

Curriculum Newsletter

Year 7

WHAT . . . will I be learning?

WHY . . . am I learning this?

WHO . . . can tell you more?
(this will always be your child)

WHERE . . . can we learn together?



What did you do at school today?

June/July 2022

All parents and carers will know that the answer to this question is often vague and finding out what your child has learned in the school day can be a difficult task.

We would like to try a new way of helping parents and carers to have discussions with their children about learning.

We will trial this with Year 7 in English, Maths and Science over this half term.

The idea is really simple, we will:

- tell you what students are covering in these subjects and why
- equip you with some questions to ask so that you can ask them about their learning
- ask students to bring some key pieces of work or assessments home so that you can see their work
- support you to broaden your child's experiences by suggesting how you can widen their experiences in ways linked to the curriculum

We will try not to give you this information in 'teacher speak' – we understand that our curriculum plans are there to support teachers in planning, but are not written in a way that helps those outside of schools engage with the curriculum.

We won't ask you to be teachers. It is our job to teach, assess and respond to gaps in your child's knowledge. This happens in the classroom and teachers ensure that feedback is a constant feature of lessons. We don't expect you to teach algebra, poetry or photosynthesis but we would like you to know that it is happening!

We would like your role to simply involve talking. Ideally this would be done whilst experiencing something linked to the curriculum, giving you the opportunity to enrich your child's experiences and even learn together. This doesn't have to be expensive or academic. Examples could be:

- reading together (this is one of the most beneficial things that you can do)
- watching a particular TV programme and talking about the issues raised
- visiting places of interest and talking/learning about it together
- making something or cooking together
- asking your child about their day in ways which encourage them to tell you about their learning

We will give suggestions for each subject and explain how they link to what your child is doing in school.

Try out these conversation starters

How can we use what you learned in Science/Maths/English?

What was the best thing about your day?

Tell me three facts about...

What are three things you learned today?

What did you read today?

What did you get better at today?

What were you most proud of today?

Did you learn any new words today?

Remind me of three things you learned yesterday.

Tell me an amazing fact about...



ENGLISH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WHAT...

William Shakespeare and some of his most famous plays. We'll study extracts from a range of texts grouped and linked thematically: the supernatural, revenge and treachery!

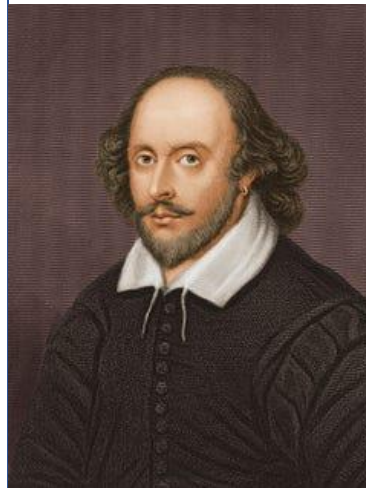


WHY...

Although Shakespeare's work can be hard to understand and access it is still famous today for a reason. His plays and poetry deal with the simplest emotions, desires and relationships that make us human. Studying Shakespeare is more than just studying a text, it is reflecting on behaviours, characteristics and flaws of humanity. His work is a timeless part of our cultural heritage. We'll also be preparing the students for their GCSE Literature when they study *Macbeth*.

WHO...

After our visit to Bolsover Castle, students will create a piece of writing inspired by the Gothic they studied in half term 5. This work will build on skills they have already developed this year, linking this to their new knowledge of Shakespeare's stories.



WHERE...

Go on a Gothic tour of local buildings. St Mary's church in Beighton is gothic architecture within the Community. Sheffield city centre also has gothic and neo-gothic buildings such as the cathedral and town hall. If you're up for a day out Hardwick Hall is only 30 minutes down the M1.

Go to the Theatre. In September, the Crucible theatre will be showing a performance of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing'.

Read modern adaptations of Shakespeare's stories such as 'The Taming of the Drew' by Stephanie Kate Strohm and 'Tempestuous' by Kim Askew.

To find out more about your child's day, ask them these questions...

Could you show me your Shakespeare knowledge organiser? (These should be sent home and kept in their planners.) What was different about life in Shakespearian times?

How are the Gothic and Shakespeare linked?

MATHS

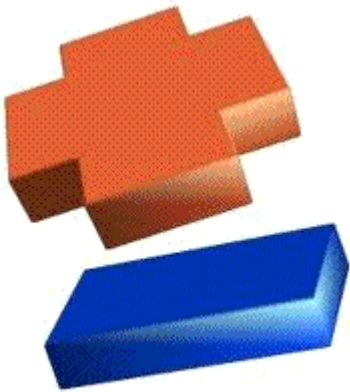
ADDING / SUBTRACTING CONSTRUCTIONS GEOMETRIC

WHAT...

The adding & subtraction of fractions.

Constructions, measuring and using geometric notation – Measure and draw angles, interpreting and draw pie charts.

Developing geometric reasoning – Angles in triangles, quadrilaterals around a point and on a straight line.



WHY...

These skills will help students to progress into year 8, 9 and on to key stage 4. We're not just focussing on numbers in year 7 but also the geometric /shape side of Maths so your child has seen a wide range of topics in the past year and gained a lot of key skills. These skills are also important in Science, Geography and Technology. It is important that students learn to use mathematical skills in other lessons.

WHO...

Your child will bring home their end of unit assessments to show you how they are getting on. They also use **Sparx** ([Sparx Maths](#)) at home, which is based on what they are learning, you can have conversations with them around this and what the expectations of them are from us.

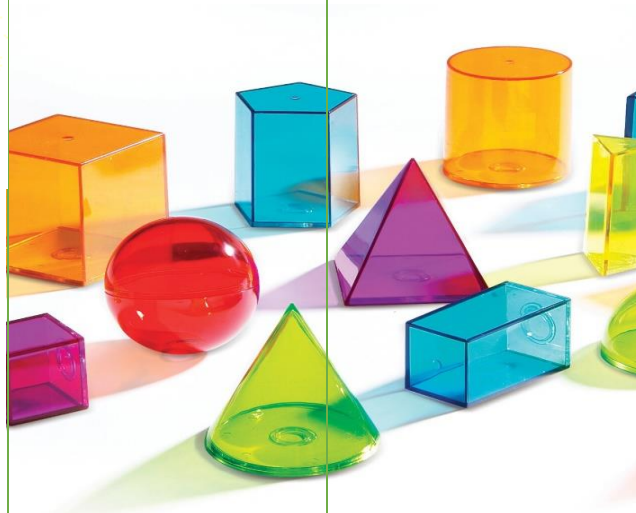
WHERE...

Why not have discussions around the constructions of buildings that you come across when out and about,

- The diamond (Sheffield university)
- The cheese grater car park (Charles Street)
- The octagon (Sheffield university)
- Park Hill flats
- The geometric shapes in Jo Peel's street art ([Jo Peel | Street Art Sheffield](#))

Angles are used in sport especially in football when taking a corner or a free kick – you can have these discussions at any games you might go to.

You can discuss fractions when cooking or baking or sharing things out between siblings or other family members.



To find out more about your child's day, ask them these questions...

What new skill did you learn in Maths today?

Where could you use this skill in everyday life?

Can you show me an example of what you did?

SCIENCE

CHEMISTRY-AIR POLLUTION

PHYSICS-THE EARTH & SUN

BIOLOGY-VARIATION & CLASSIFICATION

WHAT...

Chemistry: Air pollution, the water cycle and energy in chemical reactions

Physics: The Earth and Sun

Biology: Variation and classification



WHY...

The big idea: substances move around the planet, from the atmosphere to land and sea, in cycles. Students learn which substances do this and how it happens. Students begin their journey of how to live sustainable lives by understanding the chemistry of the planet.

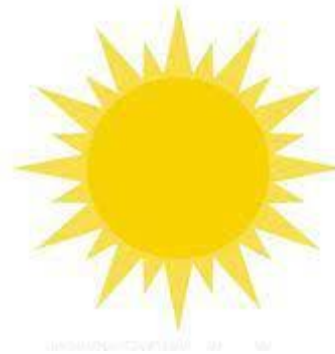
The big idea (the biggest idea!!): The Earth is a tiny part of the universe and is the only place yet known to have life. A basic understanding of space and how the Earth interacts with other objects in the solar system. We want students to develop a deep sense of curiosity and wonder about our origins, the universe and all that it contains.

The big idea: The planet contains a great diversity of organisms. Combining the planet's ecology and biology with chemistry helps students to view the planet. Add in the physics of the universe and the science curriculum really is a world of wonder!

WHO...

Students will bring home their class book to show you their learning.

They will also bring their final Year 7 assessment with feedback in their class book.



WHERE...

<https://www.mobileedp.com/blog/how-to-make-a-water-cycle-in-a-bag>

On the TV

Watch the weather reports, during the summer months, pollen and pollution levels are discussed daily. Watch some of the following documentaries, found on BBC iplayer / Netflix

Planet Earth -Seven planets, one world -
A life on our planet

Sheffield adventures

Weston Park museum: The 'What on Earth' permanent exhibition is a great place to discover the natural wonders of the planet.

Space adventures

If you are able to venture further afield, Leicester Space centre ([Home - The National Space Centre](#)) Jodrell bank observatory ([Homepage - Jodrell Bank](#))

Sheffield in Space

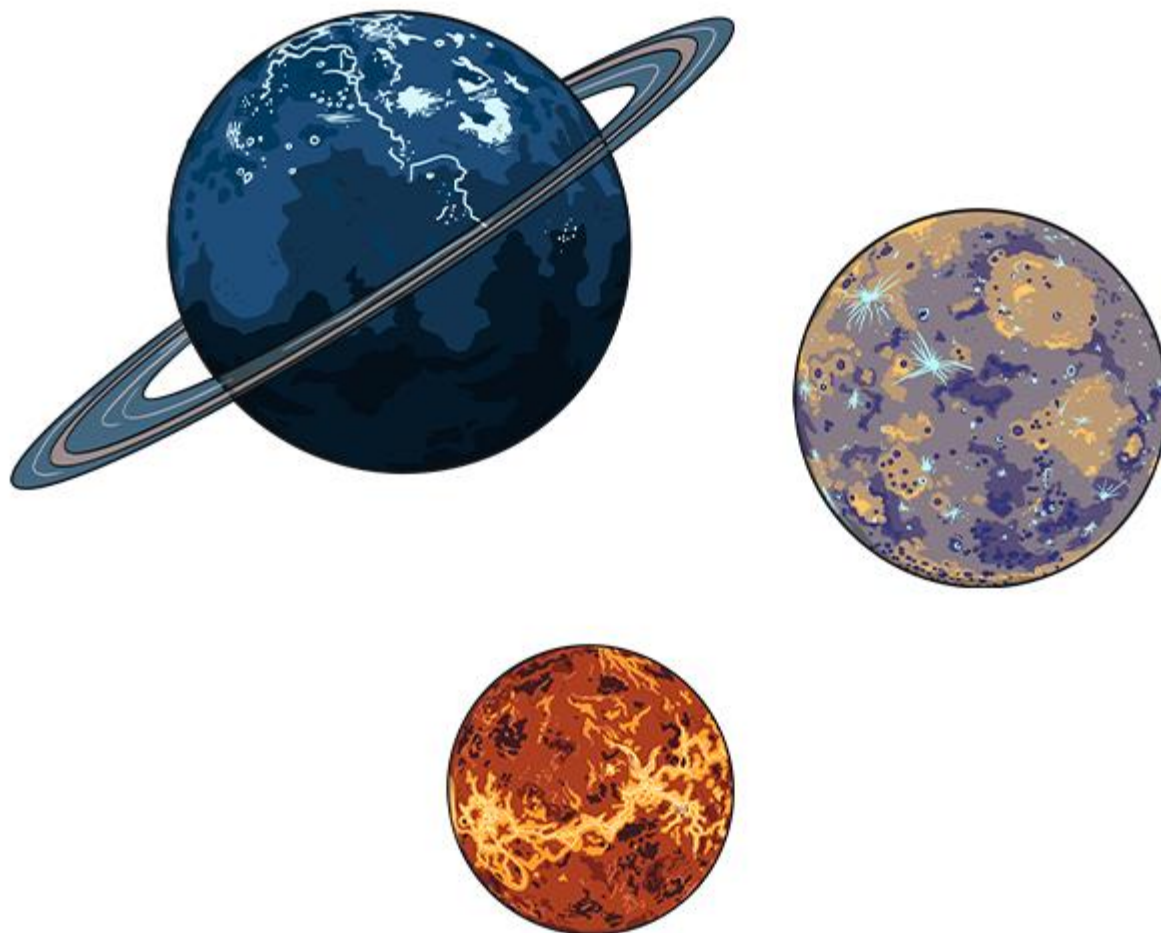
Helen Sharman was the first British person in space, and she is from Sheffield. Research more about her.

To find out more about your child's day, ask them these questions...

1. What is the air made up of – can you make any of the gases?
2. What is a pollutant – can you give an example? How could we cut pollution as a household?
3. Can you describe the journey of a drop of water once it lands on the ground?
4. Name two types of chemical reaction – can you do any reactions in the house? Which ones are good? Which cause problems?
5. What is variation in a species? If you have a garden, what species can be found there? Do any of them show variations?

What do you know about space?

Can you tell me something about the universe?



**Thank you for your continued Support and Partnership
with your child's Learning**

