

New Rush Hall School - Year 8: Autumn 1.2

English	Maths	Science
In English this half term pupils will explore the conventions of Gothic literature and investigate how writers create suspense, atmosphere and fear. Through extracts from texts including <i>Dracula</i> , <i>The Woman in Black</i> and <i>Frankenstein</i> , pupils will examine how settings, monsters and narrative structure influence the reader's response. They will compare Gothic fiction with traditional fairy tales and explore how familiar stories can be transformed into darker narratives. Pupils will develop descriptive writing skills through the creation of Gothic settings and characters, while also strengthening their analytical skills through comparison and evidence-based responses. The unit concludes with a portfolio of original Gothic writing and literary analysis.	In Maths this half term pupils will describe, interpret and compare observed distributions of discrete data. When comparing two sets of data they will use averages and range. Pupils will then represent this data graphically and construct and interpret tables and charts, including pie charts, scatter graphs, two-way tables and stem-and-leaf diagrams. Interpretation of graphs will include misleading charts and diagrams. Pupils will then explore, recognise and use relationships between operations including inverse operations. This will lead to substitution into one and two-step expressions.	In Science this half term pupils will recall the function of each part of the plant and In Science this half term pupils will study both chemistry and physics. They will classify substances as acidic, alkaline, or neutral and test them using indicators. Pupils will investigate neutralisation reactions, write word equations, and prepare soluble salts in practical work. They will also explore separation techniques to distinguish mixtures and compounds. The focus then shifts to physics, where pupils will define forces, calculate resultant force, and study balanced and unbalanced motion. They will interpret distance–time graphs, calculate speed, and explain relative motion. Pupils will also study pressure in liquids and gases, applying equations to real-world examples. Finally, they will investigate turning forces and moments, testing when objects are balanced.
PSHE	Art	PE
In PSHE this half term pupils will explore Judaism and develop their understanding of how Jewish beliefs, values and traditions shape the lives of individuals and communities. They will investigate the importance of the Torah, the Ten Commandments, key Jewish symbols and significant events such as the Exodus and Passover. Pupils will also learn about worship, prayer and family life, before visiting a local synagogue to deepen their understanding. This unit promotes respect for diversity while developing pupils' religious literacy and appreciation of different faiths and cultures.	In Art this half term pupils will be studying ‘Mixed-Media Portraits’. They will explore the work of Juliette Belmonte and Loui Jover, analysing how both artists use tone, symmetry, and layering. Pupils will practise drawing facial features using step-by-step guides and apply symmetry and the rule of thirds to construct proportionally accurate portraits. They will experiment with different papers and materials to collage their portraits and add detail using pencils, paint and texture techniques. The unit will conclude with pupils evaluating their final piece, considering their use of materials, techniques, and how successfully they conveyed mood or identity.	In PE this half term pupils will concentrate on refining their skills and athleticism in handball and athletics. In handball, they will work on perfecting passing, catching, and shooting techniques, while also delving into advanced strategies and team tactics. Athletics lessons will prioritise the improvement of running, jumping, and throwing abilities, focusing on enhancing technique and potentially exploring specialised events. These activities aim to enhance pupils physical conditioning, co-ordination, and strategic understanding, providing a comprehensive preparation for further advancement in both sports.
Geography	Food Technology	History
In Geography this half term pupils will continue to study the topic ‘Water and Landscape’. They will explore why rivers are important to people, identifying ways we use rivers. Pupils will explore some human and physical causes of river floods and examine ways in which people respond to flood risks. They will identify different ways floods can be managed. Pupils will explore how ice changes the world by explaining what a glacier is and identifying and describe glacial features and processes.	In Food Technology this half term pupils will investigate where food comes from and explore the environmental impact of food miles. They will examine how imported and locally sourced foods affect sustainability and consider the importance of Fairtrade in supporting producers around the world. Pupils will compare homemade and shop-bought products, evaluating factors such as cost, nutrition, convenience and taste. Practical activities will focus on preparing homemade alternatives to convenience foods while developing organisational skills and independence. Through sensory testing and evaluation, pupils will gain a greater understanding of how consumer choices influence people, communities and the environment.	In History this half term pupils will investigate how England changed following the English Civil War and explore life under Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth. They will evaluate different interpretations of Cromwell and consider whether he should be remembered as a hero or a villain. Pupils will then examine the restoration of the monarchy and the reign of Charles II. Through the study of sources such as Samuel Pepys' diary, they will investigate the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London, exploring how these events affected seventeenth-century society. The unit further develops pupils' source analysis and historical interpretation skills.
Construction	Performing Arts	Enrichment
In Construction this half term pupils will be studying ‘Core Construction Skills’. Pupils will learn the fundamentals of bricklaying, including mixing mortar, laying straight and corner walls, applying pointing techniques, and maintaining tools. They will be introduced to basic plumbing, identifying parts of a plumbing system and practising simple tasks such as cutting, fitting, and repairing pipes using essential tools. Pupils will also develop surface preparation and painting skills, using rollers and brushes to complete small-scale painting projects. Throughout, pupils will build their awareness of safety procedures and reflect on how these practical skills apply across the construction industry.	In Performing Arts this half term pupils explore the traditions and conventions of pantomime through practical workshops and performance activities. They develop skills in characterisation, facial expression, gesture, comic timing, and audience interaction while learning how humour and exaggerated performance entertain audiences. Working collaboratively, pupils create and rehearse original scenes inspired by classic pantomime characters and stories. Through regular feedback and rehearsal, they build confidence, resilience, and teamwork skills. The unit culminates in pupils performing an original pantomime as part of the Christmas show for a live audience.	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.