

**Prep: Autumn 2**

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

**English**

English students will be enquiring into a chosen author, the structure and craft of a whole novel and developing their personal response to a text writing for a particular purpose. Students have been asked to look at developing their reading range and experience. This will help prepare them for GCSE by becoming familiar with a range of texts, summarising and synthesising information, expanding vocabulary, developing a personal and critical exploration of the author’s craft and writing for a particular purpose. The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks:

* 1) Choose a novel linked to further developing reading experience and range and making predictions based on cover and blurb.
* 2) Create a diary entry in first person narrative exploring one of the character’s inner thoughts and feelings.
* 3) Research the author and create a context page/mindmap or collage to reflect the author’s life, works and influences
* 4) Initial character profile of at least one main character, with evidence/quotations and references to support ideas found within the text.
* 5) Research the conventions of a book review Create a ‘Top Tips’ guide or poster for writing a book review.
* 6) Use your guide to plan and write a book review based on your chosen novel.

**Technology**

Students will be enquiring into how technology has advanced in our society and how this has changed our lives. Students have been asked to look at different products and analyse their features. This will help prepare them for GCSE by recognising key steps in the design process. The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks

* 1) Exploring and analysing existing products
* 2) Interview and evaluation of information
* 3) Researching the progression of a product
* 4) Designing a futuristic product
* 5) Self evaluation

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

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**Chemistry**

Students will be enquiring into the periodic table. They have been asked to look at how the periodic table is arranged, and the development of the periodic table over time. This will help prepare students for GCSE by improving their understanding of the basics of chemistry, and how this subject has changed over time. This then leads into topics such as atomic structure at GCSE, and the development of the atomic model by famous scientists such as Rutherford and Dalton. The students have been advised to break down the project into the following small tasks

* 1) The History of the periodic table
* 2) The Properties of the elements in the periodic table
* 3) Eggs-Periments
* 4) Famous Scientists

**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

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| ***What your child might say…*** | ***Guidance*** |
| ‘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 tutor or Head of House.

**History**

Students will be enquiring into the abolition of the Slave Trade. They have been asked to look at the work of different slave abolitionists and assess their impact.

This will help prepare them for GCSE by comparing key individuals and being able to reach a conclusion as to which individual was the most significant. This will also build upon their understanding of slavery and classwork from last half term.

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

* 1) Background/introduction to the Slave Trade
* 2) Key abolitionist 1: William Wilberforce
* 3) Key abolitionists 2 & 3: Josiah Wedgewood and Thomas Clarkson
* 4) Comparison- Conclusion on which abolitionist was the most important
* 5) Design an object to represent the chosen abolitionist