

## Year 7 Curriculum 2020-21

The purpose of this document is to give you an overview of what your child will be studying over the course of this academic year, together with a brief summary of some of the pastoral and academic systems that are in place to support him in his studies.

### What will my child study in Year 7?

Pupils in Years 7 are taught in four forms of mixed ability; there is no setting in any subject. All pupils follow the same extensive programme in Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Latin, French, German, Art, History, Geography, Design Technology (including Food and Nutrition), Music, Religious Studies, Physics, Personal Development and Physical Education; thereby, going far beyond the statutory National Curriculum.

#### Art

Pupils will explore a broad range of materials and processes, including; drawing skills and techniques, photography, sculpture, ceramics, portraits and self-portraits, colour, expression, mark-making and architecture.

#### Biology

Pupils will study cells and microscopy; organisation, including the musculo-skeletal system; plant reproduction; human reproduction; and variation, genes and evolution. We will be concentrating on the non-practical aspects of the course until pupils are working in the laboratories again.

#### Chemistry

Pupils will study acids and alkalis; the particle model of matter; separation techniques; and chemical reactions. We will be concentrating on the non-practical aspects of the course until pupils are working in the laboratories again. There will hopefully be opportunities to carry out some practical work in teaching rooms.

#### Computing

Pupils will study e-safety; using presentation software; Scratch programming; desktop publishing; using a spreadsheet for modelling and analysing data; a video filming and editing project; an introduction to text-based programming in Python; and an introduction to binary.

#### Design Technology

Pupils will undertake, design and make projects to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills in different areas and with a range of materials. In Year 7 these include plastics, card or foam, modelling and graphical techniques. They also learn about various machines and hand tools; develop some drawing, designing and modelling techniques; use Computer Aided Design software and output their designs on the laser cutter. These skills provide the foundation for Year 8 when pupils will be introduced to electronics systems and a wider variety of materials.

#### English

Both English Language and Literature are studied within this subject in Year 7. Analytical skills are developed through the study of poetry; a modern play; a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel; an introductory unit on Shakespeare; and reading and analysis of a range of non-fiction texts including drawing comparisons. Creative writing is also developed including opportunities to create science fiction and to script a piece of drama. Pupils also write to inform through the creation of non-fiction texts.

#### Food and Nutrition

This involves food science investigations, and educates on healthy eating and nutrition in line with current government guidelines. Pupils will also become familiar with and more confident in the cooking area and make a number of increasingly complex recipes; use basic kitchen equipment safely, including the oven, grill

and hob; prepare a range of fresh ingredients; weigh and measure ingredients; and carry out sensory tests to evaluate food products.

### French and German

In both subjects, pupils will learn how to introduce themselves; birthdays; talk about their family and pets; and describe their school and their subjects. In addition, in French pupils will learn how to provide opinions. In German, pupils will also complete units on greetings; hobbies; countries; regions of Germany; and the weather. Assessments will be in the form of listening, writing and end of year tests.

### Geography

Pupils will consider 'What is Geography?' They will study global environments; the geological periodic table; globes; countries of the British Isles; counties of England; and focus on the Yorkshire Dales and local Skipton area, including conducting fieldwork. Other topics include River processes and landforms; World population trends in rich and poor countries; an overview of Africa; Weather & climate in the UK; an Independent Enquiry into water use. Finally, pupils will have an opportunity to study different cities and places in the UK

### History

Pupils will consider 'What is History?' They will study the Norman Conquest; fortifications and castles; the role of a medieval monarch; Church v State – Murder of Becket; society – peasant life, including the Black Death; Islam, science and culture; 1509-1745; Religious change; Society – poverty, the witch craze; the English Civil War; and monarchy and political change 1660-1750.

### Latin

Pupils will study everyday life in Pompeii; Roman entertainment; Roman religion; slavery; nominative, accusative and dative of the noun; present tense, imperfect tense and perfect tense of the verb; temporal clauses; and causal clauses.

### Mathematics

Pupils will study the number system, written methods for arithmetic (including column multiplication and long division), coordinates, fractions, displaying data and averages, algebra (using formulae and solving equations), geometry (properties of 2D shapes, using scale) and how to calculate areas and volumes.

### Music

Pupils will study notation; Balinese Gamelan music; musical elements; Tudor music; rap (incorporating computer software usage); canons; folk song; audacity and Sibelius combinations; film music; and guitar chords.

### Personal Development

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) is delivered by form tutors in lunch registration and in a discrete PSHCE fortnightly lesson. Topics encourage values which will allow pupils to participate fully and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. They include anti -bullying; drugs awareness; pupil mental health; relationships and sex education, diversity and transition.

### Religious Studies

Pupils will consider 'What is Religion?' They will study Christianity; Islam, including whether religious buildings should be sold to feed the starving; and explore questions around whether religion helps people to be good; and what is good and what is challenging about being a teenage Sikh/Buddhist/Muslim in Britain today.

### Physics

Pupils will study forces; density, moments; pressure; energy; and space. We will be concentrating on the non-practical aspects of the course until pupils are working in the laboratories again. There will hopefully be opportunities to carry out some practical work in the teaching rooms, where they will develop their investigative and practical skills, including taking accurate measurements and performing calculations.

## Physical Education

Pupils will take part in a range of activities across the key stage, which will include: rugby union, basketball, badminton, table-tennis, volleyball, football, dance, health related exercise (components of fitness and principles of training), OAA, cricket, athletics, rounder/softball, ultimate Frisbee and table tennis.

## What happens higher up the school?

### Key Stage 3

A similar curriculum structure is used in Year 7 and Year 8. Pupils will receive careers advice in the autumn term of Year 8 and early in the spring term of Year 8, an Options Evening will be provided ahead of the pupils making their GCSE options choices for the three-year Key Stage 4, which starts in Year 9.

### Key Stage 4

All pupils follow a compulsory programme of GCSEs in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and select four optional subjects, which must include a language (French, German or Latin) and a humanities (Geography or History). Classes are set by ability in mathematics but are mixed ability everywhere else.

Pupils will follow compulsory non-examined in subjects such as Art, Careers, Computing, Ecology, Politics, and Music via a carousel and receive regular lessons in Personal Development, Physical Education and Religious Education. All external examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

### Key Stage 5

Pupils wishing to remain at the School for Sixth Form make their A-Level options choices in the autumn term of Year 11. Typically, pupils choose three subjects to follow at A-Level but for pupils with sufficiently high prior attainment at GCSE, a fourth A-Level subject can be added. The range of A-level courses on offer varies each year, but typically includes: Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Engineering, Economics, English Language, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Politics, Product Design, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, and Philosophy & Ethics. All external examinations are taken at the end of Year 13.

A-level work is supplemented by a Lecture Programme that offers distinguished visiting speakers the opportunity to present significant issues for question and discussion. There are also compulsory non-examined courses in Personal Development and an enrichment programme that includes advice on careers and preparation for higher education. Physical Education is part of the compulsory curriculum in the Sixth Form.

## How will I know how my child is getting on?

In order to allow time for your child to settle and for staff to accurately assess his progress and potential, the first formal tracking information will be provided in March. This will include your child's target GCSE grade (1-9) for each subject, which is generated automatically based on the KS2 SATs. In addition, in the tracking information you will receive an attitude to learning grade (E: Exceptional; G: Good; I: Inconsistent; U: Unsatisfactory) and a forecast grade which is what the teacher thinks your child could achieve in Year 11 based on his current performance in the subject. This information coincides with an opportunity to make an appointment with your child's form tutor during Consultation Day to discuss his progress. A full report on your child will be provided in June.

### Class charts

This is a system which allows you and your child to view what has been set for homework and the positive and negative comments that have been provided during the course of the day. It also displays reminder notes that may have been provided by teachers. You will need a password in order to log in. This does not provide the capacity to reply to the school. Should you wish to contact a member of staff, please email the school office at [admin@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk).

### Microsoft Teams

This is a secure school web-based platform from which pupils can access every class in which they are taught. It will continue to be the teaching platform for any subsequent school closures and pupils self-isolating. For remote learning, an invitation to attend the lesson will be created by the teacher on Teams. When the pupil clicks on the “Join meeting” button on the calendar in Teams, they will be able to access the live lesson. For this to be successful, all pupils will need access to either a computer, laptop, tablet, smart or i-phone on which they have downloaded the Microsoft Teams app. Headphones will also be of use.

### Marking, feedback and assessment

The School’s marking, feedback and assessment system aims to make effective use of teacher time to maximise impact. The school’s aim is to encourage pupils to use feedback to improve their work and to develop independent reflection and review strategies. All subjects will complete a test or assessment at the end of a unit or sequence of learning which is awarded a percentage, numerical mark or written statement. This will occur at least twice termly in subjects where pupils are taught 4 hours or more a fortnight. On substantial, identified pieces of work, your child will receive a teacher comment preceded by an R. This will direct him to make alterations to the aspects of the piece of work in green pen in order to improve it. All other work will be monitored but not marked in depth. Under the current hygiene restrictions, more work is likely to be requested to be provided electronically. This will be uploaded onto Teams as a photograph of hand-written work or as a typed word document, placed under the relevant assignment set by the teacher in the “Assignments” section for that class and subject.

### What pastoral support is available to my child?

Mrs Diccox is Head of Lower School and oversees the pastoral care in Years 7-9. She is assisted by Miss Kirsten Waudby – Deputy Head of Lower School, and Mrs Pam Bradley – Assistant Head of Lower School. In Year 7 the main point of contact for any general pastoral concerns should be your child’s form tutor. You can contact any of these staff directly by email. If you do email a member of staff please allow 24 hours for a reply. If your concern is urgent you may prefer to telephone the school office. You or your child can also report a concern to the school via the ‘report a concern’ button on the school website homepage. All messages are delivered directly to the School Safeguarding Lead. Pupils should include their name and contact details should they require a response.

We have a range of resources available to support pupils in school. Listed below are the main providers:

- School Counsellor
- Youth Worker
- Social prescription Service
- Outreach Worker
- School Nurse.

You or your child can request access to any of these services. Your request will be considered by the pastoral team and directed to the appropriate professional. In Year 7 we will always inform you if your child is working with one of these providers.

A text service in school is available for pupils to pass on concerns or ask advice from a member of staff. A member of the pastoral team will respond initially through text and then in person. The number for this is displayed around the school: **07544 239 770. This service is not available to parents.**

**Email** addresses for Pastoral leads are listed below:

- Mr A Jackson Assistant Headteacher [ajackson@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:ajackson@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)
- Mrs L Diccox Head of Lower School [ldiccox@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:ldiccox@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)
- Miss K Waudby Deputy Head of Lower School [kwardby@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:kwardby@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)

See the **Anti-bullying, Attendance, Behaviour, Child Protection, SEND** and **Separated Parents Policies** on the school website.

If you have any questions about this document or any school related matter, please let us know by contacting the School Office.