

New Rush Hall School - Year 8: Autumn 1.1

English	Maths	Science
In English this half term pupils will explore how comedy entertains audiences and how satire can be used to challenge society and highlight important issues. Through a range of media, including <i>The Simpsons</i> , pupils will investigate techniques such as sarcasm, parody, exaggeration and slapstick. They will consider how humour affects different audiences and discuss the role of representation and stereotypes in comedy. Pupils will develop their ability to express opinions through reviews and presentations while learning how writers and performers use humour to address serious topics. The unit concludes with pupils creating and performing their own comedy sketch using dialogue, timing and stage directions.	In Maths this half term pupils will be studying 'Calculations, Powers and Factors'. They will develop written and mental strategies for the four operations, including with decimals and negative numbers. Pupils will explore powers and roots, apply BIDMAS to multi-step calculations, and use calculators effectively to check their answers. They will also investigate multiples, factors, and prime factor decomposition to find Highest Common Factors (HCF) and Lowest Common Multiples (LCM). Throughout the unit, common misconceptions will be addressed, and pupils will apply their learning to real-world contexts. The unit will conclude with consolidation and an end-of-topic assessment.	In Science this half term pupils will study how living things are organised and how they obtain and use energy. They will explore cells, tissues, and organs, focusing on the respiratory and musculoskeletal systems. Pupils will investigate breathing and gas exchange, and compare aerobic, anaerobic, and fermentation processes, considering the effects of exercise, medicines, and recreational drugs. They will then examine photosynthesis, learning how water and carbon dioxide are used, and how leaves are adapted for efficiency. Practical experiments will explore the conditions needed for photosynthesis, including light and temperature. Finally, pupils will study ecosystems, investigating biodomes, non-photosynthetic plants, and the interdependence between organisms..
PSHE	Art	PE
In PSHE this half term pupils will explore healthy lifestyles and develop the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about their physical and mental wellbeing. They will investigate how nutrition, sleep, physical activity and oral health contribute to a healthy lifestyle, while considering how media, peers and advertising can influence health choices. Pupils will also explore the emotional impact of climate change and learn about the importance of vaccinations, including the HPV vaccine. This unit encourages pupils to think critically about health information and develop positive habits that support lifelong wellbeing.	In Art this half term pupils will explore and develop their drawing skills through completing a range of mark-making exercises. Pupils will experiment by observing and recording facial features using a range of different mediums and materials. They will complete works based around the schools themed weeks, creating a 2D artwork in celebration of their chosen role model. Pupils will research and discuss black role models in line with Black History Month.	In PE this half term pupils will focus on advancing their skills and tactical understanding in both football and basketball. In football, they will concentrate on mastering advanced dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive tactics, with a strong emphasis on strategic play, teamwork, and positional awareness. In Basketball pupils will refine their dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive skills, incorporating complex plays and enhancing team coordination. These activities are designed to improve pupil's physical fitness, tactical knowledge, and collaborative abilities, preparing them for higher levels of competition and strategic gameplay.
Geography	Food Technology	History
In Geography this half term pupils will study the topic 'Water and Landscape.' They will identify why rivers are important to people and will study a river on an OS map. Pupils will explore the role of rivers in the water cycle and explain how water flows into rivers. They will describe the processes of erosion, transportation and deposition and explore how a river changes from source to mouth. Pupils will draw the long profile and cross section of a river from an OS map. Finally, pupils will discover how rivers shape the land, exploring features such as waterfalls, meanders and ox-bow lakes.	In Food Technology this half term pupils will explore a range of cooking methods and investigate how they affect the flavour, texture and nutritional value of food. They will compare different techniques, including boiling, grilling, baking and simmering, and learn how to select the most suitable method for a variety of dishes. Pupils will also develop their understanding of safe food storage, including correct temperatures, stock rotation and reducing food waste. Practical lessons will build confidence and independence through preparing both savoury and sweet dishes. During Black History Month, pupils will also explore African and Caribbean cuisines and their influence on British food culture.	In History this half term pupils will explore the rise of the Stuart dynasty and investigate how tensions between the monarchy and Parliament led to the English Civil War. They will examine key events including the Gunpowder Plot and study the reigns of James I and Charles I. Through source analysis and discussion, pupils will compare the beliefs of the Royalists and Parliamentarians and investigate the significance of the New Model Army. They will also explore the trial and execution of Charles I and consider how different interpretations of the past can influence historical understanding. The unit develops enquiry, interpretation and evidence-based reasoning skills.
Construction	Performing Arts	Enrichment
In Construction this half term pupils will be studying 'Introduction to Construction Trades'. Pupils will explore the importance of the construction industry, identifying key trades and understanding site safety, hazards, and the role of PPE. Through practical tasks, pupils will learn to use basic hand tools and complete entry-level activities in carpentry, tiling, drylining and plastering. This will include measuring and cutting materials, creating joints, fixing plasterboard, mixing and applying plaster, and grouting tiles. Pupils will be introduced to workshop routines and expected to evaluate their outcomes, developing both practical confidence and awareness of health and safety protocols.	In Performing Arts this half term pupils explore the world of digital media through the creation of instructional vlogs. They investigate how online content engages audiences and develop confidence in presenting ideas clearly to camera. Pupils learn how to plan and structure content using scripts and storyboards before applying filming and editing techniques to enhance their work. Through reflection and feedback, they become increasingly independent creators while developing communication and digital literacy skills. The unit culminates in pupils producing and sharing an instructional vlog that demonstrates creativity, technical skills, and effective communication.	As part of the Enrichment Programme, pupils will be given the opportunity to experience: Swimming: In this half term pupils will be taught based on their swimming ability. More experienced swimmers will work on developing their Front Crawl, Head surface dives, backstroke, pre diving skills and butterfly. Lessons will take place in 25 x 12.5-meter pool. Less experienced swimmers will swim in a smaller pool 12.5 x 5 meters and learn to develop their skills focusing on their Front Crawl, Front Crawl Breathing, Backstroke and Breaststroke.