

19th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Year 7 Curriculum – T5

Thank you for the continued support for your child’s education here at Oak Academy. Evidence supports the positive impact that parental/guardian engagement can have on student attainment, on average 4 months’ additional progress over the course of a year¹. Here at Oak Academy, we would like to share your child’s learning journey with you through a termly update on their curriculum and the books they are reading. This will help support conversations at home around school and ensure preparation for, and attendance to, key assessment points.

This term’s ‘spotlight’ feature is on science, and the transferrable skills and career opportunities available to science students.

Currently reading in tutor time:

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll



Curriculum overview for Year 7

Subject	T5 Bigger picture
3D Forms	Students will explore the cultural history of African masks, looking at materials, colours, and purpose. After deconstructing a wide range of geographical examples, students will begin work on designing their own mask, which will be constructed from crafting materials, papier mâché and poster paint.
Art	This term, students will explore and experiment with observational drawing. We begin with speed drawing, which allows the students to examine how different increments of time can change the quality of the image drawn. The subject of the drawings will be shells, and the materials we use will vary from pure graphite to chalk to fine liner, then pen and wash.

¹ [Parental engagement | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)

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Computing	Students will learn about online safety and how to collaborate online respectfully. In parallel to this, they will learn about and be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of computer networks. Additionally, they will engage in a series of lessons in programming, using the Scratch coding system developed by MIT.
Dance	This term students will be creating a contemporary dance piece based on anti-bullying and the importance of being kind. This is to work in conjunction with our kindness campaign that we are promoting throughout the school at present. Through this unit of work, students will tell a story through their movement to send a powerful message to say 'no' and to stand up to bullying. They will be educated on the importance of kindness and empathy towards one another and explore these themes over the next few weeks. Students will draw upon choreographic devices they learnt previously in their last unit of work to develop their dance pieces.
Drama	During this term students will be looking at the drama style of Pantomime. Through this topic students will explore fairy tales as well as a range of pantomime techniques which they will present in a final performance assessment.
English	Throughout the summer term Year 7 will be studying Creative Writing. Students will have the opportunity to explore how creative writing engages a reader through reading quality texts and producing their own stories. Poetry and Allegory will be taught alongside Creative Writing. For home learning, students will experience 'Ancient Tales' and look at important tales from other cultures.
Geography	Oceania is the least populated continent on Earth and is spread across a number of Pacific Islands, but that it is dominated by Australia and New Zealand. They should recognise that much of Australia is very dry and that as a result population density is low. They should understand that coral reefs are special but under threat. They should also derive a sense of place for two Australian cities, Sydney and Cairns.
History	Enquiry question 1: Who held the power in Medieval England? A study of the struggle for power between the barons and the king - Magna Carta Enquiry question 2: Why did the peasants' revolt in 1381? A study of causal links between the Black Death, the Statute of Labourers and the Peasant's Revolt.
Learning for Life	Students are learning about relationships during this term, and what positive and negative ones may look like. The different types of relationships that are explored include friendships and family relationships.
Maths	Students will complete Unit 8 Lines and angles. They will then study Unit 9 Sequences and graphs, and then start the final unit of the year, Unit 10 Transformations.

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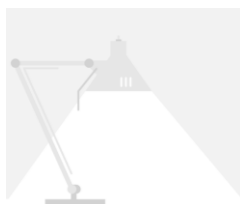
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Music	Keyboards: Learn the notes on the keyboard, the scale of C major. Learn how to improvise a melody and read notation to play music that is written down. Work out how to play a piece using the notation. Compose a chord progression and melody in a pair.
PE	Students will move onto our summer sports programme, consisting of athletics and a range of striking and field activities. Our grow focus this term is - How can motivation effect our physical literacy?
Science	Students will be studying waves, specifically light and sound waves. This includes the mechanics of vision and why we can see the moon even though it does not emit light. Students will also be studying sound waves using their understanding of music to link amplitude to volume and frequency to pitch. Through chemical reactions students will be learning about neutralisation of acids and alkalis and the reactions of metals and non-metals.
Spanish	Students will be learning to speak about their school subjects, to describe their school by using adjectives and the school facilities using the verb "hay". They will have to give opinions with reasons.

Home learning timetable [Y7 home learning T5](#)

Week 1					Week 2				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spanish (7B, 7D, 7E)	English	Maths (All)	Spanish (7A, 7C, 7F)	Science	English (All)	PE (7D, 7E, 7F)	Maths PE (7A, 7B, 7C)	Performing Arts (7A, 7B, 7C)	Science Tech (7D, 7E, 7F)
Art (7A, 7C)	Performing Arts (7D, 7E, 7F)	PE (All)	Geography (7A, 7D, 7E, 7F)	Art (7B, 7E, 7F)	Art (7D)	Technology (7A, 7B, 7C)		History (7E)	
History (7B, 7C, 7D)				History (7A)	History (7F)				
				Geography (7B, 7C)					

Spotlight on ... careers feature



Science: Studying science opens a myriad of doors and creates job opportunities in many exciting and valuable fields. Science is a core subject due to its value in every-day life and its value for employers. Science is Greek for truth and fields such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Astrophysics, Engineering, Geology, and social sciences aim to determine the truth through various methodologies.

Key Skills gained in science:

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- **Ability to interpret data** – Companies in all industry are driven by profit and determining which strategies and products will bring them the most money is always going to count for a lot. Scientists have the skills to gather data and find relationships, which can save companies money or make them more profit, which is why scientists are valued in many fields.
- **Medical fields** – Medical fields including doctors, nurses, paramedics, dentists, vets, veterinary nurses and many more jobs are highly respected and contribute so much to society. These jobs all require studying science to various levels and start with engaging with sciences at school.
- **Engineering and industry** – Working on vehicles from motorcycles, to cars, to aeroplanes requires understanding of science at some level. In addition, some of the biggest industries are the pharmaceutical industry, food science and supplement industry. There are huge opportunities in those fields for people who are trained in scientific practices.
- **Interpreting headlines** – Many big headlines come out about health and newspapers know the more dramatic the headline, the more sales they will generate. Understanding scientific methodology and how to interpret results from studies will help students navigate the world of scandalous headlines and know what they should be wary of and what news should be taken with a pinch of salt.

Here are a selection of articles and resources to help you with career ideas and development

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zjpc382>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/science-and-research>

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub-sector/health-and-science/>

- Doctor
- Nurse
- Laboratory technician.
- Forensic specialist.
- Archaeologist.
- Chemist.
- Geologist.
- Environmental scientist.
- Biologist.
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Veterinary Nurse

If you or your child has any questions on any of the career paths highlighted, please encourage them to speak to one of their science teachers.

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Information for parents and carers on the importance of attendance.

Oak Academy is committed to ensuring our students achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance is key to achieving this aim. We will work hard to provide a safe and welcoming environment for your child and will monitor attendance closely.

Good school attendance improves your child's chances of success in life. There is clear evidence of the link between good attendance at school and high levels of achievement. Children with no absence at key stage 4 are almost **2 times more likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs** than children who missed 10-15 percent of lessons. **If your child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school.** Over a school year this will **represent four weeks of absence.** If this level of absence were maintained for a five-year period, it would mean half a school year would have been missed.

We would really appreciate your help in ensuring that your child has good school attendance. If you have a concern, please contact the Family Liaison Officer (cassie.emery-tyler@oak-academy.co.uk) so that we can work together to identify any barriers that may be preventing your child from attending school and ensure support is put in place. We may contact the Inclusion Team at BCP Council for advice and support or other organisations that may be able to help. It is hoped that this will be successful in improving attendance.

Thank you again for your support, and we hope you enjoy discussing your child's curriculum and reading with them over the coming weeks.



Sara Sinaguglia
Assistant Vice-Principal, Teaching & Learning

Reading

Oak Academy's vision for Literacy is underpinned by the belief that every student has the right to leave us being a confident reader, writer and speaker. To support our vision, we have a range of strategies and interventions in place.

Tutor Time Reading

All students in Years 7-11 take part in our Tutor Time Reading programme three times per week. Through reading quality Literature, we are working hard to foster an appreciation of reading, a love of words and aim to increase our student's knowledge of issues in the world.

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Books Clubs

Students in Key Stage Three and Four have the opportunity to join our exciting new book club 'Books and Biscuits'. Our clubs are run by senior English teachers and aim to build an inquisitive nature in our more advanced readers.

Reading Hub

Our school Reading Hub is run by our student librarians. All students have access to the space during lunchtime and are encouraged to take books out. This is a safe space where our students can enjoy being around a wide variety of books and participate in clubs.

Literacy Interventions

For students not yet achieving their Age-Related Expectations, we offer a range of interventions. To ensure the intervention is of the correct level students are assessed using the NGRT assessment three times a year. Our approach to intervention follows the following sequence with students being placed at their most relevant stage:

- 1) Phonics intervention – this is completed by a trained Phonics teacher on a rolling timetable across the week. Students are placed in small ability groups and regularly assessed.
- 2) Lexia intervention - this is completed during tutor time. Students spent 25 minutes three times a week completing Lexia which is a computer-based system providing a personalised learning experience for all students. These sessions are run by English teachers.

All students receive one hour a week Reading for Pleasure. This will be completed using either Reading Plus, Lexia or students have the option to read a book during these lessons.

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