher than it was than last year. Despite this improvement, we must continue to work hard in this area. We know that the higher a student's attendance is the more likely they are to be successful. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child attends school every day.

I am pleased to inform you that we have been able to recruit a number of high-quality teaching staff across a range of subjects. Some of these staff will join us next term, others will join us in September. As we welcome new staff, unfortunately we are saying goodbye to some current staff. Ms Abdi and Mr Martin will be moving on to their new schools after Easter. We wish them well and thank them for their hard work.

Mr Huntington

Upcoming Events

- Friday 22nd March – Spring half term 4 ends
- Monday 8th April – Summer half term 5 begins
- Wednesday 24th & Thursday 25th April – Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- Wednesday 1st May – Year 8 Parent's evening
- Friday 3rd May – Principal/Parent coffee morning.
- Monday 6th May – May Bank Holiday (School closed)
- Thursday 9th May – Start of GCSE exams
- Friday 24th May – Summer half term 5 ends
- Monday 3rd June – Summer half term 6 begins

Please see our lunch menu available from our school canteen - [Lunch menu](#) - We will be on the week 1 menu when we return to school on Monday 8th April.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

Day	Lunch – 1.20 - 1.55pm	After school – 3 – 4pm (unless stated)
Monday	Rock Band – Music Art Club – Y7 - CA3	Basketball – All Years – Gym Netball – All Years – Sports Hall Football – Y7 – Astro Art Club – KS3 – 3 – 3.45pm
Tuesday	Board Games Club – Y8 – Careers Zone IT Club – Y8 - W2	Football – Y8 – Sports Hall Fitness – All Years Eco Club – KS3 – H8 Rock Band – Y9-10 – Music Science Club – 3.15 - 4pm – S9
Wednesday	Rock Band – Music Board Games Club – Y7 – Careers Zone	Badminton – All Years – 4 – 5pm – Sports Hall Girls Football – All Years
Thursday	Practice Sessions – Music Chess Club – S5 Board Games Club – Careers Zone	Basketball – All Years – Sports Hall Choir – 3 – 3.50pm Badminton – All Years – 4 – 5 pm – Sports Hall Drama – All years 3 – 3.50pm - CA4
Friday	Maths Club – KS3 – S2 Languages Club – Y7 – W2	Year 9-10 Football – Sports Hall

We would love to hear what other clubs our students would like us to offer. These suggestions can be put forward to our School Leadership team to discuss our School Council meetings or students can speak to their Form Tutor and Achievement Team.

Attendance Focus

Attendance remains a key focus for us a school. We have explained in previous newsletters the importance of attendance. We know that the more students are in school, the more likely it is they will be successful.

Please see the table below which indicates the impact on learning time due to absence (this is based on the attendance for the whole academic year).

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed (1 hour each)
97%	6	1 week 1 day	30
94%	10	2 weeks	50
90%	19	3 weeks 4 days	95
85%	29	5 weeks 4 days	145
80%	38	7 weeks 3 days	190
75%	48	9 weeks 3 days	240
70%	57	11 weeks 2 days	285

If you have any questions, please contact the Attendance Team – sw-attendance@smithswood.fmat.co.uk
Mr Martin – Assistant Principal

Careers News

- Jasmiah S has been selected to attend a “**Women in Science**” week with Oxford University in **April**. She beat off 317 other candidates from all over the UK for a place and we are all proud of her achievements and excited for her to be representing Smith’s Wood and herself at such an amazing place. Well done Jas, and we all wish you good luck.
- Smith’s Wood Academy has been awarding a fully funded place on the [Skills Builder Accelerator Programme](#) in September 2024. My application was successful, and as a result, we have been offered over £2,000 worth of resources to build our PHSE curriculum. This is such a positive thing to happen to the school and the impact I hope it will have on the students demonstrates how much we are moving forward in a positive way. The program is based on eight simple principles and skills that staff are asked place at the heart of their teaching, but the main element of the program is a fully planned and prepared PHSE curriculum for all year groups. Louise and I will be rolling the program out from September 2024.
- Careers Day on March 7th was a huge success. Feedback from the students, staff and the providers’ taking part has been overwhelmingly positive. A few names to mention include **Sam R** who won the Amazon vouchers for best contribution to the day in the Year10 Enterprise and Team Building Challenge. The runners up went commendation went to, **Ess M and Mohammed S** , **Cheyenne E and Daisy M and Archie W** whose contributions were also highlighted as extremely good. We had 100% positive feedback from year 8 who enjoyed their day with JCB.

Mrs D Long – Careers lead

Assembly Focus

Each week students will have an assembly with their year group. We cover a range of topics within our assemblies which aim to develop our students academically, pastorally, and holistically. They are a fantastic opportunity for us to communicate our school values and bring the year group together as a community. Assemblies link to our British Values. Teaching British values to children improves their spiritual, moral social, and cultural (SMSC) development. British values underpin what it is to be a British citizen in a modern and diverse Britain and promote moral and cultural understanding that celebrates the diversity of the UK.

British Values

Individual Liberty

- Freedom of speech for all
- The right to make our own choices

The Rule of Law

- Understanding rules and why they are important
- Following rules to develop order

Mutual Respect

- Treating others as you want to be treated
- Respect for each other
- Working together



Tolerance

- Learning about different faiths and cultures
- Listen to other viewpoints
- Learning about diversity

Democracy

- Making decisions together
- The right to an opinion/voice

Assemblies during Spring Half Term 4:

Week 1	Welcome back	Mr Huntington
Week 2	British Values	Ms Kkama
Week 3	Careers	Ms Ellis
Week 4	Quality of Education - Feedback	Mr Friswell & Ms Odedra
Week 5	Celebration	Achievement teams

Library Focus

Chris Bradford - Award winning Childrens fiction author visits SWA.

This term we welcomed Chris Bradford, an award winning Childrens fiction author to SWA.

Students from Year 7, 8 and 9 were selected by the English department to watch his performance. He didn't disappoint. A trained samurai swordsman, Chris combined interactive readings from his award-winning "young samurai" series with martial art displays and audio-visual material.

There was plenty of volunteers to act out parts of his books including "self-defence, the samurai way".

During the Q and A session many students were eager to learn more and they put some thought-provoking questions to Chris.

This was a fantastic experience and great for students to see a thrilling display of action and storytelling combined. His performance is designed to encourage and inspire reluctant readers and so many students left the theatre buzzing with excitement. The following day Chris's books were in popular demand in the library!

Well-done and thank you to the students who took part and made Chris feel welcome.

Chris's books are available for loan from the SWA library or to purchase directly at www.burningcandle.co.uk



World Book Day



To celebrate world book day this year each student has had the opportunity to collect a free book token from the library, and many have. (Please see terms and conditions on how to redeem your voucher on the world book day website. www.worldbookday.com).

At SWA we are committed to encourage reading for pleasure. Participation in WBD offers every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.



Library Competition



The library has launched its first competition to “Design a bookmark”. There are prizes awarded for 1st 2nd and 3rd place. The winning bookmark will be printed, and copies will be available for students to use and take away from the library. The deadline for this competition was 21st March.

“It was lovely to see some imaginative and colourful designs. We have some talented artists at SWA.

The competition was drawn today. The winners are:

- 1st Place - A Thomas - Year 9
- 2nd Place - T Thomas - Year 11
- 3rd Place - H Alnour - Year 7

Well done to everyone that entered. Look at around school for future competitions in the library.

Mrs East – School Librarian

Book Club

Book Review - Mrs East – School librarian

Book Title - The Reckless Afterlife of Harriet Stoker

Author – Lauren James



When Harriet Stoker trips and falls in an abandoned building, she soon realises that there is life after her death.

Harriett is a keen photographer and enters an abandoned building, however she meets an unfortunate end after falling from a balcony. Upon her death, the empty building is in fact not empty but full of ghosts that are over hundreds of years ago. Soon Harriet realises she must fit in and make friends with the other murderous ghosts.

But Harriet is determined to make contact with her living grandmother, and she will stop at nothing to be able to leave, especially after discovering her power!

There are lots of interesting characters in this book, the main one being Harriet, but at times I found myself really disliking her which was unusual for a main character. I thought this fantasy book had a really interesting take on the “afterlife”, and I wasn’t expecting the twist at the end!

Recommend reading list

Students - [KS3 - Recommended reading list](#) [KS4 - Recommended reading list](#)

Parents/Carers - [Must reads: 50 best books of all time - Pan Macmillan](#)

Extra-Curricular updates – Best attenders

Best attenders at sports clubs so far this year

Badminton

32 – Amaya T, Taegan T

19 – Zach W

14 – Charlee-Jay S, Joey V

Twenty-two other students have attended 1+ badminton sessions.

Basketball

31 – Mason S

29 – Arinze N, Ayo A

28 – Alfie-Jay V

Fifty-one other students have attended 1+ basketball sessions.

Fitness

12 – Alfie D, Ava E, Henry J, Kristiyan P

11 – Tim B

9 – Alfie-Jay V, Harley C, Riley W, Roman C, Skye B

One hundred and eighteen other students have attended 1+ fitness sessions.

Extra-Curricular Reviews

Athletics review

19th February at North Solihull Sports Centre – the first taste of indoor athletics competition for our Year 7 & 8 athletes, preparing our junior team for the summer outdoor meets. Some excellent performances:

Girls – Year 7 – Amelia E, Amelia P, Jessica B, Lilly L, Macey-Mai L

Boys – Year 7 – Dalton C, Darnell A, Ethan V, Ollie B, Taijaun R

Girls – Year 8 – Alissia M, Madeline U, Summer B, Tia C, Zee L

Badminton review



Student & staff doubles badminton tournament was held on 8th February. Results:

- 1st - Aaron W & Mr O'Connor**
- 2nd - Taegan T & Mr Collins
- 3rd - Amaya T & Zach W
- 4th - Jack B & Alfie-Jay V
- 5th - Charlee-Jay S & Darnell A
- 6th - Kaciey B & Denis Z
- 7th - Logan B & Tyler F

Smith's Wood Academy
Champions – Roll of Honour
 Staff & Student Doubles Badminton

Jul 2010	Nicki Burns	Ciaran Barber
Jun 2011	Nicki Burns	O'Niel O'Connor
Dec 2011	Nicki Burns	O'Niel O'Connor
Mar 2012	Naomi Melbourne	Nathan Williams
Jun 2012	Sharon Lee	O'Niel O'Connor
Nov 2012	Emily Nuttall	Lewis Round
Feb 2013	Katie Seazell	Lewis Round
Jun 2013	Naomi Melbourne	Craig Beasley
Nov 2013	Brogan Hopewell	O'Niel O'Connor
Jun 2014	Nicki Burns	Matt Collins
Oct 2014	Charlotte Asbury	O'Niel O'Connor
Feb 2015	Chelsea Morrall	O'Niel O'Connor
Dec 2015	Georgia Moss	Sam Clarke
Jun 2016	Megan Bathurst	O'Niel O'Connor
Dec 2016	Charley Managh	O'Niel O'Connor
Mar 2017	Paige Handley	Sam Harris
Jun 2017	Sharon Lee	Richard McIlwraith
Dec 2017	Vanessa Ballinger	O'Niel O'Connor
Dec 2018	Chloe Harris	Toni Harris
Apr 2019	Chloe Harris	O'Niel O'Connor
Jul 2019	Chloe Harris	Richard McIlwraith
Dec 2019	Toni Harris	O'Niel O'Connor
Nov 2021	Teegan Masefield	Graham Jones
Apr 2022	Toni Harris	Graham Jones
Nov 2022	Jake Bartlett	O'Niel O'Connor
Apr 2023	Presten Woodcock	Richard McIlwraith
Feb 2024	Aaron White	O'Niel O'Connor

Indoor rowing review - Girls

Bronze medals for our senior **girls'** team of indoor rowers in the North Solihull championships held at Fordbridge Primary on 5th March. Take a look at the fantastic distances they managed to row in 4 minutes:

Ellie T (737m), Esther I (786m), Kylie G (851m), & Lola W (772m).

Our juniors were a couple of rowers short of a full team but Lilly-Anne L (526m in 3 minutes) & Sienna C (604m in 3 minutes) gave all they had in this 'Concept 2' rowing competition.



Indoor rowing review – Boys

Bronze medals too for our senior **boys** in the North Solihull indoor rowing championships on 12th March. Note the amazing distances they were able to row in 4 minutes:

Alfie-Jay V (938m), Justin B (897m), Kristiyan P (929m), & Nathan W (855m).

Our junior boys' team was intentionally composed of only Year 7 rowers and managed to beat the other all-Year 7 teams (boding well for next season). In their 3 minutes of considerable endeavour, they rowed the following distances:

Gerald A (642m), Joseph B (593m), Louie P (609m), & Riley W (625m).



Inter-house sports competitions review

Ready, Steady, Run! Inter-house bleep test results from 6th February:

Bleep Test school records:

Girls – Level 12 Katie R

Katie (2010-2015) county 1500m champion



Boys – Level 13 – Bradley S

Bradley (2009-2014) leading at the 1500m county finals



Champion House – Hawking

House scores:

- 1st - **Hawking** (33 points)
- 2nd - **Luther-King** (29 points)
- 3rd - **Pankhurst** (16 points)
- 4th - **Parks** (15 points)

Individual medal winners:

Year 7 girl - Emilia P
Year 7 boy - Jamaine B
Year 8 girl - Summer B
Year 9 girl - Leah J
Year 9 boy - Ousmane K [best performance at the event - level 9.2]
Year 10 boy - Justin B & Alfie-Jay V
Year 11 girl - Taegan T
Year 11 boy - Alfie S

Other competitors:

Timothy B, Tayren C, Kenneth G, Rosie G, Kacen H, Ellison L, Jamie M, Amaya T, Ibrahim Z.

Ready, Steady, Swim! Inter-house swimming gala results from 27th February:

Gala records	Name	House	Time (s)	Year
Year 7 girls' backstroke	Charlee Jay S	Hawking	16.91	2020
Year 7 boys' backstroke	Andrew M	Bay	19.25	2017
Year 8 girls' backstroke	Hollie H	Yew	16.78	2019
Year 8 boys' backstroke	William M	Luther-King	13.70	2020
Year 9 girls' backstroke	Aleah C	Pankhurst	18.46	2024
Year 9 boys' backstroke	Jack B	Luther-King	19.87	2024
Year 7 girls' breaststroke	Charlee Jay S	Hawking	18.58	2020
Year 7 boys' breaststroke	Andrew M	Bay	22.81	2017
Year 8 girls' breaststroke	Roxi B	Pankhurst	22.39	2020
Year 8 boys' breaststroke	William M	Luther-King	14.72	2020
Year 9 girls' breaststroke	Aleah C	Pankhurst	24.68	2024
Year 9 boys' breaststroke	Jack B	Luther-King	21.36	2024
Year 7 girls' freestyle	Charlee Jay S	Hawking	14.63	2020
Year 7 boys' freestyle	Andrew M	Bay	16.37	2017
Year 8 girls' freestyle	Marta K	Hawking	14.38	2023
Year 8 boys' freestyle	William M	Luther-King	12.51	2020
Year 9 girls' freestyle	Aleah C	Pankhurst	17.93	2024
Year 9 boys' freestyle	Jack B	Luther-King	17.40	2024

Champion House – Pankhurst

Individual champions:

Year 7 girls - **Millie-Anne D** (all 3 strokes)
Year 7 boys - **Riley W** (backstroke & freestyle), **Joseph B** (breaststroke)
Year 8 girls - **Grace B** (all 3 strokes)
Year 8 boys - **Adam C** (all 3 strokes)
Year 9 girls - **Aleah C** (all 3 strokes)
Year 9 boys - **Jack B** (all 3 strokes)

Team championship:

Pankhurst - 43 points
Luther-King - 22 points
Hawking - 20 points
Parks - 15 points

Total **Pankhurst** points [43] - from **Joseph, Grace, Adam, & Aleah** (above) and also from **Eli C, Lucas H & Macey-Mai L.**

Total **Luther-King** points [22] - from **Jack** (above) and also from **Angel A, Michalis E, & Kenneth G**

Total **Hawking** points [20] - from **Riley** (above) and also from **Jessica B, Devlin O, Amaya T, & Ethan V**

Total **Parks** points [15] - from **Millie-Anne** (above) and also **from Ryan L, & Shamay S**

Many thanks to Year 11 student **Taegan T** for officiating this event.

Extra-Curricular Upcoming fixtures

After school except where indicated

- **Thursday 11th April** - Year 7/8 rugby taster session for girls at Camp Hill Rugby Club
- **Tuesday 23rd April** - Ready, Steady, Ping-Pong! (Inter-house table tennis)
- **Thursday 2nd May** - Student & staff doubles badminton tournament
- **Thursday 16th May** - Borough athletics trials at Norman Green track (Tudor Grange Leisure Centre)

Mr McIlwraith – Teacher of PE & Maths

Sparx Maths

This term saw the launch of Sparx Maths. It has been fantastic to award students each week to celebrate their success individually, by class and by year group.

Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed. Your child's homework will be set on Wednesday and due on Wednesday every week.

We know you want to support your child's maths progress, so we are sharing this article to explain how Sparx works and how you can help your child complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Maths Homework?

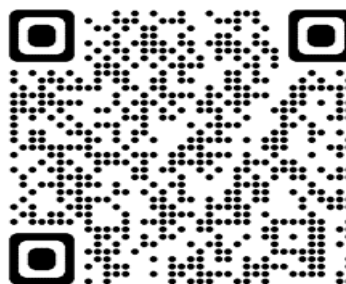
- Sparx provides personalised homework to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- The majority of each week's homework will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning.
- Students access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they'll get immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct, or they need to have another try.
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework, and students should record their work on paper. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached to that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.
- Encourage them to start their homework early so they can get help from their teacher before the deadline if they get stuck. To ensure no gaps form in your child's maths knowledge, homework is not marked as complete until all of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- Check the weekly email you'll get from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline if they haven't already done so.
- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first. It is essential they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in growing your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Whitby.



Well done to our *Students of the Week* this half term.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Hla, Zarka, Fatima, Richard	Nyron, Rocco, Sophie, Elliot	Amaya, Latonielle, Amaya	Ty'anne, Kylie, Joshua	Taegan, Millie, Jamie

Science and Eco Club

This half term Science Club and Eco Club have been working together to improve the school environment as part of Smiths Wood's application to become a green school. The collaboration has included creating seed bombs and looking at different species that live in the school pond.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to the 56 students who have been selected to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Stay up to date with how our students are getting on with our DofE X account [@DofESWA2024](#)



Year Group Focus – Year 8

Year 8 has been a year of progress and growth to date. Mrs Cronin and I inherited the year group at the end of year 7, off the year groups previous Achievement Team of Miss Butcher and Mr Bailey. Mrs Cronin and I had previously been the Achievement Team for the past two year 11 cohorts and were looking forward to working with our new group.

This academic year we have seen a steady and gradual increase in the year groups attendance which currently sits at 87.2% at the time of writing this. This is a 2% increase from last year which is encouraging and shows a readiness from many pupils that they want to attend Smith's Wood Academy and do well.

Behaviour within the year group is positive and we currently have six year 8 pupils within the top 10 as the pupils receiving the most positive house points, which is very pleasing to see, and this is a real reflection of the year group as a whole.

Attendance to extracurricular clubs and activities are popular, with a large number of the cohort accessing the facilities and clubs during lunch times and afterschool, with some pupils representing the Academy in sporting fixtures over the Academic Year.

This year we have appointed tutor representatives to speak on behalf of their tutor groups at half termly meetings, these pupils are in a position of responsibility and are pupils which we see as our future prefects in years to come. Alongside this we have appointed designated librarians, and we see a similar path for these pupils.

New to Smith's Wood Academy this year is the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh which shall be led by Miss Weightman, tutor for 8C. Year 8 have had the most successful acceptances to this award, which the pupils are to undertake in their own time alongside Academy staff. We are proud of them and wish them all the best on the most of rewarding extracurricular programmes to undertake whilst at school.

Finally, on Thursday 7th March 2024 we had the multinational company of JCB come to work with the Year 8's during careers week. This was a very rewarding day where pupils worked in teams for the day to design and pitch a machine for the future. Our winning group shall be travelling to Doncaster later in the year to represent the Academy in the National finals, where once again we wish them well.

Here's to a progressive final term and see you during parents evening on Wednesday 1st May 2024.

Mr Barber & Mrs Cronin - Achievement Leader & Assistant Achievement Leader – Year 8

Subject Focus – Geography

Geography at KS3

This year at KS3 we have been studying a range of topics. Year 9 have enjoyed being able to link Geography and History together through the topic of Trade Routes before taking a deep dive into China and understanding the implications of the well known One Child Policy. Several debates have been held on this topic and students have really developed their oracy skills throughout this.

Year 8 students have enjoyed studying earthquakes and looking at the impacts of earthquakes and volcanoes in different locations of the world. They have taken a dive into Africa and have started to understand how vast the world is. Our African topic has shown students the reality of civil wars, the slave trade and refugees and has given students a chance to really understand how different people live.

Year 7 students have had their first experience of Geography for many of them, beginning the year by looking at continents and oceans and studying our impact on the oceans by looking at plastic pollution. Students were able to carefully consider their individual impact and many made pledges to reduce their waste moving forwards. Students are just finishing their second topic this year on extreme weather, having studied a variety of different weather systems and shown off their learning in a well completed Celebration of Learning.

Geography at KS4

Geography at KS4 takes an interleaved approach, often completing a couple of lessons on one topic before linking this to another. Students in Year 10 have looked at Climate Change, Tropical Storms, Development, Rio de Janeiro and Rivers. They have made links between topics – understanding how development has influenced the impact of tropical storms, how climate change can influence rivers and how Rio de Janeiro is a city of two halves.

Students in Year 11 have taken the time this year to look at biomes in detail – studying tropical rainforests and hot deserts with both their challenges and opportunities. They have been able to link this back to development from their Year 10 studies before moving on to look at coastal landscapes. The final topic for Year 11s looks at earthquakes. Again, students will understand how development will alter the impact of this by comparing two earthquakes occurring in Nepal and Japan.

We have also been offering both year 10 and Year 11 intervention throughout this year which has been well attended by both year groups. We are very proud of how our KS4 students have taken ownership of their learning by attending these additional sessions and cannot wait to see them thrive in their exams at the end of the year.

Geography Homework

At KS3 students are expected to read the article provided to them before answering 5 questions relating to the article. Each article has been carefully selected to support the literacy of our students alongside their in class learning.

At KS4 students are expected to complete the GCSE Pod assignment set each week as well as a revision flashcard that will support their revision at the end of the year.

Miss Beaumont - Subject Leader – Geography

Subject Focus – History

History at KS3

At KS3, students study History chronologically beginning with the Norman Conquest in Year 7, culminating with WWII in Year 9. It gives our historians the opportunity to explore the world of British history and adds challenge as the years go on by studying history in the wider world.

Presently, our Year 7 historians are delving into the fascinating world of the Tudors and exploring the temperamental personality of King Henry VIII. Not only is he an interesting King from British history but made huge changes to the English church which are still felt to this day.

Our Year 8 historians are exploring the important, complex and highly relevant topic of British democracy. From having looked at the living conditions of Britons in the Industrial Era, they are now considering how the men and women fought for their right to vote.

Our Year 9 historians have now chosen their options and are experiencing a taste of what GCSE History might hold. They studied the Holocaust last half term with great sensitivity and thoughtfulness, and they are now looking at the wider context of the time by delving into the turning points of WWII. They have explored sources from Dunkirk and formulated opinions on how much of a success this was for Britain.

Our KS3 historians are doing a great job of investigating the past- keep it up!

History at KS4

Our Year 10 historians have made a fantastic start to their GCSE journey and continue to work hard to show dedication to their chosen subject. In the last term they explored the theme of Health in Britain and how and why we have gotten healthier over time. This is a huge study which spans the length of over 1000 years! Currently, Year 10 students are studying the politics and key events of the First World War. They are exploring the relationships between European Powers in the build up to the war and following this they will be looking at the war itself.

Year 11 are working hard towards their final GCSE exams- not long now! They have nearly completed their course and are currently exploring the world of Norman England and the impact the Normans had on the life of the English population. Students will finish this unit- and their GCSE course- with a site study on Norman Wales.

History Homework

At KS3, students are expected to either carry out reading tasks and answer accompanying questions, or complete research tasks to supplement their classroom learning.

At GCSE, student homework involved revision of past learning through either GCSE Pod tasks or reading tasks with questions to answer.

Miss Hashmi & Mrs Hegarty - Subjects Leaders – History

