

New Rush Hall School - Year 7: Autumn 1.1

English	Maths	Science
In English this half term pupils will explore myths from a range of cultures and investigate why stories have been used throughout history to explain the world, preserve traditions and teach important lessons. Through the study of <i>Beowulf</i> and other myths, pupils will examine heroes, villains and trickster characters while identifying common themes and symbols. They will develop their understanding of characterisation, narrative structure and Old English storytelling conventions. Pupils will build analytical skills by using evidence to support ideas and will strengthen their grammar through sentence variety and word classes. The unit concludes with pupils creating and writing their own original myth.	In Maths this half term pupils will be investigating different ways to analyse and present data (including graphs, charts, averages, grouped data). They will write and complete their own survey, analysing and presenting the data. Following this, pupils will explore fractions, decimals and percentages, consolidating previous learning and mental maths skills, and extending the links between fractions, decimals and percentages. Finally, pupils will focus on different aspects of calculation: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, the order of operation, developing calculator skills, using ratio and proportion and using positive and negative numbers.	In Science this half term pupils will develop their understanding of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems. They will begin by using a light microscope to observe and draw animal, plant, and bacterial cells, labelling their key structures and describing their functions. Pupils will compare similarities and differences between cell types and explore how specialised cells are adapted for particular roles. They will also investigate unicellular organisms and compare them with multicellular ones. Finally, pupils will study biological organisation, learning the hierarchy from cells to organ systems, identifying major human organs, and understanding the structure and function of the skeleton, joints, and muscles, including the role of antagonistic pairs in movement.
PSHE	Art	PE
In PSHE this half term pupils will explore emotional wellbeing and the transition to secondary school. They will develop strategies for managing change, building resilience and maintaining positive mental health as they adapt to new routines, responsibilities and relationships. Pupils will investigate how thoughts, feelings and behaviours are connected, exploring practical ways to manage distractions, stress, worry and negative thinking. They will also reflect on their personal strengths, values and aspirations while developing study skills and organisational strategies that support success. This unit equips pupils with the confidence and resilience needed to thrive both in school and beyond.	In Art this half term pupils will be beginning their key skills-based learning. They will create soft and hard sculptures inspired by the pop artist Claes Oldenburg. Pupils will research and learn about the work of the artist. Following this, they will learn how to use make cardboard armatures in order to provide structural integrity to their oversized objects. Finally, pupils will use mod rock and Papier Mache to construct the outer skin of their final pieces, we will paint the objects and put them on display in the art room.	In PE this half term pupils will concentrate on further developing their skills in both football and basketball. In football, they will focus on advanced dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive tactics, with a strong emphasis on strategic play, teamwork, and positional awareness. Basketball lessons will aim to refine dribbling, passing, shooting, and defensive skills, introducing more complex plays and enhancing team coordination. These activities are designed to improve pupil's physical fitness, tactical understanding, and collaborative abilities, preparing them for more competitive and strategic levels of play in sports.
Geography	Food Technology	History
In Geography this half term pupils will study the topic 'What Skills Does A Geographer Need?' They will describe the three aspects of the world (physical, human and environmental) and discover how our knowledge of the world has progressed over time. Pupils will study different aspects of maps (latitude and longitude, maps symbols, grid references) and use these to locate places and compare oceans and continents.	In Food Technology this half term, pupils will learn the importance of food hygiene and safe working practices in the kitchen. They will explore how bacteria spreads, how to prevent cross-contamination and how to use kitchen equipment safely and confidently. Pupils will develop core practical skills including weighing, measuring, peeling, chopping and mixing ingredients, while practising the bridge and claw cutting techniques. Through a range of practical activities, pupils will prepare simple healthy dishes using different cooking methods. They will also explore African and Caribbean food cultures during Black History Month, gaining an understanding of how food reflects identity, heritage and community.	In History this half term pupils will be studying 'The Norman Conquest'. Pupils will begin by exploring what eleventh century England was like. Following this, pupils will assess who of the three contenders had the best claim for the English throne. This knowledge will then be used to evaluate and analyse different sources about the Battle of Hastings. Finally, pupils will describe what happened in the Battle of Hastings.
Music	Enrichment	
In Music this half term pupils will explore the fundamental elements of music, including pitch, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, texture and timbre. They will learn how these elements are used to create mood and atmosphere in different styles of music. Pupils will be introduced to basic music notation, identifying notes on the treble stave and recognising a range of note values and rhythmic patterns. They will also investigate the four orchestral families and the sounds they produce. Through practical activities using ukuleles, keyboards and percussion, pupils will develop performance skills, coordination and ensemble awareness while building confidence in music-making.	As part of the Enrichment Programme, pupils will be given the opportunity to experience: Horticulture: In this half term pupils will begin their enrichment journey with hands-on horticulture in our on-site allotment. Pupils prepare and maintain vegetable beds, learning how to plant and care for seasonal crops. Alongside practical gardening, they explore the importance of sustainable practices, such as water reuse and identifying beneficial wild plants. This activity encourages patience, responsibility, and care for the environment. It's a calm and grounding start to the year that supports pupils' wellbeing and reflects our school values of perseverance, resilience, and respect for the wider world. 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 a 25 x 12.5-meter pool. Less experienced swimmers will swim in a smaller 12.5 x 5-meter pool and learn to develop their skills focusing on Front Crawl, Front Crawl Breathing, Backstroke and Breaststroke.	