

This half term your child will be set a homework project for English, History, Music and Physics.

English

Students will be enquiring into poetry; reading different poems and engaging with them in both creative and analytical ways. They will learn a poem by heart and perform it in lesson to build their confidence with speaking and listening. Finally, they will look at creating their own poem using language devices to craft imagery.

Students have been asked to look at responding creatively to a literary text. This will help prepare them for GCSE English Literature as they will have to learn an anthology of 15 poems for their examination. Poetry is an area that many students lack confidence in and this will also act as preparation for their *Mayfield* examinations at the end of the year. The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks

1. Choose a poem and identify the imagery used;
2. Show their understanding of a poem by summarising it into their own words;
3. Write an analysis of the poetic devices used in one of the poems;
4. Learn a poem off by heart and perform it in lesson;
5. Write a poem of their own.

History

Students will be enquiring into why castles were first built in Britain in the 11th Century, how castles changed between the years 1066-1500 and the reasons why these changes occurred.

Students have been asked to identify how castles have changed over time and to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different types of castles. This will help prepare them for GCSE by developing skills of identifying change over time and suggesting reasons why change occurs.

The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks

1. Introduction- when and why castles were first built;
2. Description of key features, diagram and evaluation of Motte and Bailey castles;
3. Description of key features, diagram and evaluation of Stone Keep castles;
4. Description of key features, diagram and evaluation of Concentration castles;
5. Conclusion- why did castles change over time?

Music

Your child is completing a project on the Elements of Music. They will be enquiring into identifying what the Elements of Music are and using them to analyse a piece of music.

Students have been asked to look at the different words used within each of the Elements of Music. This will help them prepare for GCSE by giving them a larger vocabulary which enables them to identify and discuss key features when listening to and analysing in pieces of music.

The students have been asked to break down the project into the following tasks:

1. What is Tempo and Dynamics? What words do we use to describe Tempo and Dynamics?
2. What is Timbre and Texture? What words do we use to describe Timbre and Texture?
3. What are Structure and Pitch? What words do we use to describe Structure and Pitch?
4. Listen to a piece of music. Describe the Tempo, dynamics and timbre using the words you have discovered.
5. Listen to the same piece of music. Describe the Texture, structure and Pitch using the words you have discovered

Physics

Students will be enquiring into the Physics of the Universe. The tasks will deepen their knowledge of topics that were studied during the Autumn term. The aims of this project are to examine the different topics about Space and discuss the different theories about the Universe.

This will allow your child to explore topics such as day and night, the seasons, the Solar System, Eclipses, comets and asteroids and discuss how scientific theories have changed over time as new discoveries are made.

Students have been asked to look at researching and interpreting evidence. This will help prepare for GCSE by allowing students to interpret and analyse different evidence (including books and online resources) to create a report on different concepts. It will also allow them to examine different theories and discuss how theories and concepts change as more evidence is gathered.

The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks

- 1) What causes day, night and seasons;
- 2) Eclipses, comets and asteroids;
- 3) What is the Solar System;
- 4) What is the place of the Solar System in the Universe?

General guidance for parents

The teacher will provide your son/daughter with individual deadlines and talk through the task in lesson time.

All information is available on Moodle including differentiated worksheets, extension tasks, a mark scheme and help resources.

Homework must be handwritten.

Homework club runs afterschool between 3-4pm to support students and help them access resources.

The Moodle webpage can be accessed through the main school page or directly at moodle.mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk/moodle

Students should spend half an hour completing homework for each subject each week

The below chart outlines common problems a student might face and how to overcome them

<i>What your child might say...</i>	<i>Guidance</i>
'I can't log onto Moodle...'	Your child should contact their ICT teacher.
'I can't work out how to find things on Moodle...'	Your child should attend Homework club.
'I don't understand the task...'	Your child needs to speak to the subject teacher.
'I'm falling behind with my deadlines...'	Your child needs to speak to their tutor.

Should the issue not be resolved or your child continue to struggle then please contact the Head of House.

