Prep: Spring 1

This half term your child will be set a homework project for ICT, English and PSHE.

ICT and Computing

Students will be researching and investigating into 'Staying Safe Online' and 'Understanding Computer Systems'. These concepts are covered in Year 8 and then in further depth at GCSE. Year 8 students are expected to use the task sheets and support websites to complete four tasks, in: staying safe online, hardware vs software which is used today in ICT and computing, demonstrate and understanding of how your home network is connected and set up and to explore the impact of the world wide web and internet and how it has impacted on everyday lives.

In Year 8, Students have been asked to investigate and understand these four areas in preparation for studies at GCSE subjects either in ICT or Computing. By understanding these four areas it will help to prepare them for GCSE content on how concepts work and the impact they have on our everyday life's.

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

1. Staying Safe Online
2. Hardware vs Software
3. Home Networks
4. World wide web and Internet

English

English students will be enquiring into the viewpoint and presentation of a range of different text types, considering the purpose, audience language and layout of a texts (PALL). This will include collection, analysis and /or creation of a promotional texts. This will help prepare them for GCSE by becoming familiar with a range of texts, expanding subject specific vocabulary, developing a personal and critical exploration of the author's craft and applying their knowledge through writing for a particular purpose.

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

1. Find examples of promotional posters/sleeves/packaging. E.g. DVD, computer game cover, or play/film poster. Identify the intended audience. Identify a range of features including colour, font, language and images used to promote the product. (Understand)

2. Plan and create a poster or revision resource to explain features of persuasive texts-AFOREST. Clearly consider PALL. (Apply/Create)

3. Analyse a famous speech for comprehension and rhetorical features (Analyse/Apply)

4. Analyse a charity leaflet for persuasive devices and comment on its success/failure (Apply/Evaluate)

5. Use your knowledge to create **either** a promotional leaflet for parents/students promoting Mayfield School in the community **or** a promotional leaflet for an extra-curricular activity, aimed at school pupils. Use a range of persuasive devices. (Apply/Create)

PSHE

Students will be investigating a range of emotional wellbeing issues facing young people in Britain today. Students will have the opportunity to develop their research and literacy skills whilst exploring an interesting and relevant content matter. They will be assessed against PSHE strand 5- personal wellbeing and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

This will help prepare them for GCSE by giving them the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of an important issue. The project will help them to build an empathetic understanding of some of the barriers facing young people, and will give them the opportunity to explore the different ways these issues can be dealt with in order to better prepare them to identify and deal with the emotional issues they or their peers may face whilst studying for their GCSEs. The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks

1. Introduction paragraph outlining the project and predicting what issues they might uncover in their research;
2. Research depression;
3. Research bullying;
4. Research an issue of own choosing;
5. Create an information and advice leaflet.

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 Sharepoint 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 Sharepoint webpage can be accessed through the main school page

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

What your child might say…	*Guidance*
'I can't log onto Sharepoint…'	Your child should contact their ICT teacher.
'I can't work out how to find things on Sharepoint…'	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 tutor or Head of House.