

Curriculum Update Autumn 1

Welcome back to a brand-new school year. We hope you and your families had a restful summer and that students are feeling refreshed and ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

During the summer term, our staff spent a great deal of time reviewing and refining the curriculum. Teachers carefully looked at their schemes of learning, updated teaching materials, and made thoughtful adaptations to ensure that lessons this year are as ambitious, engaging and supportive as possible. This work means we are beginning the autumn term with a curriculum that has been strengthened and fine-tuned, ready to give students the very best learning experience.



Work Hard



Be Kind



Join In

This year we will be focussing on how we use assessments at TCS. Assessments are not just about measuring outcomes – they help teachers identify what students know, highlight where there may be knowledge gaps, and guide the next steps in planning. By using assessment information effectively, we can ensure that students are supported and challenged in the right ways, enabling them to make strong progress.

We are also offering additional support sessions this year for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. These small-group sessions, which will take place during form time, will focus on English, Maths and Science – core subjects that underpin much of the curriculum. They are designed to help close knowledge gaps and give students extra confidence. Where we feel a student would particularly benefit, we will write home with more information.

This year also sees the launch of our **Foundations of Excellence** – a set of key aspects of our teaching and learning strategy that will underpin all lessons. These foundations will ensure every child experiences high-quality learning every day and will also form part of a revised quality assurance system that allows us to monitor and support classroom practice. Our Year 7 students will get to know these routines through the **Year 7 Olympics**, a fun competition where form groups practise and perfect the foundations. This will be a great opportunity for them to show our key school value: *join in*.

Building on student voice work from last year, we are developing our approach to feedback even further. All students will now have the chance to give feedback on their lessons once a term via a quick online questionnaire. This will allow us to hear from every student, every term, and use their views to shape curriculum and teaching decisions. We will also share key findings with parents so that you can see how students' voices are helping to shape their school experience.

If you would like to find out more about the curriculum for any of our subjects, please visit our website <https://www.teignmouthsecondary.co.uk/the-tcs-curriculum/>

We have been working hard on mapping our **Year 10** curriculum so that you have a better understanding of what students will be learning each half term. Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months.

PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
•Preparing for Work : Mock Interviews and CVs	•The Best Version of You: Our values •Celebrating difference: LGBT & Black history month, adoption week (October)	•KS3 Student voice and charity committee selection •Extracurricular programme launched •Safer places safer spaces creative workshop •Sport leader training •Netball South Devon tournaments •Charity committee cake bake sale	• Devon Partnership Trust Careers Workshops

	Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
Year 10 Autumn 1	English	Unit of Work: A Christmas Carol Why are we learning this? This scheme of learning is designed to provide Year 10 students with a comprehensive understanding of the plot, symbolism, and key quotations from "A Christmas Carol". This is not only essential for their GCSE English Literature studies, but also enhances their analytical and interpretive skills.
	Maths	Unit of Work: Percentages, Surface area and volume, Simultaneous equations, Formulae, Trigonometry, Constructions Why are we learning this? Year 10 is the introductory GCSE year and all KS3 work comes together to begin to tackle the hardest topics. Now several skills appearing in questions is commonplace. Algebra now extends to simultaneous equations and formulae preparing learners not only for the GCSE but KS5. Year 10 also marks a vital point where trigonometry is introduced.
	Science	Unit of Work: Health and disease Why are we learning this? to gain a comprehensive understanding of how the human body functions and how various diseases can impact it. This knowledge is crucial for fostering an awareness of personal and public health, encouraging informed lifestyle choices, and promoting preventative healthcare practices. Additionally, this subject lays a foundation for students who wish to pursue further studies and careers in health-related fields.



	Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
	History	Unit of Work: Thematic: Crime and Punishment in Britain, C1000-Present Why are we learning this? Crime and punishment has evolved over time in response to societal changes in Britain . Through examining the different methods of policing and punishment students will develop an understanding of the criminal justice system and how this has shaped law and order today. This unit is not only essential in providing students with the knowledge and skills to access their GCSE but also the opportunity to apply their historical understanding within a thematic approach and consider the effectiveness of different forms of policing and punishment as a deterrent.
	Geography	Unit of Work: The Living World Why are we learning this? The delicate balance of cold environments is increasingly threatened by climate change and the actions of humans. Through exploring functioning and components of these fragile ecosystems, students will develop their knowledge and understanding to assess the opportunities and challenges associated with these environments. This unit is not only essential in providing students with the knowledge and skills to access their GCSE but also, in providing an opportunity for them to consider the impact that their actions may have in contributing to the destruction of these environments.
	EPR	Unit of Work: Can war ever be justified? Why are we learning this? There are many different reasons why countries go to war and differing opinions on the need to fight. The Bible, and other Holy books, detail calls to fight for God enabling discussion around whether it is ever right to go to war. Through the study of this unit, students will be provided an opportunity to explore different reasons around calls to fight and why some people have followed this need to fight, whilst others have not. As part of this unit themes of forgiveness and reconciliation will be explored.
	PE	Unit of Work: Promoting a lifelong enjoyment in sport and develop the understanding of careers and opportunities in sport Why are we learning this? Each class will choose at least 2 sports each term from the categories of Games, Aesthetics, Fitness, Leadership or Alternative Sports. Autumn Sports such as Rugby, Football, Basketball, Netball, Table Tennis, Fitness and Dance are some of the options they can choose. The reason the students choose their sports is to allow them to experience the sports they enjoy and develop their skills in these sports so they can participate in these sports beyond their time at TCS.

For Option Subjects please see the road maps on the school website.



Curriculum Update



We have been working hard on mapping our **Year 11** curriculum so that you have a better understanding of what students will be learning each half term. Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months.

PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
•Managing transition to Year 11 •New opportunities •Preparing for adult life	•The Best Version of You: Our values •Celebrating difference: LGBT & Black history month, adoption week (October)	•Plymouth University Taster Trip •Extra-curricular programme launched •Year 11 Success Evening •Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh •Launched •Netball South Devon tournaments	• Devon Partnership Trust Careers Workshops

	Core	Unit of Work
Year 11 Autumn 1	English	Unit of Work: Macbeth Why are we learning this? This scheme of learning is designed to provide Year 11 students with a thorough understanding of the plot, themes, and key quotations from "Macbeth." It is strategically placed in the English Curriculum to prepare students for their GCSE English Literature exams and to enhance their critical thinking, analytical skills, and appreciation of Shakespearean tragedy.
	Maths (F)	Unit of Work: Fractions, multiples and primes, Expressions, Solving Simultaneous Equations, Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry Why are we learning this? The year 11 Autumn term sees students nearing the end of their maths journey. Over the last 4 years students have secured knowledge and built upon it so that they can be successful at the final most challenging units. Here students finalise their fractional knowledge, consolidate their understanding of right-angled triangles together with the hardest algebra the Foundation GCSE offers.
	Maths (H)	Unit of Work: Surds, Algebraic fractions, Quadratic and Simultaneous Equations Why are we learning this? The highest GCSE topics are extremely challenging and a student's journey over the last 4 years has prepared them well for this year. Surds and solving the hardest versions of algebraic equations are now appropriate to be covered and pave the way forwards to KS5 where these skills are further built upon.
	Science	Unit of Work: Inheritance, evolution and variation Why are we learning this? During this unit students will learn about the two types of cell division, mitosis and meiosis, and how mutations occur. They will then learn how these gene mutations can lead to variation amongst a species, genetic disorders which can be inherited, the evolution of species, and the control of gene expression.



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	Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
	History	Unit of Work: Period Study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 Why are we learning this? The global landscape of geopolitics has always been contentious as alliances have shifted as a result of changing foreign interests. With a particular focus on the increasing tensions between America and Russia since World War Two, students will have an opportunity to further examine divisions between Eastern and Western Europe. This unit is not only essential in providing students with the knowledge and skills to access their GCSE but also develops and deepens their understanding of current global affairs.
	Geography	Unit of work: Changing Economic World Why are we learning this? In this final unit students of the GCSE course students will begin by examining the global variations in economic development and quality of life, alongside the various strategies that can be deployed by countries to reduce the global development gap. By applying this theory to case study examples, students will be able to critically evaluate their success. This final unit concludes with a focus in the UK where students will explore the major changes in the UK economy and how this has affected employment patterns and regional growth. This unit forms part of their GCSE qualification for paper two, building upon their foundational knowledge from Ks3.
	EPR	Unit of Work: Is life valuable? Why are we learning this? Christian teachings tell us that life is sacred but at what point does life begin and when does it end? Regardless of faith, all of us will face death at some point and often people's approach to life is shaped by their beliefs around the end of life and what may happen afterwards. The very nature of this unit develops questions and generates discussion, allowing students to explore their own views and thoughts.
	PE	Unit of Work: Promoting a lifelong enjoyment in sport and develop the understanding of careers and opportunities in sport Why are we learning this? Each class will choose at least 2 sports each term from the categories of Games, Aesthetics, Fitness, Leadership or Alternative Sports. Autumn Sports such as Rugby, Football, Basketball, Netball, Table Tennis, Fitness and Dance are some of the options they can choose. The reason the students choose their sports is to allow them to experience the sports they enjoy and develop their skills in these sports so they can participate in these sports beyond their time at TCS.

For Option Subjects please see the road maps on the school website.



We have been working hard on mapping our **6th form** curriculum so that you have a better understanding of what students will be learning each half term. Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for Personal Development.

	PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
Year 12	- Being kind to our mental health - LGBTQ+ - Healthy, intimate relationships	- Super Curricular and reading culture - Ten Tors launched - Independent Study - Sixth Form – Role Model culture - Student Voice – plan and feedback	- Launch of Enrichment Programme: - Exeter City Football Development Programme - Fitness suite - Multi Sports - Cooking on a budget - Charity committee - School improvement project - Additional courses launched: - EPQ - Spanish Business - Army Enrichment – Role model culture and team work - First Aid CPR training – Jays Aim - Charity committee and Student Senior Leadership launched	- Apprenticeship Fair Bristol - Cardiff Met and NSSW Induction Day – Destination routes

For subject specifics please see the road maps on the school website.

We have been working hard on mapping our **6th form** curriculum so that you have a better understanding of what students will be learning each half term. Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for Personal Development.

	PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
Year 13	• Living in the wider world	•UCAS support – The application process •Reading for pleasure •1 on 1 intervention •Sixth Form – Role model culture •Student Voice – plan and feedback	•UCAS Enrichment Day – Applications and Student finance •Art and Photography: Eden Project Trip •Exeter City Football Development Programme	•Unifrog programme •‘Choosing a course/choosing a University’ workshop - NSSW

For subject specifics please see the road maps on the school website.

Curriculum Update



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Join In

You can find out more about each curriculum area by visiting the subject pages on our school website where you will find our Road Maps. These offer a brief visual guide to our curriculum showing the learning sequence that students will follow in each year group. Further information can be found in the detailed Curriculums Plans which outline the core aims, content and skills that students are taught.

<https://www.teignmouthsecondary.co.uk/the-tcs-curriculum/>

Staying involved in your child's learning, regardless of their age or the subject, shows you care and helps you stay connected to their school experience. Your involvement can boost their self-esteem and confidence, which are key to their success.

Another priority for the year is ensuring that our curriculum prepares students for a wide range of careers and pathways. We want our students to leave school ready to succeed, whether they continue into further study, training, or employment. Talking about future careers with your child doesn't have to mean deciding on one specific job straight away. At this stage, it's about exploring possibilities, raising aspirations, and helping them see how their learning links to the wider world. Here are some easy ways you can start these conversations at home:

Conversation Starters

- Ask your child what subjects they enjoy the most and why. How might these link to future study or careers?
- Talk about the jobs that people in your family or friendship network do. What do your child's relatives or friends enjoy about their work?
- Discuss your child's strengths and interests – are they good at problem-solving, creative thinking, working with others, or leading? How could these qualities be useful in different jobs?
- Look at news stories together and think about the range of careers connected to them (for example, in science, technology, politics, design, media, or health).
- If your child is learning about a particular topic in school, talk about the careers that use that knowledge in real life.

Useful Careers Websites

- **National Careers Service** – reliable, up-to-date information on hundreds of jobs, including skills needed and possible pathways. <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- **BBC Bitesize Careers** – accessible, student-friendly resources with videos, job profiles and advice. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>
- **Success at School** – guides and advice for students and parents, including links between school subjects and careers. <https://successatschool.org/>
- **CareerPilot** – particularly good for secondary school students, with interactive quizzes and future planning tools. <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>
- **UCAS – What Can I Do Next?** – includes the popular “Buzz Quiz” to help students think about careers that match their personality and strengths. <https://www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz>

If your child is consistently having difficulties with certain subjects, it might be time to reach out to their teachers. Early intervention can lead to additional support and resources, helping your child overcome them before they become overwhelming.

If you need to contact any of your child's teachers, then all staff email addresses can be found on the school website via: <https://www.teignmouthsecondary.co.uk/general-information/staff-list/>