



## **FORM TEACHER'S TERMLY WELCOME NEWSLETTER**

**Form V : Autumn Term 2017**

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you have all had a great summer holiday and enjoyed a restful break.

A warm welcome to Form V! This is an important year as your daughter begins to prepare for life at the top of the school in twelve month's time and the important decisions that must be made. I am sure that your daughters are looking forward to the new challenges and exciting events planned for this term.

As previously mentioned during the 'Meet the Teacher' event, the girls are very lucky to have Mrs Lipman as a second form tutor. Mrs Lipman will be registering the girls on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and take a lead alongside me in our class events and activities. For ease of correspondence, please consider me as the main point of contact, however do feel free to copy in Mrs Lipman. We will, of course, be working very closely together to ensure a consistent and settled form environment for the girls.

We have a busy term of activities, the detail of which you will see on the Calendar of Events. Our first trip of the year takes us to Hazard Alley on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, which is always a great experience for the girls. In addition to the usual parents evening, there will be an additional function for Form V parents on 4<sup>th</sup> October with information on Secondary Transfer, which you are all strongly recommended to attend.

The new timetable comes into effect from the beginning of term. All girls have been issued with a paper copy for their desks and will have another in their homework diary at the start on next week for you to see.

Morning tasks will be occurring every morning during form time. These are an excellent way for your daughters to begin to focus for the day and therefore I politely request that your daughters could be in school in good time to take part in these activities. Homework forms an important part of the Form V routine. The amount of homework should not exceed more than one hour each night, on average and any given task should not exceed 30 minutes. Subject teachers liaise carefully to ensure there is a fair spread over the week. Please do contact the subject teacher or myself as soon as possible if there are any issues with a homework; it is best that these issues are dealt with as soon as possible to allow your daughters to make good progress and feel positive about their learning.

The detail below provides a flavour of what is in store in each of the curriculum areas, which I trust will be of interest to you.

### **English**

We will begin the term with a unit of work focusing on Myths and Legends and heroic qualities. A variety of written and speaking and listening activities will augment girls' appreciation and understanding of the narratives studied in class. Following on from this we will look at short story writing and the narrative structure required for this genre.

In spelling and grammar lessons, girls will consolidate their understanding and use of different word classes and punctuation. Spelling tests will be held weekly. An understanding of the definition will also be tested. Weekly comprehension lessons will

focus on developing knowledge of literal, deductive, inferential and evaluative questions.

Reading plays a vital part in developing a wider vocabulary both in comprehension and writing. Girls are expected to read each night for a minimum of twenty minutes. This is an opportunity for you as parents to read with your daughter, discussing the text and enjoying the plot. Your daughter will be encouraged to collect new vocabulary and descriptive phrases, to enhance her own writing. Books are available on loan from the library and can be changed during the class library session. The reading list provided at the end of last term provides a wide, but certainly not exhaustive, range to choose from. Your daughter will be encouraged, in lessons, to share her personal opinions on books and authors.

### **Maths**

The first part of the term will be building upon our previous knowledge of place value, ordering numbers and rounding numbers. We will then move on to improving our ability to work with the 4 operations, practising mental strategies and visiting a variety of written strategies. Using these operations for problem solving is an important skill and therefore one that we will be focusing on. After half term we will carry on with the topic of Number, looking at fractions and decimals, how they relate to each other and how to manipulate them efficiently. We will finish the term looking at properties of number and number facts.

Your daughter will be given two pieces of Maths homework a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. She should be spending approximately 30 minutes on each one, plus time consolidating her knowledge of times tables and number bonds. If your daughter has trouble with any of the work please ask her to tell you about what she has been doing as this might remind her of the technique we have been using. If she cannot do the work or if it is taking her significantly longer than the expected time, please do write a note in her homework diary to let me know, so that I can pick up on it the next day and support her learning. All in all, we will be having a busy and hopefully an enjoyable term in Maths.

### **Science**

We will be spending the first half of this term looking at green plants and how they reproduce. Firstly we will be dissecting a variety of flowers and finding out about their organs, then we will look at each stage of the life cycle from pollination through to germination of a seed. We will finish this topic by revisiting photosynthesis and comparing it to the conditions needed for germination.

After half term our topic will be Materials, specifically their properties and uses. We will carry out a variety of investigations to test absorbency, viscosity, strength and density. The topic will finish with a mini study about plastics and how they affect the environment. We will do a large number of practical activities as possible this term to support our learning and to practise our 'Working Scientifically' skills. Mrs Such may ask for items to use in our experiments, this term particularly flowers and liquids; she will be very appreciative of any contributions when possible!

### **PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)**

An important part of the term's work will be setting goals for the term and the year as well as discussing ways to achieve them, including personal organisation and managing homework. We will be thinking about friendships, specifically the qualities needed to be a good friend and dealing with peer pressure. We will be looking at sharing and understanding other points of view, discussing rules and acceptable behaviour and thinking about democracy in our country. Our trip to Hazard Alley will help the girls to recognise risk and how to deal with emergency situations. There will also be one lesson devoted to personal hygiene!

## **History**

Studies this term will continue from the end of Form IV by looking at Tudor Life, comparing the way life differed for rich and poor. We will also study the life and reigns of the other Tudor monarchs not previously encountered: Henry VII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I, considering their impact and legacy.

## **Geography**

Form V will be revisiting and applying their mapping skills this term. They will use these skills in order to understand how to use the points of the compass, work with grid references, apply scale of distance and recognise map symbols. In addition, Form V will investigate our location in relation to the British Isles.

## **French**

This year and next, we will be learning French via the Expo course, which is often used with Year 7 pupils. This course revises and builds on all the vocabulary areas encountered so far, allowing us to develop more reading and writing skills, as well as continuing to develop speaking, listening and language-learning skills. This term we will be covering greetings, the French alphabet, classroom and school objects, numbers, age, birthdays, dates and instructions.

In her French folder, each girl will have a textbook, to be returned at the end of Form VI, a personal Expo workbook and an exercise book.

## **Latin**

This year, we will continue to use Minimus 1 as our Latin course book. This term, we will be learning about life in a Roman town - Eboracum (modern-day York), Roman armour, Roman Baths and travel in Roman times. Along the way, we will be learning about plurals, adjectival agreements, commands and adverbs.

In her Latin folder, each girl will have a textbook and an exercise book.

## **Music**

Music lessons will focus on the playing techniques of the djembe drum and exploring African culture. We will be learning what the djembe is, where it originates from and watch the instrument being played. We will also be developing our playing techniques through learning a variety of different sounds and rhythmic pieces. The girls will have the opportunity to create their own rhythmic pieces as part of a group.

## **Drama**

This term in Drama Form V will be looking at body language and mask work, using trestle masks and creating characters. We will then be working on a short script and analysing the themes. In the latter part of the term we will be preparing our segment for the Christmas concert.

## **Art and Design**

Across the subject areas of Art and D&T, the girls will be working with different techniques to expand their creative experience and expertise. At the beginning of term, we will be reinforcing our drawing skills through the descriptive elements of shape, line and tone, working to a theme of "Containers". We will progress this theme from 2D to 3D, expanding our ideas into sculpture using clay. Later in the term, we will explore the development of Impressionism, whilst reinforcing our knowledge of colour theory and practice.

After half term, we will focus on pattern by exploring symmetry and shape, both from a cultural viewpoint and in the combining of different materials to form meaningful artwork. A visit by London based artist, Darcy Turner will provide the opportunity for the girls to work collaboratively on large scale sculptures. Sketchbook work will continue to underpin the development of our ideas and self-expression.

### **Computing**

In Computing, the girls will explore stop-animation. They will plan a storyboard for a Christmas cartoon. They will use an app on the iPad to take and sequence photographs of their models in order to create a stop-motion animation.

### **Physical Education**

For PE this term, Form V will be honing their skills in a variety of sports, including Netball, Lacrosse and Cross Country. We will also be swimming at Rothamsted Pool. This will be starting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. If any parents are able to help in walking the class to and from the pool, please contact Mrs Rushbrook.

### **Religious Education**

In the first half of term, we will be looking at Sikhism. We will consider the question: 'how far would a Sikh go for his/her religion? In the second half of term, we will be analysing different accounts of the Christmas story and considering how this effects the validity of the story.

If there is anything you wish to discuss, please do get in touch.

Looking forward to a busy and exciting term,

With best wishes

**Mrs H Allsop**

Form V Teacher and Director of Studies