

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. 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. Pupils continue to use strategies for comprehension and analysis of texts with increased independence and will encounter prose, poetry and drama including Shakespeare. They will be able to draw comparisons between texts, establish key features of genre and form and explore fully the contexts in which their key texts were written. Teachers are more than happy to give reading recommendations and will actively encourage students to look at a range of literary styles and genres. Pupils will analyse and evaluate writers' techniques and aim to replicate them in their own transactional and creative writing. They will further develop literacy skills from Key Stage 2 and will be tested regularly on technical accuracy, application of grammar, vocabulary and knowledge retention. Speaking and listening activities are designed to help our pupils become confident speakers and develop effective oracy skills.

The Head of English is **Mrs R Wade**.

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 practice these vital skills. For 2023/24 pupils will be introduced to Sparx Maths for their Maths homework online. More details about Sparx will follow in the Autumn term. 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 Head of Maths is **Miss R Storey**.

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 Head of 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/>



SENECA

History

As a humanities-based subject, history falls under a family of subjects on the curriculum with a vision to 'Explore the past, consider the present and discover the future'. By the very nature of the subject's name, we intend our pupils to 'travel through the learning' with an inquiring mind. As a historian, we expect our Key Stage 3 pupils to gain knowledge

and experience: being able to investigate and interpret the past; building an overview of world history; understanding the concept and implications of chronology; and being able to communicate historically. Pupils will have the opportunity to build upon learning that took place in their historical studies in Key Stage 2. Our curriculum has been developed and aligned with other middle schools in the Hexham Partnership. Our intention is to adequately prepare pupils for the study of history at Key Stage 4.

The Head of History is **Mr J Johnson**.

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 Head of Geography is **Mr J Johnson**.

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/>

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	Two pieces per half term
Languages	Once per week
Religious Education	Once per half term
Design Technology	At least one piece per half term
Food Technology	At least one piece per half term
Art	A series of pieces or one substantial project per half term
Music	A series of pieces or one substantial project per half term

Online learning

School 360 is used by computing teachers and all teachers to deliver live lessons and set tasks for learning at home should this ever be required. 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). This year we have also introduced Seneca as an online platform for homework and revision in some subjects. Again, login details can be found in your child's planner if required.

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.

Should you require any further information on any of the above, please contact the relevant curriculum leader in the first instance or put a note in your child's planner. We are all keen to support your child's attainment and progress in a variety of different ways and will be in touch throughout the year with other opportunities for you to come into school and see how your child is progressing. Keep up to date with school life via our website, our social media pages and on Class Charts. Your continued support is very much appreciated.