

New Rush Hall School - Year 11: Autumn 1.1

English	Maths	Science
In English this half term Year 11 pupils will develop the persuasive speaking and writing skills needed for GCSE English Language. They will explore how writers and speakers use rhetorical techniques, such as repetition, direct address and anecdote, to influence an audience. Pupils will prepare and deliver a formal presentation, building confidence in speaking and listening while refining their ability to construct clear, well-supported arguments. They will also adapt their writing for different audiences and purposes, producing speeches, articles, letters and formal emails in preparation for GCSE English Language Paper 2 Question 5.	In Maths this half term pupils will study number properties by using 4 operations and directed numbers to solve worded problems and be confident with reciprocals, understanding that x by 0.2 is the same as divide by 5 and equivalent. Following this, pupils will learn how to derive the formula for finding the sum of interior angles of any polygon is $180(n-2)$, where n represents the number of sides. Finally, pupils will write and calculate using numbers in standard form with no calculator, using the rule for indices.	In Science this half term pupils will study Homeostasis and Inheritance, Variation and Evolution. They will explore the regulation of internal conditions, nervous and endocrine system functions, and hormonal control including diabetes and reproduction. Pupils will investigate genetic concepts such as meiosis, DNA structure, Punnett squares, and genetic variation. They will evaluate evolutionary principles, selective breeding, genetic engineering, and the evidence for evolution including fossils and antibiotic resistance. The unit includes data interpretation, ethical considerations, and practical activities like DNA extraction and modelling inheritance to deepen understanding of biological systems and genetic diversity.
PSHE	Art	PE
In PSHE this half term pupils will explore lifelong mental health and wellbeing, developing the knowledge and skills needed to manage the opportunities and challenges of adolescence and adulthood. They will investigate how thoughts, emotions and behaviours are connected, learning practical strategies for managing stress, anxiety and common mental health difficulties. Pupils will also explore the importance of sleep, resilience and recognising when to seek support. This unit encourages pupils to develop positive wellbeing habits and prepares them to manage increasing independence, examinations and future transitions with confidence.	In Art this half term pupils continue the GCSE coursework project begun in Year 10, building on previous research, experimentation and practical investigations. Through continued exploration of artists, materials and techniques, pupils refine their ideas and develop increasingly personal responses. Annotation and presentation skills are strengthened to ensure sketchbooks clearly document the creative journey and artistic intentions. Pupils participate in discussion and peer critique, developing confidence in evaluating work and responding to feedback. The unit encourages independence, creativity and technical improvement while supporting pupils in establishing a distinctive artistic voice and producing increasingly resolved outcomes.	In PE this half term pupils will study football and basketball, developing core skills and tactical awareness through structured warm-ups, drills, and game play. In football, pupils will focus on attacking with width and speed, use of dummies and fakes, defensive formations, and passing and shooting techniques, emphasising agility and balance. In basketball, pupils will develop dribbling, shooting, screening, and defensive strategies including man-to-man and zone marking. Activities involve teacher modelling, group discussion, and small-sided games to enhance teamwork, communication, and strategic understanding.
Geography	Food Technology	History
In Geography this half term pupils will be studying the UK's evolving human landscape - an overview of the changing and varied human landscape of the UK, including the socio-economic and political processes that influence it. Our case study of a major UK city will be London. Pupils will look at social economic and political aspects of London and how the city became a globally recognised city. Pupils will also examine the challenges the city faces. In addition we will look at Bristol, a dynamic city in the UK, and how the city has changed over time along with what factors have influenced the changes.	In Food Technology this half term pupils will explore different specialist equipment used in the kitchen and how to use them safely. Following this, pupils will look at different cooking methods of preparing foods and the correct equipment that should be use. Pupils will be aware of ingredients that can be used to marinade and flavour foods. Finally, pupils will explore the ways in which they can test for readiness. As pupils look at these areas, they will also make a mixture of products from a range of products including Stir-fry, Spaghetti Bolognese, Flat Bread and Chicken.	In History this half term pupils will be studying 'Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the Present Day'. Pupils will begin by exploring the medical options for a poor or rich person in the Medieval period. Following this, pupils will assess the contribution of Medieval Islamic medicine to medical progress. They will then describe the public health conditions in Medieval towns. After this, pupils will explain the impact of the Renaissance on medicine and describe traditional and new methods of treating disease in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Finally, pupils will explain how Edward Jenner made his discovery about smallpox vaccine and the opposition he faced.
Business Studies	Music	Construction
In Business Studies this half term we will be covering Unit 2, Topic 8, 'Making Operational and Financial Decisions.' Pupils will begin by exploring the different types of production (job, batch and flow) before analysing the impact productions processes have in productivity and costs. Following this, pupils will evaluate the importance of stock control, interpret bar gate stick graphs and discuss the concept of JIT stock production. Finally, pupils will calculate gross profit margin, net profit margin and annual rate of return before explaining the use and limitations of financial information in relation to business performance and decision making.	In Music this half term pupils begin Component 2 by exploring the professional and personal skills required within the music industry. They will investigate the importance of communication, teamwork, organisation and safe working practices while reflecting on their own strengths and areas for development. Through practical activities and self-assessment, pupils will complete skills audits, set targets and create personal development plans. They will also learn how to document and organise evidence using recordings, annotations and digital platforms. The unit encourages independence, professionalism and effective time management while preparing pupils for the practical skills development required later in the course.	In Construction this half term we will be beginning two Units, Unit A2 'Developing a Personal Progression Plan' and Unit 7 'Making Carpentry Joints'. In the first unit pupils will begin by researching and discussing the progression opportunities that may be available to them, and completing a skills audit. Alongside this, pupils will begin to explore the basic skills involved in carpentry, exploring the different types of tools and equipment used to shape and cut timber. Pupils will experiment with tools and equipment and will observe and use a setting out rod when practicing making simple joints.
Sports		Performing Arts
In Sports Science this half term pupils will focus on Fitness. They will learn about the components of fitness required in different sports and understand the principles of training. Pupils will explore exercise intensity and methods to measure it, including heart rate monitoring and perceived exertion. They will examine the reasons for fitness testing, pre-test procedures, and how to conduct various fitness tests using appropriate equipment. Pupils will practice interpreting fitness test results and compare them to normative data, applying their knowledge to different sports. Activities include case studies, group work, practical tests, and data analysis to deepen understanding.		In Performing Arts this half term pupils explore digital media through the creation of vlog content focused on personal goals and ambitions. Building on skills developed in previous years, they learn how to plan, structure, and present engaging content for a specific audience. Pupils further develop their filming, editing, and presentation skills while gaining confidence in communicating their ideas clearly. Through reflection and feedback, they refine both their technical abilities and their understanding of how media can communicate identity and aspirations. The unit culminates in pupils producing a completed vlog that showcases their creativity, independence, and digital communication skills.

Enrichment

As part of the Enrichment Programme, pupils will be given the opportunity to experience:

Judo or Prepare for Work & Life Course: In this half term, pupils either take part in Judo sessions with a qualified instructor or begin the Prepare for Work and Life course, focused on life beyond school. Judo teaches respect, control, and calmness under pressure, while introducing key techniques and movements in a safe, inclusive environment. It builds on physical coordination and emotional regulation developed through earlier enrichment. Pupils on the work and life course begin exploring practical life skills: identifying personal strengths, understanding the world of work, and beginning preparations for applications or further training. Both paths are designed to foster independence, resilience, and confidence - core qualities that support a successful transition beyond NRHS.