



**GUNNERSBURY  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL**

# **CURRICULUM INFORMATION**

**Year 7  
2020-21**

Dear Parent

This booklet is designed to provide you with information to help you this year; it details what your son will study in each of his subjects.

Gunnersbury provides its pupils with a rich and diverse curriculum. Our teachers are experts in and passionate about their subject specialisms and learning (both inside and outside the classroom) ventures beyond the examination specifications. At Gunnersbury, we aim to inspire in our pupils a love for learning and discovery. We regularly review and self-evaluate to provide learning opportunities that meet the needs and interests of all learners, to develop each pupil's knowledge, experience, imagination and intercultural understanding, at the same time fostering an awareness of moral values and a capacity for enjoyment which will enable him to be an active participant in a global society.

We advocate an innovative approach to learning at Gunnersbury and the school has been nationally recognised as at the forefront of educational practice. This drive for outstanding learning is reflected not only in pupils' outstanding academic success at GCSE and in the Sixth Form, but also by the recognition from OFSTED that ***'extremely well-planned lessons and innovative teaching methods challenge all groups of students equally.'*** Our curriculum and our understanding of how boys best learn has been acknowledged and praised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT). Sue Williams, Chief Executive of SSAT said that ***'Gunnersbury School has proved itself to be one of the best schools in the country and there is plenty that other schools could learn from Gunnersbury's successes. Their results are testament to the commitment and hard work of pupils, teachers and the leadership team and are a vindication of the school's belief in high expectations, good teaching and ambition for every young person.'***



In designing this curriculum, we aim that every one of our pupils is a confident, independent young person; responsible and sensitive to the world around them and in possession of the skills to be a successful young adult in our ever changing society.

Thank you for your support and I wish your son a successful Year 7.

With kind regards.

**Kevin S Burke, Headteacher**

## English

Pupils have 4 lessons per week and study the following:

**Novel** *A Monster Calls*—focus on what makes a story and characterisation.

**Drama** *War Horse*—focus oral and register and tone.

**Shakespeare Introduction—inc** *The Tempest*—focus on Shakespearian language and the theme of redemption

**Myths and Legends.** Focus on mythology

**Poetry-** Focus on subtlety

**Presenting** —speaking and listening skills- focus on structuring a speech about a celebrity.

Spelling tests take place weekly and writing tasks are completed over a two-week period to allow for skills in re-drafting and vocabulary to be developed.

In addition, time is spent every half term on the key skills needed for Language assessments.

Enrichment activities include: Debating club, Trinity Guildhall Speech and Drama Exam, Magistrates Mock Trial Competition, Rotary Club Public Speaking and theatre trips.

## Mathematics

In year 7, pupils follow the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum with a particular focus on real-life problem solving. The department encourages and makes provision for higher-level problem-solving skills through involving pupils in a range of events and activities, such as the Junior UK Mathematics Challenge. A thriving mathematics club runs every week for year 7.

Topics covered in year 7 are:

- Working with numbers
- Geometry
- Probability
- Percentages
- Sequences
- Area of 2D and 3D shapes
- Graphs
- Simplifying numbers
- Interpreting data
- Algebra
- Congruence and scaling
- Fractions and decimals
- Proportion
- Circles
- Equations and formulae

- Comparing data

## **RE**

Pupils have 3 lessons per week and study the following:

- o Unit 1: Journeys (an introduction to the Catholic faith including key beliefs, Church structure and Sacraments)
- o Unit 2: Community (Belonging to the Christian Community and the rite of Baptism as the initiation Sacrament)
- o Unit 3: Festivals (Festivals in Christianity and other world religions)
- o Unit 4: Prayer and Worship (Expressions of the Catholic faith)
- o Unit 5: The Saviour (The nature of Christ, his ministry, death and resurrection)
- o Unit 6: Judaism (Key beliefs and practices of Jews)

Throughout the units of study pupils also have an opportunity to enrich their own personal faith through Prayer reflections both in the classroom and in the chapel.

## **Science**

Pupils have 4 lessons per week and study the following:

**Biology:** cells, structure and function of body systems, reproduction

**Chemistry:** particles and their behaviour, elements, atoms and compounds, reactions, acids and alkalis

**Physics:** forces, sound, light, space.

Enrichment activities include: STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

## **Art**

Pupils have 2 lessons per week.

Pupils explore ideas and collect visual and other information for their work. They investigate visual and tactile qualities in materials and processes, communicate their ideas

and meanings, and design and make images and artefacts for different purposes. They comment on similarities and differences between their own and others' work, and adapt and improve their own.

Projects: introduction to drawing, colour theory, colour and pattern

Enrichment activities include: KS3 Art Club, The Big Draw, KS3 Art Exhibition.

## **PE**

Pupils have 3 lessons per week. A double games lesson at Boston Manor Playing Fields and 1 PE lesson on the school site. Within their PE lessons students study the following; Dance, badminton, basketball, gymnastics, cricket, tennis.

Within their Games lessons they study the following; rugby, football, athletics, rounders, cross-country.

Enrichment activities include: teams and extra-curricular clubs in, rugby, football, athletics, basketball, cricket, cross country, running club, fitness club, sports hall athletics, table tennis, badminton, multi-sports club and martial arts. We compete in Borough and regional competitions in all sports during the week and have a comprehensive Saturday morning Rugby fixture list between September and December with rugby sevens following until Easter.

## **Design Technology**

Pupils have 2 lessons per week for half of the year and study the following:

Three design and making exercises in wood, metal and plastics, graphics module and food technology module.

Enrichment activities include: DT after school clubs, local and national engineering and design challenges, including Eton College Challenge and BAA Engineering Challenge.

## **Music**

Pupils have a one lesson per week for half of the year and develop their performing, composing and listening skills through a range of musical styles. They study the following:

- Rhythm and Notation
- Vocal Skills: A Musical Journey

- Medieval Music
- Folk Music
- African Drumming
- Samba Rhythms & Latin American Music

Enrichment activities include:

Instrumental / vocal tuition, Concert Choir, Tenors & Basses, Adoremus Choir, Concert Orchestra, Jazz Band, Annual Music Festival, concerts and music workshops

Pupils are also offered a range of performance opportunities:

St Cecilia Concert, Carol Service, Spring Concert, summer production, instrumental recitals, performing in the wider community (local parishes, primary schools, Westminster Cathedral).

## **French**

Pupils are taught to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources. They are encouraged to listen, read, write and speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation.

Through their studies, students can also discover and develop an appreciation of the culture in countries where French is the official language.

Enrichment activities include: French/Latin club and film club, French homework and extra – support club.

## **History**

In Year 7, pupils start their history studies by investigating life in Britain since the Stone Age, before moving on to focusing on Medieval England, where they look at 'Medieval Life', 'Medieval Power' and, 'Medieval Religion' where they learn about the Crusaders and Pilgrims who were the first to explore New World. Finally, Year 7 will finish with an exploration of the Tudor monarchs and their iconic control of the country.

## **Geography**

Pupils consolidate and extend their knowledge of the world's major countries and their physical and human features. They begin to understand how geographical processes interact to create distinctive human and physical landscapes that change over time. In doing so, pupils become aware of increasingly complex geographical systems in the world around them. The curriculum we offer enables pupils to develop greater competence in using geographical knowledge, approaches and concepts and geographical skills in analysing and interpreting different data sources.

Pupils have 2 lessons per week and study the following:

UK Geography; Map skills; Africa; Rivers and flooding; Fantastic places; Tectonics.

## **Computing**

In year 7 pupils have one lesson per week. At KS3 we follow the national curriculum for Computing, which states that pupils should be taught to:

- design, use and evaluate computational abstractions that model the state and behaviour of real-world problems and physical systems
- understand several key algorithms that reflect computational thinking [for example, ones for sorting and searching]; use logical reasoning to compare the utility of alternative algorithms for the same problem
- use two or more programming languages, at least one of which is textual, to solve a variety of computational problems; make appropriate use of data structures [for example, lists, tables or arrays]; design and develop modular programs that use procedures or functions
- understand simple Boolean logic [for example, AND, OR and NOT] and some of its uses in circuits and programming; understand how numbers can be represented in binary, and be able to carry out simple operations on binary numbers [for example, binary addition, and conversion between binary and decimal]
- understand the hardware and software components that make up computer systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems

- understand how instructions are stored and executed within a computer system; understand how data of various types (including text, sounds and pictures) can be represented and manipulated digitally, in the form of binary digits
- undertake creative projects that involve selecting, using, and combining multiple applications, preferably across a range of devices, to achieve challenging goals, including collecting and analysing data and meeting the needs of known users
- create, re-use, revise and re-purpose digital artefacts for a given audience, with attention to trustworthiness, design and usability
- understand a range of ways to use technology safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely, including protecting their online identity and privacy; recognise inappropriate content, contact and conduct and know how to report concerns.