



Year 11

Curriculum News

Spring Term 2010

Welcome to the Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter. The departments that teach your child have contributed to the newsletter to give you information about what you can expect your child to be studying this term at St Mary's Catholic School.

In Year 11 **Religious Studies**, we continue to study Section C3 Marriage and the Family exploring topics that include romance, courtship, co-habitation, pre marital sex, Catholic Weddings and the Vows, Divorce, Annulment, the role of the family, types of family and Homosexuality. In Section C 4 we commence work on the next topic – Social Harmony – exploring the role of women, equality and sexism; the nature of Britain as a multi faith and multi cultural society and its implications; prejudice, racism and discrimination. Most groups will experience a staged Catholic wedding in the school chapel.

Year 11 **English and English Literature** Students have just completed their first modular exam, will be completing coursework and will be working on their poetry and short story anthologies in preparation for their examinations in May/June.

In **Maths**, Year 11 students will be finishing off their respective syllabus and starting revision. They will have the opportunity to work through past papers and become more familiar with exam questions and exam technique. Working through these papers will also highlight areas of weakness which should be targeted in their revision schedule; a well planned revision timetable is a sensible approach. Parents should encourage their son/daughter to show them their plans and also ask questions about how and what they have been revising. Above all, please make sure they are revising actively by working through examples. Do not let them just read a textbook or exercise book. There are many revision guides available both in shops and on-line (mymaths). Using the Internet is to be recommended as part of any revision programme.

Students in Year 11 following the Additional **Science** course will complete their examinations in January. They will then study topics on Life on Earth, Food Matters and Radioactive Materials.
Students following the Applied Science course will complete the remaining coursework for Unit 3.

Year 11 **French and German** students will be preparing module 4 of their GCSE course. They will cover the topics of Environment, School Life, Relationships, Youth Culture and Future Plans. They need to prepare for the listening, reading, writing and speaking examination. Warm-up sessions will be offered to support students further as well as after-school surgeries.

Year 11 **Art**, students will need to ensure that they have all outstanding coursework, including final pieces, finished by February half term. It is vital they meet this deadline as they will receive their examination paper the week before half term. They will then have a limited amount of time to prepare for the 10 hour exam. All students are expected to produce approximately 20 A3 study sheets in this period. A timeline and GCSE handbook have been provided to help them manage their workload. If students have lost these they can be found on the school network.

The after-school GCSE Art club will run every Tuesday until 4.30. If students require any extra assistance or access to facilities, this can be negotiated with their subject teachers. We offer an open door policy at lunchtimes and actively welcome motivated Art students.

The Art examination is scheduled for Wednesday 31st March and Tuesday 20th April 2010.

Year 11 **Business Communication Systems** students are studying workplace constraints and influences, after which they will work on development of examination skills in both the practical and written papers.

Year 11 **Applied Business** - Emphasis is on the completion of Unit 2 People in Business Portfolio until after Easter. Improvements will also be carried out to Unit 1 Investigating Business.

In **Design & Technology**, all Year 11 students will continue to develop their major projects. Students should have completed all written design coursework exercises after February half term. The GCSE examination consists of a two-hour paper accounting for 40% of the overall mark and the major project which accounts for 60%. The department offers all KS4 students the opportunity to work at lunchtimes and after school in the department on these projects.

Year 11 **Drama** students will complete Paper 1 Unit 2 (a series of six assessed sessions, based on a text) and the coursework (six pieces in total). All students will be guided through the process of completing coursework through a series of lessons and additional help and advice as necessary. It is expected that all students hand in coursework on time in order that it can be marked, moderated and delivered to the examination board on time. Where possible, students should submit work, take note of the marking, then re-draft and re-submit the work. This is only possible if the deadlines set are adhered to. In the second half term, Students will begin working toward their practical exam (40%) in earnest.

The Year 11 **Geographers** have recently submitted their final copy of their GCSE coursework. There is now only one unit remaining in the course which is 'Managing Resources'.

In **History**, students are finishing their study of Germany 1918 – 1945 which also covers the second piece of coursework on the German Economy.

In **Music** this term Year 11 students will revise all topics in Area of Study 1: Structure in Western Classical Music 1600-1899 and Area of Study 2: Changing Directions in Western Classical Music from 1900 and Area of Study 3, Popular Song in Context. By the end of this term they will have revised their two compositions and completed their performance coursework.

In **ICT**, Year 11 students are following the AQA ICT GCSE Short Course. This valuable course will enable students to gain both an ICT qualification and increase their total GCSE point score. Students are working through their 13 coursework tasks which involve: documenting their ICT system designed mainly through the use of the database, Microsoft Access. The assessment criteria for this coursework (60% of the GCSE) can be found on the AQA web site at: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/pdf/AQA-3528-W-SP-10.PDF>

Students can access their individual work space and Shared Folder on our Intranet through the Internet which gives them the opportunity to extend their learning at home.

In **P.E.**, the Year 11 GCSE students will be preparing for their practical moderation which will take place within the next two to three months (date still to be confirmed) and are in the process of completing their Training Programme ready for final moderation. Extra curricular activities for netball, football and basketball will continue this term and these are open for all students to attend.

Learning Support News

Students with Curriculum Studies (CS) on their timetable will be receiving support with their coursework and homework with both Mrs Vickers and the LS Team. They will need to ensure they bring relevant books and papers so that the lesson can be used effectively to help them catch up and/or complete work in a supportive environment.

Screening for possible GCSE Access Arrangement (ie reader, additional time, rest breaks, scribe, etc) takes place in September and parents will be informed as soon as confirmation is received from the relevant exam boards.

Year 11 Careers Guidance

This term all Year 11 students will attend a 'mock interview' with a local employer. They will be expected to bring along their current CV for discussion. After the interview the employer will debrief the student giving them advice and tips on interview techniques.

Able, Gifted and Talented News

This year we are focusing particularly on how provision can be developed further, on a daily basis, in the lessons. In their Schemes of Work, all departments have included challenging enrichment activities which aim to develop the pupils' thinking skills as well as encourage them to become more independent learners. We have an outreach programme which enables us to liaise also with higher/ further education institutions. These give us the opportunity to send some of our students to Master classes, lectures and activity days.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the curriculum at St Mary's Catholic School, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs C.Satchell, Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum)

