

New Rush Hall School - Year 9: Autumn 1.1

English	Maths	Science
In English this half term pupils will explore the features of dystopian fiction and examine how writers use imagined societies to reflect real fears about power, technology and the environment. Through extracts from texts including <i>1984</i> , <i>Lord of the Flies</i> , <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> and <i>Klara and the Sun</i> , pupils will investigate themes such as control, surveillance, identity and resistance. They will analyse how writers create unsettling settings and develop characters who challenge injustice. Alongside analytical reading, pupils will produce their own dystopian descriptions and narratives, develop their creative writing skills while considering how fiction can act as a warning about society.	In Maths this half term pupils begin exploring indices by using a combination of powers, roots, fractions and brackets to include negative and zero indices. Pupils will then move on to writing very large and small numbers in standard form. They will use their Algebra skills to solve linear equations to include fractions and unknowns on both sides. Pupils will apply mathematical knowledge to substitute into formulae and then to rearrange formulae by changing the subject. Finally, pupils will look at factorising Algebraic expressions as well as expanding brackets.	In Science this half term pupils will deepen their understanding of cells and how they specialise. They will classify cells as eukaryotic or prokaryotic and revisit the functions of sub-cellular structures. Pupils will practise using microscopes and learn how electron microscopes provide greater detail. They will investigate bacterial growth using agar and apply aseptic techniques safely. Pupils will also study the three main methods of cell transport: diffusion, osmosis, and active transport, linking them to adaptations in specialised cells. They will learn how cells divide by mitosis for growth and repair, and how cancers can develop from uncontrolled growth. Finally, they will be introduced to stem cells and their use in medical research.
PSHE	Art	PE
In PSHE this half term, pupils will explore emotional wellbeing and develop strategies for maintaining positive mental health during adolescence. They will investigate how stress, strong emotions and setbacks can affect wellbeing, while learning healthy ways to manage challenges and build resilience. Pupils will also explore the impact of social media, body image and self-expression on self-esteem, recognising how internal and external influences can shape confidence and identity. This unit encourages pupils to develop healthy coping strategies and recognise when and how to access support.	In Art this half term pupils will explore with work of Esther Mahlangu a South African artist from the Ndebele tribe. Pupils will learn how to Batik which is a method of drawing on fabric with wax and then dyeing the fabric. They will use this process to create patterns and images related to the work of Mahlangu. Pupils will also be given the chance to enter into a Black History Month portrait competition where they can create portraits of people that inspire them.	In PE this half term pupils will concentrate on further developing their skills and tactical judgement in both football and basketball. In football, they will focus on perfecting advanced techniques in dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending, with a strong emphasis on strategic play, team dynamics, and positional awareness. Basketball lessons will aim to enhance their dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive skills, incorporating complex plays and strategies to improve team coordination and game intelligence. These activities are designed to boost their physical fitness, deepen their tactical understanding, and strengthen their collaborative abilities, preparing them for more competitive and strategic levels of sport.
Geography	Food Technology	History
In Geography this half term the pupils will study the topic ‘What Are The Challenges And Opportunities Facing Africa?’ They will explore the physical and human geography of Africa and consider the importance of natural resources of Africa. Pupils will identify the effects of European colonialism and consider how those effects have shaped Africa’s present. They will examine the differences in levels of development across African countries and consider different points of view about development in African countries. Finally, pupils will identify the pattern of climate zones and biomes across Africa.	In Food Technology this half term, pupils will explore how to shop safely, independently and responsibly while learning how to manage a food budget effectively. They will investigate how supermarkets use advertising and product placement to influence consumer choices and develop skills in comparing prices and identifying value for money. Pupils will also learn how to interpret food labels and use nutritional information to make healthier decisions. Practical lessons will focus on preparing affordable, balanced meals while reducing food waste. During Black History Month, pupils will also explore African and Caribbean food traditions and the use of cost-effective staple ingredients.	In History this half term pupils will be studying ‘The Great War’. Pupils will begin by exploring and judging Britain's place in the world at the beginning of the twentieth century. This knowledge will then be used to identify short and long-term causes of the Great War. Following this, pupils will describe the typical experiences of a soldier in the trenches. Finally, pupils will evaluate what finally won the vote for women.
Computer Science	Enrichment	
In Computer Science this half term, pupils will explore 3D modelling using MagicaVoxel, applying abstraction and decomposition to transform 2D designs into voxel-based environments. They will learn to adjust scale, proportion, and spatial orientation while refining their models through feedback and iteration. Pupils will apply rendering techniques to enhance lighting, texture, and mood. They will evaluate each other's work and reflect on the wider use of 3D modelling in architecture, game design and simulation. This project builds foundational skills in design thinking, visual logic, and computer-aided creativity.	As part of the Enrichment Programme, pupils will be given the opportunity to experience: Lambourne End In this half term, pupils will move onto more advanced experiences than they did in year 8. Activities such as taller abseil walls, deeper caving, and longer high ropes elements are designed to stretch pupils’ abilities and encourage them to step into leadership roles. With prior visits under their belts, pupils now take on more responsibility - guiding others through tasks, solving complex group challenges, and managing risk with greater awareness. This phase reinforces self-reliance, resilience, and teamwork at a higher level, and reflects the NRHS vision of developing through layered, real-life learning experiences. 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 12.5 x 5 meters pool and learn to develop their skills focusing on their Front Crawl, Front Crawl Breathing, Backstroke and Breaststroke.	