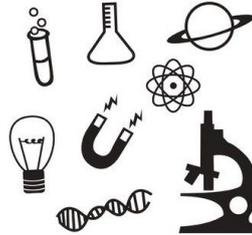
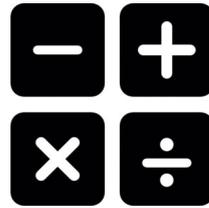


WELCOME TO



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Growing Excellence Every Day

Year 7 Curriculum Booklet 2019-2020

OUR SCHOOL
OUR FUTURE

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Year 7 Curriculum

Through our curriculum we want to ensure our students are enthusiastic learners who take responsibility for their own learning, continually reviewing and reflecting on their individual progress. We aim to give all our students every opportunity to develop the skills and attitudes that will set them up to be effective learners- not only while they are at school, but throughout their lives.

We care about our students, their successes, their difficulties and their wellbeing and work in a close partnership with our parents to make secondary education rewarding, stimulating and enjoyable. To ensure that every student can work at a level and pace appropriate to his/her ability and needs, some subjects are taught in groups arranged according to students' ability in that subject but other classes will contain students with a mix of abilities.

All students study English, Maths, Science, Computing, Humanities, Physical Education, Technology, Art, Music, French, Spanish and PE. Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) is also taught in one afternoon registration per week, and four focussed PSHCE days per academic year.

Our curriculum runs on a 2 week timetable, with 5 lessons per day.

English	7 hours per fortnight	Drama	2 hours per fortnight
Maths	7 hours per fortnight	Languages	5 hours per fortnight
Science	7 hours per fortnight	Computing	2 hours per fortnight
Geography	3 hours per fortnight	Art	3 hours per fortnight
History	3 hours per fortnight	Music	2 hours per fortnight
RE	2 hours per fortnight	PE	4 hours per fortnight
Technology	3 hours per fortnight		

Our school curriculum ensures that students with low levels of literacy and numeracy are given targeted intervention, as the level of support they receive is based on their ability. A structured programme is put in place with a strong focus on improving their levels of attainment in reading, writing and numeracy.

If you have any concerns which are subject related, always make contact with the class teacher in the first instance. If s/he cannot resolve the issue the matter may be referred to the Head of Department.

Our curriculum is intended to help students to:

- Achieve high standards and make better progress.
- Narrow the gap and enable those not achieving age-related expectations at age 11 to catch up with their peers.
- Have and be able to use high-quality personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) and become independent learners.
- Be challenged and stretched to achieve their potential.
- Have increased commitment to and enjoyment of learning leading to participation to age 19 and beyond.
- To support our students to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.
- We are committed to the idea of academic excellence, encouraging all students to achieve and fulfil not just what they could achieve but what they should achieve.

We encourage our students to incorporate their aspirations and help them to mature into well balanced, emotionally strong and caring young people who are assets to our local community and the best advertisement our school can have.

English

English classes at Fearnhill will offer you the opportunity to enjoy exciting texts, expand your vocabulary, explore writers' choices and learn the secrets of engaging writing. You will be encouraged to form opinions, discuss and debate your ideas and develop your confidence. Our curriculum is diverse and allows you to venture into the captivating world of novels, poetry, plays, film, print media and a range of non-fiction texts - be prepared to bring your voice and ideas to lessons!

- For writing you will need a pen. We recommend fibre-tipped pens such as the Berol washable handwriting pen or gel pen and biro. Ink/fountain pens are not recommended.
- You will also need a ruler, a green pen for correcting errors, a pencil and an eraser. If you wish to bring coloured pencils, they would be useful, but not essential. We don't recommend the use of coloured felt pens as they show through on the other side of your work.
- You will be expected to have an Accelerated Reader book with you every day to read in class and form time; these can be taken out of the library during weekly library lessons and during lunch and break times.
- Although there is a selection of dictionaries available in school, you will find it very useful to have a small pocket dictionary for your own personal use.

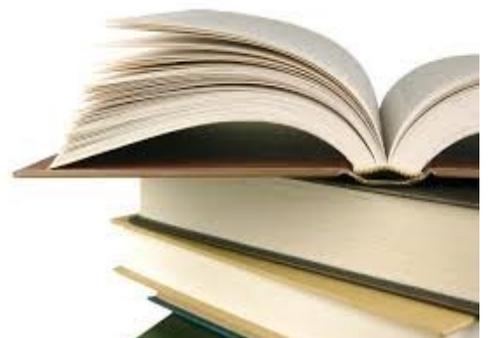
At home:

- Access to a more comprehensive dictionary and thesaurus either online or in book form will be essential.
- You will be given a collection of short stories and asked to read a few of them in preparation for the first unit of work in September. You will need to bring this book back with you for your first English lesson where you will have the opportunity to discuss ideas about the stories you have read and develop your understanding with your English teacher.
- Reading daily is an essential part of your development and success at English (and all other subjects!). Your teachers will be encouraging you to read frequently, but we will also be setting reading tasks for self-study. Your parents can play an important role by encouraging you to talk about your reading and helping you to understand any challenging words.

We hope that you find this information useful and we very much look forward to welcoming you in September.

Mrs Nunneley
Head of English and Literacy

Ms Corbishley
Second in English



Mathematics

You will initially be placed in sets for your mathematics lessons, using assessments from your primary schools. These sets are reviewed every term and changes made as required.

All lessons will include a structure which builds up your understanding of the content for the lesson i.e. a starter, the main part of learning and a review of your learning. However, we use a variety of teaching and learning strategies and resources to encourage participation and enjoyment of mathematics lessons. Some of the activities students will participate in include relays, treasure hunts, puzzles, murder mysteries, and code breaking activities. We also actively use technology within lessons. Homework is set once a week and is usually set online.

Throughout KS3, you will consolidate and build on your non calculator skills from KS2, but will also learn how to familiarise yourself with using a calculator to solve problems. During lessons, we encourage depth of understanding of mathematical skills, not just the quantity of content learned.

What do I need for lessons?

We ask you to bring with you:

- black or blue pens
- pencil and rubber
- a protractor (preferably up to 360°)
- a ruler
- a compass
- a scientific calculator

We have scientific calculators available to buy in school from your maths teacher for £7.

A positive attitude, a willingness to participate and an expectation to work will be key to succeed in your lessons.

What can my parents do to help?

Learning your times tables is critical. You can visit: <http://www.timestables.me.uk/printable-pdf-quiz-generator.htm> to create times table sheets on the particular tables you need to practice.

You can review work in exercise books and practise mathematical concepts using www.mymaths.co.uk and <https://www.vle.mathswatch.com> (Username and passwords will be given out in class at the start of the year). Both these websites have virtual tutoring through online lesson and video clips. There are practice tasks that go alongside every video/lesson so it is a great way for students to do some independent learning or practice techniques they have worked on in class.

We offer the opportunity to purchase CGP KS3 catch up workbooks and KS3 revision guides at reduced rates when you start in September. We encourage you to consider buying these, particularly if you feel you need more work on skills you learnt at primary school.

We look forward to teaching you.

Miss Williams
Head of Maths

Mr Philpot
Second in Maths



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Science & Technology

Science

Students in Year 7 follow the national curriculum for science. The course is designed to get students motivated to learn and develop a secure understanding of key scientific ideas. Lessons have been developed to set science in relevant contexts that students can relate to. Practical sessions have been incorporated where possible to enable students to stay engaged and help them find enjoyment in science.

The units followed include:

- Cells and Reproduction
- Structure and function of body systems
- Particles and their behaviour
- Elements, atoms and compounds
- Reactions, Acids and Alkalis
- Forces and Space
- Sound and Light



All of the units involve scientific theory, practical work and regular assessments in line with the new National Strategy Frameworks. Students will be assessed using both levelled assessment tasks and also traditional end of topic tests which build up a more accurate picture of attainment over the course of the year. Students will learn in mixed ability groups during KS3 to allow them to develop all scientific skills before starting their GCSEs.

Student requirements:

- Pen
- Pencil
- 30cm ruler
- Calculator

Self-study & parental support

Self-study is an important part of learning. It allows students to:

- Consolidate class work
- Research wider aspects of science using the Internet
- Revise for the progress tests



Parents make a difference by:

- Encouraging their son/daughter to talk about what they have learnt in science lessons and what topics they most enjoy
- Encourage their son/daughter to review their class work regularly. Even if no work has been set, just to read over their notes the night before the lesson
- Helping in the revision process

Ms Wilson

Head of Science & Technology

Miss Jennings

Second in Science

Design Technology

Design Technology is now one subject that incorporates all elements of Graphics, Textiles, Product Design and working with hard materials such as metals, timbers and plastics. Design Technology has changed a great deal in recent years, and to achieve the best possible results all students require suitable equipment.

Parents often ask what is most suitable, or indeed necessary, and so we hope this short list will be helpful to you. The list is only our suggestion but obviously if all students are properly equipped it will help us to ensure that high standards are achieved from the beginning. We hope that you will be able to provide the following items for your daughter or son for their start in September.

For General Work Within Technology

Good quality drawing pencils - Grades 2B, B, HB & 2H.

A pencil sharpener.

A black 'Fine liner' felt tip pen.

A small set of coloured drawing pencils.

A pair of pencil compasses.

Plastic type pencil eraser.

Plastic ruler 300mm long with millimetre graduations.

A pencil case large enough to hold the above (student's name clearly marked).

A suitable handwriting pen or ballpoint in black.



In Design Technology, students in each year group undertake 3 mini projects to learn a variety of techniques and skills that are transferable to working with any materials. To take home the final outcome of each project students will be asked to bring in £2 to contribute towards the materials used. This can be paid, in cash, to the teacher responsible for the class



Food Studies: Nutrition, Hospitality and Catering

We ask parents to provide the necessary ingredients as required on the understanding that students keep their food to take home. All ingredient requests will be placed on Show My Homework a minimum of 4 days before a practical session. We also request that each student has a large named tub/ box to take their products home in. Large sweet tubs are very popular and practical for this.

We aim to cook with students every other lesson and the dishes we cook in Year 7 will give students knowledge of the different cooking skills and of working safely using the cookers and equipment. Students will learn how to weigh and measure their ingredients and how to follow recipes independently. Year 7 theory focus on health and safety, bacteria and the conditions in which they thrive.

Mrs Fullard
Subject Leader



Performing Arts

PE

We all hope you have a productive and successful time in PE this year. During your early lessons you will be involved in numerous activities that help us get to know you better.

During the year, you will experience the various sports including:

For Boys

Rugby * Football * Basketball * Gymnastics * Cricket * Athletics * Badminton

For Girls

Hockey * Netball * Dance * Rounders' * Athletics * Tennis * Badminton * Racket Skills

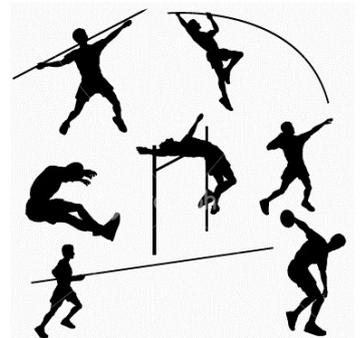
There will also be lunchtime clubs in various activities available to you. These will give you a chance to develop your skills further and be selected to represent the school. Information on these will be given to you during the first week of term.

In your very first PE lesson please bring your kit. It is a session in which you meet the teachers and record a lot of information such as what kit you need and when whilst also getting used to the routines and expectations in PE. Please bring your planner and pencil.

I do hope we see a lot of you in the PE department during your time at Fearnhill School and we all sincerely hope you have a wonderful experience of school sport.

Mr Marsh
Head of Expressive & Performing Arts

Ms Balchin
Girls PE



Performing Arts

Art

To ensure the best possible results are achieved in Art all students will require suitable equipment.

Parents often ask what is most suitable or indeed necessary to support students to make progress in class and in homework and so we hope this short list will be helpful to you.

For general work within the Art lessons students will need the following equipment:-

- Good quality drawing pencils – Grades 2B, 4B
- A pencil sharpener
- A small set of coloured drawing pencils
- Pencil eraser
- Plastic ruler
- A glue stick
- A pencil case large enough to hold the above (pupils name clearly marked)
- A suitable handwriting pen or ballpoint in black or blue
- An A4 plastic folder to take home homework

*All Year 7 students will be provided with a starter A4 sketchbook

*All aprons will also be provided

* In Year 7 students will have the opportunity to work with ceramics; your child may wish to take this clay work home they can do so for a cost price of 50p (which covers the costs of running the kiln and any glazes used).

* Your child will have the opportunity to order an art kit or a hard backed sketchbook if they wish to do so (this is optional). The art kits are very popular with our students; they are great value and have shown to have a significant impact on the quality of homework. Order forms can be obtained from our Art Department when your child starts in September.

Mrs Clifton
Lead Teacher in Art



Performing Arts

Music

All students in Years 7 - 9 study Music for 2 hours per fortnight. Throughout this time students will have the opportunity to play a variety of instruments and learn about many different genres and styles. Most units focus on developing keyboard skills but students will also work in small groups to create their own pieces of music using percussion and other instruments, plus they will use the software Garageband on the iMac computers we have in the music department.

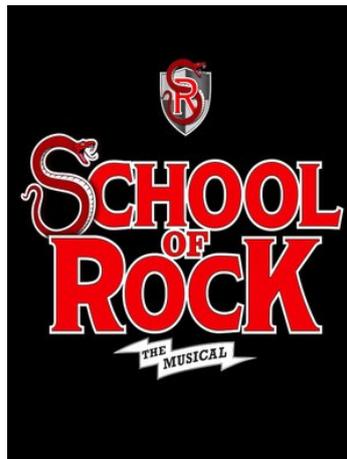
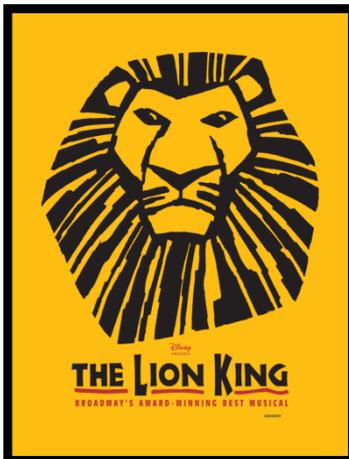
During KS3, there is a large array of units covered in music. For example:

In Year 7 we cover... Rock and Roll, Rhythm and Pulse, Instruments of the Orchestra, Form and Structure, Film and Cartoon Music

In Year 8 we cover... Blues, Samba, Reggae, Music Technology, African Drumming, Composing your own piece and Band project

In Year 9 we cover... Film Music, Ukulele Project, Club Dance music, Best Years of our lives (Band project), Popular Music (Theme and Variations)

We also offer GCSE and A-Level music at the school as well as BTEC Performing Arts. There is an annual school production (run with the Drama department) as well as many different extra-curricular clubs including Ukulele club, Brass Band, KS3 choir, Fearnhill Voices and many more! We look to enhance each students musical experience as much as possible through yearly trips to the opera, concerts, and West End Musicals.



Every student is musical, they just need to find the right instrument, style or song for them! We aim to provide a fun and varied programme of topics, trips and activities in order to help each student find their 'thing'. Music lessons have been proven to help boost a child's confidence and work toward developing skills in numeracy and language. Music also encourages team work, perseverance and resilience.

Mr Osborn
Teacher in Music (Maternity Cover)



Geography

All students in Years 7 - 9 study Geography for 3 hours per fortnight. The 21st century sees our future generations face three serious threats—Climate Change, Living Sustainability and the Global Shift in Superpowers. Geography is pivotally placed to provide students with the knowledge and understanding, plus the skills required to overcome these challenges at a local, national and international level. We aim to provide our students with a curriculum that makes clear links between people, places and processes. Over the Key Stage Three period Fearnhill students will study the human and physical worlds and how they are interdependent upon one another.

Examples of units studied include:

- How can we feed 8 billion people?
- Why is there inequality in our world?
- Are floods natural or manmade?
- Which is better prediction or preparation—plate tectonics?
- Is tourism good or bad?



We want our students to develop skills in higher order thinking to help them understand the synoptic relationship between the human and physical worlds. Pupils will be assessed primarily using both summative and formative assessments. There will be 1 per half term.

Both Self-study and group collaboration are vital skill in today's world and geography will provide students with the opportunities for independent research and group work. Students will be expected throughout the key stage 3 course to work independently and within groups.

Geography is about more than classroom learning. The Humanities Faculty at Fearnhill believes in enriching and extending students' experiences as much as possible. Students will get a number of chances to study in the field when we investigate the importance of Letchworth as a retail centre and the microclimates found in and around the Fearnhill school site.

“Geography is the subject that holds the key to our futures” Michael Palin.

Mr Fowler
Head of Geography



History

All students in Years 7 - 9 study History for 3 hours per fortnight. We want students to think deeply about where they have come from and understand events that have shaped their lives. We try to make history fun and engaging by using a variety of resources, images and videos to bring the subject alive.

Over Key Stage Three Fearnhill students will study the broad outline of British and world history from the middle ages to the present day.

Examples of units studied include:

- Why should we still remember World War One?
- What was it like to live in a dictatorship?
- What was Elizabeth I like?
- How did religion hold so much power over peoples' lives?



Students will do one assessment per full term and be expected to complete an evaluation of what they have learned to help them make even more progress.

As well as academic skills and knowledge we want their work to be relevant to the “real” world. Students will have the opportunity to improve their independent research skills by completing projects; will work in teams to complete presentations and examine genuine artefacts and documents to help with their source analysis.

What they learn in History will give them a better grip on the world today. For example how propaganda has been used for hundreds of years by world leaders, and still is today!

History is about more than classroom learning. At Fearnhill we believe in enriching and extending students' experiences as much as possible. Students will get a number of chances to undertake extra-curricular visits and involve themselves in other activities across the school.

Mr Morgan
Head of Humanities



Philosophy and Ethics (P&E)

Philosophy and Ethics is a new subject at Fearnhill at key stage 3! They will study it for 2 hours a fortnight. It is more than simply “RE” as we want students to be able to discuss and debate their own views on various current affairs and “big questions” as well as what the leading religions believe. That said, it is important that students grow up as tolerant members of the global community and so are expected to engage with views from lots of different people, some of whom will be religious and some who won’t be.

It will give students an appreciation of some of the big ideas that have shaped our world and an opportunity to think about issues such as war, violence, does God exist—and if so why does he allow suffering to happen?

Just like in History and Geography we want students to think deeply about where they have come from and understand events that have shaped their lives. The emphasis in P&E lessons is very much to think more deeply about *why* things happened and grapple with other peoples’ opinions as well as their own. The lessons will have discussion and opportunities to share views so students will be taught how to value other peoples’ opinions and listen properly.



Over Key Stage Three Fearnhill students will study a number of topics to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Examples of units studied include:

- Ultimate questions—who am I? Am I more than just skin, bones, fat and muscle?
- What is God? What does a perfect being mean?
- Why does suffering exist? Can we ever stop it?
- Can modern science and religion ever be compatible?

As in other Humanities subjects students will do one assessment per full term and be expected to complete an evaluation of what they have learned to help them make even more progress. We want their work to be relevant to the “real” world so students will have the opportunity to improve their independent research skills by completing projects; will work in teams to complete presentations and examine genuine artefacts and documents to help with their source analysis.

At Fearnhill we believe in enriching and extending students’ experiences as much as possible. Students will get a number of chances to undertake extra-curricular visits and involve themselves in other activities across the school that are very relevant to their P&E lessons.

Mr Morgan

Head of Humanities



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Modern Foreign Languages

Learning a foreign language gives us the opportunity and skill to connect with people in other countries and learn about their culture, as well as to learn more about our own language. We need to get away from the attitude that 'everyone speaks English' and develop a more global perspective.

At Fearnhill School we offer two modern languages; **FRENCH** and **SPANISH**. Most students are expected to learn a foreign language up to GCSE from Year 7 and some continue to AS, A2 and university, either as a main subject of study or alongside another discipline such as Business.

Learning a foreign language and being able to communicate is fun and exciting, especially with some of the interactive games and resources we have at Fearnhill to help learn new vocabulary.

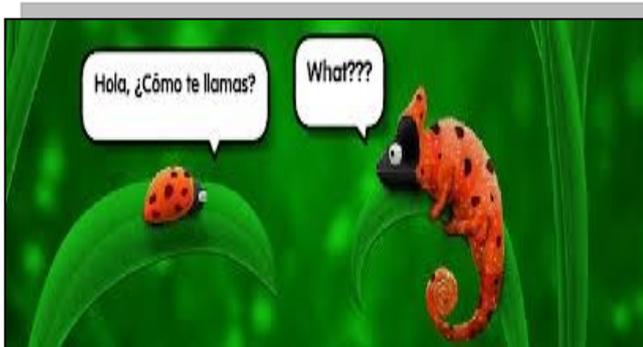
In Year 7, we allocate students into **FRENCH** or **SPANISH** and students carry on with that language until Year 9. Students learn to talk about themselves, their families, friends and interests. They have the chance to read books in the target language and they have the opportunity to go abroad to practice what they learn. Students learn about the various countries where the languages are spoken, and about their cultures developing the skill of manipulating language by applying the rules to new situations and becoming competent and confident language users.

How can parents help?

Students should be spending around 30 minutes per week on Languages self-study – sometimes this will be a written homework and sometimes a learning homework. Therefore it is vital for pupils to have their own dictionary at home; there are several options but we recommend the Collins Easy Learning dictionary.

If you have access to the Internet at home, there are a number of language learning websites and apps which you could encourage your son/daughter to use like DUOLINGUO  or MEMRISE . 

Mrs Davies
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Information Technology (IT)

Computers are part of everyday life, and for most of us, technology is essential to our lives, at home and at work. 'Computational thinking' is a skill that all pupils must learn if they are to be ready for the work place and able to participate effectively in the digital world. The new National Curriculum on computing provides teachers and students with exciting new opportunities to reinvigorate teaching and learning in this important area of the curriculum. We hope this guide will help you on your way.

For Year 7 IT the following topics are studied in detail:

- **Information Technology:** Introduction to computing, Computing founders & Technology of the future.
- **Data and Data Presentation:** Data handling (Spreadsheet)
- **Communication & Networking:** E-Safety and benefits of online communications
- **Hardware & Processing:** Understand and recognise digital devices
- **Programming & Development:** Stop animation and game making
- **Algorithms:** Understand and design simple algorithms

Mr Dwamena
IT/Business Studies Teacher

