Transition Times

5 July 2024 (3rd Edition)

Dear Parent/Carer

Curriculum Overview

Our curriculum is designed to give pupils the opportunity to excel and flourish with a wide range of learning experiences. For us, the curriculum is integral to the opportunities offered to pupils. We take pride in ensuring that pupils experience a wide variety of academic and vocational opportunities, both in and out of lessons.

Our curriculum has been designed for our pupils and the inclusive nature of Highcrest is core to this. As you will see from subject specific statements, there are many learning opportunities that ensure pupils develop a love for learning. Our website outlines in detail the intent of the curriculum and the 'Through the Eyes of a Pupil' section gives you the opportunity to see what the pupils say.

We are forever evolving and will continue to adapt our curriculum to suit the needs of our pupils. I look forward to discussing this with you further in the near future.

Kind regards

Mr J Clarke
Vice Principal

Art & Design

At The Highcrest Academy, you will have two lessons of Art over a two-week timetable.

You will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of creative styles and mixed media to create 2D and 3D works of art.

You will develop knowledge of artists, designers and craft people's work from a variety of different cultures.

There will be opportunities for you to go on trips to art galleries to see exhibitions of art from around the world and from different centuries.

You will be able to participate in the Art House competitions that we have throughout the year.

Our lessons are fun and challenging; we aspire to develop your passion for creativity and encourage creative expression.

We look forward to welcoming you in September into the Art and Design department.

Business

Throughout Years 7 and 8, students have a general introduction to Business within their IT lessons. The topics and projects covered in IT allow this overlap and both subjects are part of the same department at the academy. Students who wish to further develop their knowledge and understanding in Business have the opportunity to start GCSE Business or/and NCFE in Year 9. At this point, students cover many different topics such as entrepreneurship, sales and marketing, operations, finance and human resources. At the end of Year 9 and in to Year 10 you will apply all the skills you have learned throughout the year to create, build and operate your own business! This project will help you understand how businesses are started and how to make them successful.

However in Year 7, students have the opportunity to develop their business skills and expertise completing various projects and being able to contribute to school life.

English

Welcome to English!

Where everyone can learn and develop their talents in creativity, imagination and debate!

- Seven lessons a fortnight with incredibly passionate English teachers.
- One Library lesson a fortnight where you get the chance to explore hundreds of exciting books and prove your amazing reading skills with our online quizzes.
- Love to read? We have some incredible novels and plays covering a range of interesting themes and characters.
- Is acting a passion? You will find lots of opportunities to role play and act out scenes of plays in pairs, groups and as a class.
- You will learn to explore and analyse characters, themes, language and techniques used by writers – everything you need to become the next critic.
- Is writing your strength? We cover fiction and non-fiction writing; teaching you to write stories and descriptions as well as letters, articles and reports – everything you need to become the next J K Rowling or news reporter!
- Think you can convince your parents to let you do anything you want? Try convincing us to go to a particular holiday destination or buy a product you have created!
- You will develop the skills you have learned in Year 6 as you learn new ones through an exciting curriculum full of fantastic texts and tasks.

We can't wait to share our love of English with you!

Humanities

I hope you are very excited to be joining us in September 2024 In Humanities we will teach you about the world, all the things in it and the way we live as a society.

Later in your school life you will have the opportunity to delve into other Humanities disciplines including:

- Politics (the study of governments)
- Law (the study of how countries are run and the rules we follow)
- Ethics (the study of right and wrong)
- Philosophy (the study of the questions we cannot answer).

Religious Studies

We have a wonderfully diverse community at The Highcrest Academy and within RS we celebrate the differences and similarities within society today.

We will study the six main religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

We will look at elements of Philosophy and Ethics, beginning to think about why people hold beliefs and what this means for how they live their lives.

History

We are changing what we will be looking at in KS3 History and are very excited to be undertaking some new topics in the coming year.

You will study a breadth of History across your KS3 career. We will be looking at:

- The History of Islamic Civilisations
- Stuarts and the Civil War
- Slave Trade and the Empire
- Battle of Hastings
- The Middle Ages
- Tudors
- The Industrial Revolution
- Elizabethan England

You will learn how to interpret sources and link these to a chronology of events. You will begin to question the reliability of information and understand the importance of historical events in the world we now live in.

Geography

Within Geography we look at both elements of physical and human Geography.

Within Human Geography we will look at how humanity lives, functions and operates within the world. We will study how humanity lives together, how there are differences developed depending on where in the world you live, and the similarities and differences between cities and rural communities. We will look at how the world operates on a global, national and local level. We will consider the global footprint we all have in the world and how we are able to change this in the future.

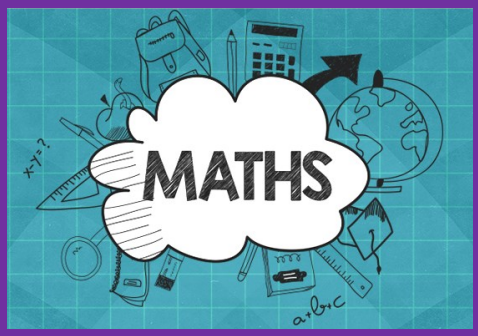
Within Physical Geography we will look at the make-up of the world, its structures and the key elements of the physical world. We will study rivers, coasts and natural disasters, looking at the world from the centre of the earth to the further reaches of space. We will learn the continents, the countries and how they all fit together.

IT

Studying IT in Year 7 at the Academy is an exciting course that allow you to develop both your ICT and Computer Science knowledge, using a range of software applications and tools. The subject is developed around the National Computing Curriculum which allows you to begin to develop your planning, time management, presentation, analytical and problem-solving skills. Our lessons encourage you to think creatively and complete your work, both individually and also working in teams.

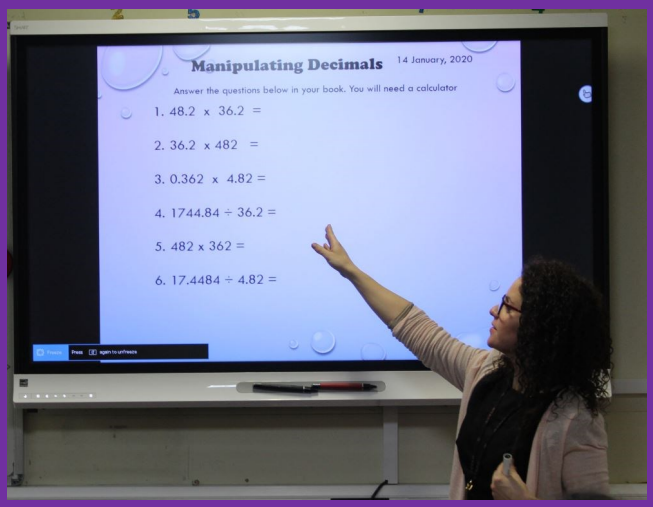
During the lessons, you will complete a number of mini projects, combined with gaining experience and develop confidence in using a range of applications. These practical projects include skills which are used in different business and digital entertainment industries. Each student will look at how IT can be used to present data, calculate and analyse data for business clients, such as business and retail, entertainment and travel industries. You will also have the opportunity to start developing your digital online and computer programming skills ready for Year 8 and Year 9.

Year 7 ICT at the academy is an exciting and stimulating subject that also provides an important foundation for the GCSE Computer Science and ICT courses offered as options starting in Year 10.



Welcome to the best department in the school! You will experience a curriculum that will be challenging and one which will build upon your prior learning at primary school. We have excellent resources, and our diverse department will always support you with your learning.

In Year 7, you will have seven lessons over a two-week period and will be set extended learning once a week on Sparx Maths. The website builds maths confidence through personalised questions, and will provide students with a help video if they struggle. Teachers may also issue an additional worksheet to complete so that students can consolidate their learning.



You will be assessed at the end of each module and at the end of every half term to check on your progress and will help your teacher identify any gaps in your knowledge.

We will ensure that year 7 provides you with the building blocks needed to be successful. Further information of topics covered can be found on the school website.

MFL

At The Highcrest Academy you will be taught foreign languages by enthusiastic native speakers. In school we offer both French and Spanish languages that you choose before starting in Year 7.

Both French and Spanish are only compulsory in Years 7 and 8, and, at the end of the second year, students choose if they would like to continue a language at GCSE level. During both years we follow a programme called NCELP that really helps to tackle grammar, new vocabulary and especially pronunciation that is not always easy to master.

In Year 9, we still follow the Key Stage 3 course as a bridging year before starting the GCSE course in Year 10.

Our programme is designed to help pupils master their skills in understanding and using any languages. They learn how to be independent, creative and resilient along the way.

We make sure to make time in our curriculum to introduce Spanish/Hispanic and French culture with clubs and trip and create an atmosphere in the classes to immerse you in the respective countries. Over the past years, we have taken students to a Spanish restaurant, to Boulogne sur Mer and even constructed a French escape room in the school hall which was led by an animator. In the near future a trip to Spain has been organised and a trip to France is planned for the future.

PE

The PE Department at Highcrest is looking forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 students in September. We have excellent facilities and resources for you to work in, including a sports hall, fitness gym, dance studio and plenty of outdoor space.

Our aim as a department is for everyone to enjoy participating in a variety of different sports and activities and for everyone to understand the importance of leading a healthy, active lifestyle. We like everyone to get involved in PE and we offer a variety of non-competitive clubs every day, as well as playing matches against other schools in several different sports.

Throughout the year we run different inter-house competitions and have a hugely enjoyable sports day every summer.

You will have four PE lessons a fortnight and you will learn about many different sports at Highcrest including:

* **Badminton**
* **Basketball**
* **Football**
* **Netball**
* **Hockey**
* **Gymnastics**
* **Kinball**
* **Tchoukball**
* **Spikeball**
* **Ultimate Frisbee**
* **Fitness**
* **Dance**
* **Table Tennis**
* **Athletics**
* **Cricket**
* **Tennis**
* **Rounders**

Performing Arts

At The Highcrest Academy you will have one lesson of Drama and one lesson of Music a week.

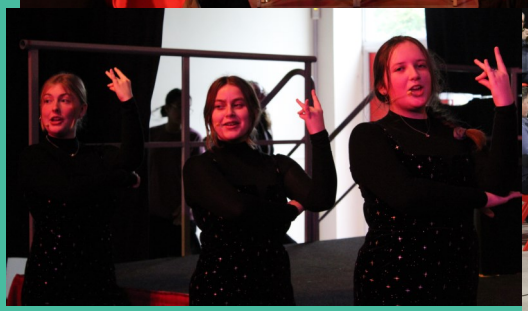
You will learn key techniques in both Music and Drama to develop your understanding of the subject and become better performers.

There will be the opportunity to go on trips to the theatre; be part of the school production and other school shows; attend Drama and Music clubs and so much more.

You will also be able to join the school choir and band and have the opportunity to use the practice rooms.

Not only will we develop your passion for the Performing Arts, but we will nurture your creativity and develop your curiosity for critical thinking. We'll stretch and challenge your imagination, through modern and relevant topics while allowing you to express yourself in a safe and fun environment.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Performing Arts department in September.



Science

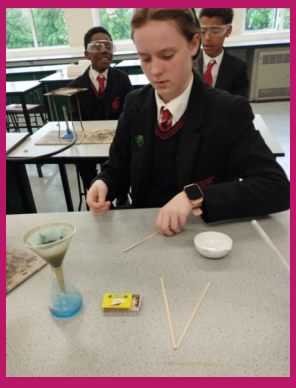
Dear new Year 7 Student, welcome to The Highcrest Academy.

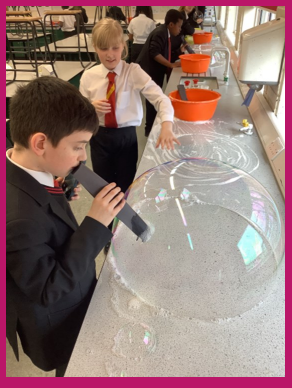
As you embark on the next step of your learning journey, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you what you can expect from the Science Department when you join us here at Highcrest.

Your scientific exploration will begin with an introduction to how science works and the scientific method. This will give you the tools that you need to become a scientist and test your hypothesis through practical experimentation.

The depth of your scientific knowledge will then be expanded as you will have three teachers, each specialised in their field, to guide you on your voyage of discovery though Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We also offer a host of exciting interactive practical experiments and provide an after school Science Club to reinforce your understanding and to help develop your practical skills to help you become the scientists of the future.

We look forward to welcoming you in September and guiding you on your exploration of Science.





Technology

WELCOME TO THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

In the Design and Technology Department you will experience a curriculum rich in challenge and experience. We aim to introduce you to a variety of materials and technologies all of which takes place in the well-equipped and ever developing Design and Technology block, which as a school, students and teaching staff are very proud of.

These are some of the exciting things that you will make or use in Year 7.

Resistant Materials – Night Light Box

Textiles – Emoji Soft Toy Project

Food – Knife Skills and The Eatwell Guide

Graphics – 3D Designs

IT – Computer Basics

Our Motto

'Aspire & Achieve'

Our Vision

We work together, in a happy, caring and inclusive community, providing for students of all abilities, backgrounds and cultures, supporting their well-being and developing their characters, giving them every opportunity to aspire and achieve their unique academic and personal ambitions.

Our Virtues

We embody, role-model and teach our A-S-P-I-R-E virtues at every suitable opportunity, helping us to promote happiness and instill a culture of excellence that runs throughout every strand of our academy

Ambition	**S**ensitivity	**P**urpose	**I**ntegrity	**R**esilience	**E**loquence
To have a strong desire to achieve success	To have an appreciation of others' feelings	To work with determination and resolve	To be honest and have strong moral principles	To show strength of character with an ability to recover quickly	To be fluent and persuasive when speaking or writing

Our Core Aims

To help our students 'Aspire' to and 'Achieve' their ultimate ambitions, our aim is to provide ….

Quality of Education	Behaviour and Attitudes	Personal Development	Culture, Leadership & Management
An acutely personalised inclusive curriculum for students of all abilities that creates independent and autonomous learners who are physically, digitally and academically literate.	An environment in which students work in harmony, respecting each other's rights and supporting one another in times of need, forging positive relationships and celebrating successes together.	Cohesive systems that support self-discovery and the development of character that ensures our students become healthy, confident and responsible citizens that make a valuable contribution to society.	A diverse, safe and happy community, where staff love to work, students love to learn and all are given the opportunity to develop.

If you do these things … if you Aspire … then you can, and you will, Achieve