

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Information

At Hexham Middle School, our emphasis is on a broad and balanced school curriculum along with a wide variety of enrichment and extra-curricular activities to support learning in the classroom. This document aims to provide you with the key information you'll need in order to support learning at home (and troubleshoot if required). Our website is updated regularly and the curriculum pages will give more details on coverage and assessment in each subject. As always, please do email admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk should you have any questions, queries or concerns. We are all here to help!

English

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 have 4 hours of English lessons per week (during one of these lessons pupils will visit the HMS library in order to develop their reading skills.) All pupils will be given the opportunity to engage with the broad range of texts which are on offer and to enjoy reading for pleasure. Teachers will be more than happy to give reading recommendations and will actively encourage students to look at a range of literary styles and genres. In addition to this, students will develop their literacy skills and will be tested regularly on key terms, critical vocabulary and knowledge retention. We also build in speaking and listening activities which are designed to help our pupils become confident speakers and develop effective oracy skills. Some useful apps which are designed to help pupils with their learning are:

SPaG Gold

DigiSmart Reading Skills

The Curriculum Leader for Key Stage 3 English is Mrs. M. Maurice.

Maths

Pupils have 4 hours of Maths lessons per week, covering a wide range of topics within Algebra, Geometry, Number, Proportion and Probability. Maths fluency is vital and for this it is important that children understand and can recall their times tables up to 12x12. Pupils all have access to Times Table Rockstars online in order to practise these vital skills. Selected pupils also have a login to Maths Whizz which will support their learning. Details of logins and passwords can be found in pupils' planners. *The Curriculum Leader for Key Stage 3 Maths is Miss E Shaw.*

Science

Pupils have 3 hours of science lessons per week; details of curriculum coverage can be found on our website. The sites listed below will help with homework and at-home learning if required. *The Curriculum Leader for Key Stage 3 science is Mrs. A. Gregory.*

<https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login>

(Pupils will be given Kerboodle log in information during their science lessons when necessary)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p>

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/blog/free-key-stage-3-science-revision/>

History

Moving into key stage three pupils study each of the humanities based subjects separately. In years 7 and 8, pupils will have 2 hours per week dedicated to history to allow them to develop their understanding and progress their skills. To aide learning outside the classroom, the library at HMS possesses an array of history-based reading material which can be used for home learning and home learning-based projects. Pupils, through their school 360 home page, can also access 'Q-files' and 'DK find out', online pupil friendly encyclopedias full of information to help further their learning of history and other humanities-based subjects. *The Curriculum Leader for Key Stage 3 history is Mrs. L. Hodgson.*

Geography

As a geographer, we expect our Key Stage 3 pupils to gain knowledge and experience: in the concepts of location and place; human and physical geography; and geographical skills and field investigation. Pupils will have the opportunity to build upon learning that took place in their studies in Key Stage 2. More detailed information is set out in our Age Related Expectations (AREs) and key performance indicators documents online. On this journey we want our pupils to have many opportunities to discuss what they are learning with others; this develops their oracy and ultimately the ability to talk like budding geographers. *The curriculum leader for Key Stage 3 geography is Mrs. R. Booth.*

Languages

Year 7 and 8 French: In KS3, pupils have two hours of language lessons per week. In year 7, pupils have one hour of French; in year 8, pupils have two hours of French. In language lessons, pupils are given the opportunity to practise all four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. All pupils in year 7 and 8 have access to Pearson ActiveLearn, an online learning resource. This will occasionally be used for pupil homework but in addition we encourage pupils to use this for self-study. As well as learning vocabulary and grammar, pupils learn about cultural aspects of the language. Please see the curriculum pages on the school website to find out more detailed information about what and how pupils learn in language lessons.

Please encourage your child to logon to DuoLingo. This can be done on a computer, tablet or mobile phone. Here are some excellent websites which can support your child with their language learning at home:

<https://www.duolingo.com/course/fr/en/Learn-French>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z39d7ty>

<https://www.primaryresources.co.uk/mfl/mfl.htm>

<https://www.french-games.net/>

<https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com/app/Home> - For KS3 pupils

Year 7 Spanish: Pupils have one hour of Spanish per week in year 7. Pupils lay the foundations for further study of the language. Topics include greetings and introductions, numbers up to 31, family, pets, holidays and ordering in a café. As with French lessons, pupils are given the opportunity to practise all four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Useful websites for Spanish include:

<https://www.duolingo.com/course/es/en/Learn-Spanish>

<https://studyspanish.com/>

<https://www.babbel.com/learn-spanish>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/>

<https://www.spanish-games.net/>

The curriculum leader for Key Stage 3 languages is Mrs. L. Bevan.

All other curriculum subjects

Information regarding all other subjects can be found on our website including details of curriculum coverage and subject leaders.

Homework

Pupils at Hexham Middle School can expect to receive at least one piece of English and maths homework weekly. As well as this, they are expected to read for 20 minutes per day and learn spellings (weekly) and times tables (as directed). All homework will be given a set deadline and recorded in pupil planners. Deadlines are likely to vary depending on the nature and size of the task given, as well as the amount of other homework pupils have been given that week.

Subject	Key Stage 3
Science	Once per week
History/Geography	Every other week
Languages	Two pieces per half term Fortnightly vocabulary test
Religious Education	Once a half term
Design Technology	A series of pieces or one substantial project per half term. Vocabulary and knowledge quiz revision as required.
Food Technology	A series of pieces or one substantial project per half term. Cookery ingredients will be required fortnightly
Art	A series of pieces or one substantial project per half term.
Music	A series of pieces or one substantial project per half term.
Physical Education	Two end of unit assessments per half term

Online learning

If your child is required to isolate due to Covid, or online learning provision is required for another reason, school 360 will be used by all teachers to deliver live lessons and set tasks for learning at home. Below you will find the information you need to access remote learning. We will continue to use Google Classroom as our main platform for remote education as well as the many other online resources available to our pupils (links on our website).

Joining instructions for Google Classroom:

1. Make sure your child has joined the right class for them (codes have been sent home).
2. Your child needs to log into Google Classroom through School 360.
3. They enter the Google Classroom for the lesson taking place.
4. At the top of the classroom (under the class name), they should see a Google Meet link which they need to click.
5. This will take them into the lesson (once allowed by the teacher).
6. Once in the meeting, your child should click 'mute' and communicate with the teacher via the chat feature. They should not chat between themselves either aloud or on the chat feature.

Our website contains guidance, resources and useful links to support you and your child at home. You can also, as always, contact us via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk with any questions you may have.