

New Rush Hall School - Year 9: Spring 2.1

English	Maths	Science
In English this half term pupils will study <i>Face</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah and explore themes of identity, appearance, friendship and resilience. Through Martin's experiences, pupils will consider how attitudes and relationships change following a life-altering event and discuss how society responds to difference. They will analyse character development, symbolism and narrative structure while exploring issues surrounding prejudice and self-image. Pupils will develop their analytical writing through evidence-based responses and compare viewpoints throughout the novel. The unit concludes with pupils creating a film trailer concept inspired by the text, encouraging creativity alongside literary understanding.	In Maths this half term, pupils will develop their understanding of constructions, sequences, equations, and proportion. They will accurately draw to scale using a ruler, protractor and compasses, constructing triangles, bisectors and nets of 3D shapes. Pupils will also work with arithmetic, geometric and quadratic sequences, find the nth term, and represent inequalities on number lines. They will solve equations involving fractions or powers and apply these skills to real-life contexts. Finally, pupils will explore direct and inverse proportion, writing formulae to connect variables and using algebra to solve problems involving proportional reasoning and graphical representations.	In Science this half term pupils will study forces, motion, and biodiversity. In physics, they will apply Newton's First and Third Laws to describe balanced and unbalanced forces, action-reaction pairs, and resultant vectors. Pupils will calculate acceleration as the rate of change of velocity, interpret velocity-time graphs, and investigate motion through practical experiments. They will also resolve vectors into components and compare scalar and vector quantities. In biology, pupils will explore biodiversity and how it contributes to stable ecosystems. They will use sampling techniques to measure biodiversity and examine how human activities such as deforestation, farming, and pollution reduce species variety. Pupils will also consider the impact of climate change and invasive species.
PSHE	Art	PE
In PSHE this half term, pupils will explore the risks associated with vaping, alcohol and drugs while developing the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions. They will investigate how peer influence, advertising and social norms can affect attitudes towards substance use, alongside the physical, emotional and legal consequences of different substances. Pupils will also learn where to access reliable advice and support if they or someone they know has concerns. This unit promotes responsible decision-making and supports pupils in reducing risk and protecting their wellbeing.	In Art this half term we will be exploring 'Cubism' and the work of famous artists Picasso and Braque. Pupils will be creating studies of objects from life or using digital photography to capture people from different angles to create studies from these images. Following this, they will use mixed media techniques and collage to turn these into cubist collages. Finally, pupils will use Cubist painting techniques to show shadow and tone, they will then evaluate their piece in their books.	In PE this half term pupils will focus on fitness enhancement and mastering the skills of table tennis. They will engage in diverse fitness activities tailored to improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility, fostering a robust foundation for overall physical health. Concurrently in table tennis pupils will refine techniques in bat control, footwork, and shot precision, while also deepening their comprehension of game strategies and tactics. By integrating fitness sessions with table tennis drills and gameplay, pupils will not only enhance their physical fitness but also develop crucial hand-eye coordination, concentration, and sportsmanship vital for success in both fitness pursuits and individual sports like table tennis.
Geography	Food Technology	History
In Geography this half term the pupils will study the topic 'Can We Ever Know Enough About Earthquakes and Volcanoes to Live Safely?' They will discover how maps have helped people see the world differently over the years. Pupils will explore the theory of continental drift. They will describe the pattern of earthquakes, volcanoes and mountain belts. Pupils will identify the structure of the Earth, describing the composition of the lithosphere and linking this to the theory of plate tectonics. They will identify the three different types of plate boundary and the events that occur there. Finally, pupils will explain the forces that drive plate movements.	In Food Technology this half term, pupils will explore the benefits of seasonal and locally sourced foods and investigate the differences between organic and non-organic production methods. They will examine how packaging protects and preserves food, while considering the environmental impact of waste and recycling. Pupils will learn how to interpret food labels, including nutritional information, allergy advice and date markings, enabling them to make informed consumer choices. Practical lessons will focus on preparing dishes using seasonal ingredients while considering presentation and sustainability. By the end of the unit, pupils will understand how packaging and labelling influence food choices.	In History this half term pupils will be studying the period between the First and the Second World Wars. Pupils will begin by exploring and understanding who the 'Big Three' were and how they dealt with the defeated countries of WW1. Following this, pupils will evaluate whether the League of Nations was a success or a failure. Pupils will then assess the diverse range of experiences of ordinary British citizens in the 1930's. Finally, pupils will describe the differences between a Democracy and a Dictatorship. This knowledge will then be used to define both Fascism and Communism.
Music	Spanish	Enrichment
In Music this half term pupils will develop their understanding of musical elements and how producers shape sound through music technology. They will explore the stylistic features of Hip Hop, Garage and Grime, analysing how rhythm, texture and production techniques contribute to mood and identity. Using GarageBand and MIDI technology, pupils will create beats, basslines and arrangements inspired by different genres. Through practical composition tasks, listening activities and reflection, pupils will refine their work and develop confidence using subject-specific musical vocabulary to evaluate and improve their creative outcomes.	In Spanish this half term, pupils will learn to form and use the present tense of regular verbs ending in -ar, -er, and -ir, writing sentences with the help of dictionaries. They will discuss and talk about hobbies, using cognates to expand their vocabulary. Activities include matching leisure activities in Spanish, role-playing conversations about hobbies, and reinforcing new vocabulary in writing. The half-term concludes with a cultural lesson on Pablo Picasso, where pupils will explore his life and work and create a Cubist painting inspired by his technique. This supports language skills, communication confidence, and creative expression.	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 12.5 x 5 meters pool and learn to develop their skills focusing on their Front Crawl, Front Crawl Breathing, Backstroke and Breaststroke.