

Curriculum Update Spring 1

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to making 2026 the best year yet at TCS.

The curriculum at TCS is designed as a continuous journey from Year 7 to Year 13, with clear progression in knowledge, skills, and disciplinary understanding. Students move from foundational learning to more complex, specialised study, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to achieve their potential. Our curriculum is ambitious in the knowledge it offers, inclusive in the support it provides, and connected in the way it develops understanding over time.



Work Hard



Be Kind



Join In

We take pride in the professional development opportunities that we provide for staff so that they can become the best versions of themselves and best support the young people who we work with. This term staff continue their professional development sessions on meeting the needs of all of students by looking at how we use a graduated response to support students in the classroom. Staff have been working hard on how to remove barriers to learning so that all students can excel in the classroom and how they adapt their provision. Our subject teams have also been working on how we use disciplinary literacy within the curriculum. This refers to the specific reading, writing, speaking and thinking skills that are necessary for understanding and engaging with a particular subject. Each subject has its own specialised language that students need to be able to understand in order to be successful learners.

At the end of this half term we are looking forward to our upcoming Trust Development Day on the 13th February when all the schools in the Ivy Education Trust have chance to come together and work collaboratively to shape our futures. Our aim for the day will be “One Trust: doing more together, doing more the same”. As part of this day staff will have chance to attend a number of workshops and also to listen to our key note speaker Hywel Roberts who will be focussing on professional “botherdness” and how we can better support every child. We are excited to learn more

The spring term is always a busy point in the calendar for our Year 9 and Year 11 students as they begin to think more carefully about their next steps and the courses they may wish to study in the future. We look forward to welcoming all Year 9 students and parents/carers to our Preferences Evening, where they can explore the full range of Key Stage 4 courses available at TCS and learn how different choices can link to future pathways and opportunities. For our Year 11 students, who have already attended the Post-16 Options Evening, each will now take part in a Futures Interview to help them narrow down the subjects they would like to progress to. The information gathered from these conversations helps us to construct the timetable for the following academic year. This approach enables us to support as many students as possible in studying their first-choice subjects.

Our Year 11 students will also be sitting their PPEs. These mock exams are designed to replicate the final GCSE examinations as closely as possible. Students complete them in our exam halls and under formal invigilation so that they can become familiar with the experience. PPEs also provide a valuable opportunity for students to identify their strengths and areas for development as we move towards the exam season. We continue to run a series of after-school sessions for Year 11 and encourage as many students as possible to attend.

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/>

	PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
Year 10 Spring 1	- Preparing for Work Experience - Wellbeing in the Workplace - Contraception, sexual health and ending relationships	Making a difference to our community and the wider world	- Drama Production: Beauty and the Beast - Six Nations rugby match England v Italy - Plymouth University – Journalism taster day - Ski Trip – Austria	Apprenticeship week – Guest Speakers

	Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
Year 10 Spring 1	English	Unit of Work: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by J. B. Priestley Why are we learning this? This unit is the key modern text for the English Literature GCSE. Students look at characterisation, themes, stagecraft and the writer's political message. The unit builds on many skills and ideas covered in our ks3 curriculum. We also work on essay writing skills and there will be an assessment, graded at GSCE level, at the end of this unit.
	Maths	Unit of Work: Linear graphs, Real-Life graphs, Set notation, Tree diagrams, Density and Pressure Why are we learning this? The combination of lines graphically and algebraically have been explored in year 9. Now sees the time to build upon those by working with parallel and perpendicular lines. This reaches the pinnacle of grade 9 work in year 11. Our work with Data allows us to be able to access Venn diagrams and set notation to be able to describe data sets as well as using tree diagrams to explore more complicated statistical ideas.
	Science	Unit of Work: forces and motion Why are we learning this? Learning about forces and Newton's laws helps students understand how objects move and interact with forces. These laws form the foundation of classical physics, essential for studying motion, energy, and equilibrium. This knowledge is crucial for everyday applications and advanced topics in engineering, technology, and space exploration.
	History	Unit of Work: Elizabethan England, 1558-1588 Why are we learning this? The unit unfolds by exploring the issues faced around Elizabeth's legitimacy and her attempts to quell religious tension within England. The unit moves onto to detail challenges that were faced by Elizabeth I, especially in relation to Spain, which culminated in the Spanish Armada. Finally, the unit ends with a delve into Elizabethan society, as students learn more about education, the reasons for exploration and the attempted colonisation of Virginia.

	Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
	Geography	Unit of Work: Urban Issues and Challenges Why are we learning this? As population increases this creates particular challenges for urban spaces such as Nigeria and the UK. Through exploring the reasons for these challenges, students will begin to examine sustainable and alternative futures within these two locations. This unit is not only essential in providing students with the knowledge and skills to access their GCSE but also in giving an opportunity for them to consider how they can live more sustainably.
	PE	Unit of Work: Each class will choose at least 2 sports each term from the categories of Games, Aesthetics, Fitness, Leadership or Alternative Sports.

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

	PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
Year 11 Spring 1	- Volunteering, paid work and money - Maintaining mental health, challenges and seeking help	Making a difference to our community and the wider world	External Speaker: MADE Study Support Plymouth University – Journalism taster day Ski Trip - Austria	Apprenticeship week – Guest Speakers

	Unit of Work
English	Unit of Work: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives Why are we learning this? This unit addresses the reading section for paper two of the English Language GCSE. Students compare two writers' viewpoints on a similar topic and then analyse how the writers construct that viewpoint using various methods. We also look at how the context of the text influences the writer – why does it matter when the text was written and who wrote it? To be successful in this section of the exam paper, knowing which skills are being assessed for each question and how long each question should take is crucial, and this unit covers these sort of exam technique matters in addition to the content of the questions.
Maths	Unit of Work: Higher will cover: - Conditional Probability, Linear and Quadratic Inequalities, Functions, Iterative formulae, proof, and non-linear graphs Why are we learning this? This term sees the conclusion of the Higher Scheme of Work. The final few areas are accessible, and we can trace their roots right back to year 7. Students understanding of algebra is such that the most complex skills surrounding function can be accessed. Any mathematician aspires to be able to prove their work, year 11 is the beginning where students start to seen how proofs are constructed. Unit of Work: Foundation will cover– Probability, Linear Inequalities, Vectors, Percentage change, standard form, sequences and equations of straight line graphs. Why are we learning this? This term sees the conclusion of the Foundation Scheme of Work. The final few grade 5 topics are now introduced, and students have developed their skills in number, shape and algebra over a long period of time to arrive at this point.
Science	Unit of Work: Ecology Why are we learning this? This unit helps students understand how living organisms interact with each other and their environment. This knowledge is essential for understanding ecosystems, biodiversity, and environmental issues like climate change and pollution. It also promotes awareness of sustainability and the importance of preserving natural resources.
History	Unit of Work: Weimar and Nazi Germany Why are we learning this? The final unit of study within GCSE History is Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939. Students will begin by exploring the origins of the Weimar Republic in 1918; this will include economic, political and social problems that politicians faced after World War One. Next, students will analyse the rise of the Nazi Party during the 1920's and understand the reasons for Hitler's election in 1933. Students will examine what life was like in Nazi Germany and learn more about policies directed towards the young, women and minority groups. Throughout this unit, students will be developing their source skills as well as interrogating and investigating arguments made within interpretations. The purpose of this is to prepare students to evaluate sources and/or interpretations as this skills is a key component of this paper.

	Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
	Geography	Unit of Work: Challenge of Resource Management Why are we learning this? As our global population increases and there is greater global affluence, the demand for resources is increasing putting greater strain on the availability of food, water and energy. Through exploring the reasons for increasing pressures and solutions, students begin to examine themes such as sustainability and alternative futures. 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 how they can live more sustainably.
	PE	Unit of Work: Each class will choose at least 2 sports each term from the categories of Games, Aesthetics, Fitness, Leadership or Alternative Sports.

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

Curriculum Update



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 Spring 1	•Networking •Wellbeing at Work and good employers •Living Independently and Travel	•Made – Revision Skills ahead of BTEC exams •Tutorial: •Motivation for learning •Responding to feedback •Resilience •Learning effectively •Apprenticeships •Assembly: •Work experience	•Exeter Quayside Fieldtrip Geography •Ski Trip – Austria •Six Nations International fixture •Student volunteer week •Life chance Trust – extractions, targeted student support	•Student mock interviews – external employers •CV writing work shop - NSSW •Interviews workshop – NSSW •Work Experience support sessions for individuals •National apprenticeship week
Year 13 Spring 1	• Financial Planning for the Future • Testicular Health • Breast Cancer Awareness	•Responding to feedback (following PPE results) •Made – Revision Skills ahead of BTEC exams •Uplearn – Science and Maths •Student finance support •Tutorial: •Changing habits •Your digital footprint •Procrastination •Work ethic	•Art and Photography – Trip to Venice •Ski Trip – Austria •Student volunteer week	•Level 2 Careers appointments Careers South West •Unifrog Programme

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



Teignmouth Community School



Curriculum Update



**Work
Hard**



Be Kind



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.

All students in Years 8 to 13 now have access to **Unifrog**, an online platform designed to help them explore their next steps and understand the wide range of career pathways available to them. Unifrog brings together information on further education, apprenticeships, university courses, and different career routes all in one place, making it easier for students to research and compare their options.

Some of the most useful features include:

- **Personality and interest quizzes** that help students identify possible careers suited to their strengths.
- **Detailed career profiles** explaining what different jobs involve, the skills required, and potential salary ranges.
- **Post-16 and Post-18 course information**, enabling students to explore sixth-form subjects, apprenticeships, and university courses.
- **Support with applications**, including guidance on writing personal statements and CVs.

Students will also be using Unifrog as part of their **PSHE curriculum**, where they will complete activities that encourage them to think about their aspirations, develop key skills, and plan for their future. We encourage parents and carers to ask their child about Unifrog and explore the platform with them at home.

All of our Year 10 students have the opportunity to take part in a week of work experience, giving them valuable insight into the world of work. This allows them to step outside the classroom, develop independence, and gain a clearer sense of the types of careers that might interest them. Work experience also helps students build important skills such as communication, teamwork, and time management, while giving them a taste of real workplace expectations. Many students find that the week boosts their confidence and helps them think more carefully about their future choices.

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>