

Curriculum Update Summer 1

As we move into the final term of the academic year, there is a great deal happening across the school curriculum. Our Year 11 students are now approaching their examination season. To support them in achieving their very best outcomes, we will be moving away from the normal timetable and introducing a bespoke programme. This allows students to attend carefully planned “impact sessions” immediately before each exam. These focused sessions are designed to revisit key knowledge, build confidence, and ensure students feel fully prepared as they enter the exam hall.

We are also delighted to welcome the next cohort of Year 7 students and their families. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the Welcome Evening to begin building relationships ahead of September. We look forward to seeing students again at our taster day and welcome picnic in July.



Work Hard



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Join In

Our curriculum extends well beyond the classroom, and we are proud of the wide range of enrichment opportunities available to students. A particularly exciting recent addition is the TCS Music Academy. This initiative offers students the chance to learn a musical instrument in small groups, as well as to collaborate with others through ensemble and sectional rehearsals. We are especially pleased that this opportunity is open to students from Year 4 upwards, allowing us to work in partnership with our local community and inspire younger learners. We look forward to seeing this develop and to celebrating students' achievements.

Our Modern Foreign Languages team recently hosted a “Boost Your Grade” workshop for Year 10 and Year 11 students and their parents. This hands-on session provided practical strategies that can be used at home to support revision, particularly in developing vocabulary, speaking confidence, and effective recall techniques.

It was fantastic to see families engaging with the activities and working alongside one another. Events like this highlight just how impactful parental support can be. When students, families, and teachers work together, it significantly enhances students' confidence and their ability to succeed in exams.

We continue to benefit from the support of a strong and committed governing body. School governors are volunteers who work closely with school leaders to both support and challenge, ensuring that the school continues to improve and provide the best possible education for our students. They regularly visit the school to meet with staff and students and gain a first-hand understanding of school life. Last half term, two of our governors carried out student voice activities focused on the curriculum. They met with students from Years 7–10 and the Sixth Form to explore what they have been learning, how teachers support them, and what helps them to succeed. They also discussed how the school fosters a sense of belonging within our community, which remains a key priority for us.

Our staff continue to develop their practice through high-quality professional development. Recently, teachers have been focusing on strategies such as the use of mini whiteboards to check for understanding and “turn and talk” to increase student participation and engagement. In addition, all teaching staff are supported by an instructional coaching programme, where they receive regular lesson visits and personalised feedback. This ensures that our teachers continue to refine their practice and provide high-quality learning experiences for all students.

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/>

Curriculum Summer 1			
  			
Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for Year 10 (Summer 1)			
PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
- Valuing Diversity - Understanding and Preventing Extremism - How people are drawn into extremism	Overcoming Adversity: World Refugee Day, Helen Keller Day	- Charity Committee – Beach clean - Sports Marathon – Charity Event - Rounders South Devon Competition	Mock Interviews
Subject (Core)	Unit of Work		
English	Power & Conflict Poetry: Why are we learning this unit? This is the exam board's (AQA) anthology of poetry which is part of the English Literature GCSE. This unit involves studying 15 poems all linked by ideas about power and conflict. Students will look at meaning, language, form and structure, and how to write about these 'ingredients' of poetry in an analytical essay where they compare 2 poems.		
Maths	Sequences Foundation - Arithmetic/Geometric Higher - Quadratic, Proportion – Direct and inverse proportion Transformations: Foundation - Combined transformations Higher – Enlargement by a negative scale factor Error intervals Foundation – Finding error intervals Higher – Finding bounds for calculations Why are we learning this unit? Up until this point a student's journey through the different mathematical topics from year 7 – 10 has been consistent. At this point in the curriculum the maths scheme of work diverges into its Higher and Foundation Tiers. Under these topic headings students will study different levels of the same skills. The grade 6,7,8,9 skills have been saved until this point where the curriculum diverges.		
Science	Inheritance Why are we learning this unit? We learn about inheritance to understand how traits pass from parents to offspring. It explains genetic variation, inherited disorders like cystic fibrosis, and how species evolve through natural selection. Inheritance also links to selective breeding and advances in genetic engineering and medicine. This knowledge is essential for understanding biology, medical research, and future scientific developments. Studying inheritance helps us explore the role of genes in life and health.		

Subject (Core)	Unit of Work
History	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.
Geography	Physical Landscapes in the UK Why are they studying this? This unit will explore the varied landscapes of the UK, with a particular focus on rivers. As part of this unit, students will explore the formation of differing landforms, drawing upon real life examples. This unit forms part of their GCSE qualification for paper one, building upon their foundational knowledge from Ks3. As part of this unit, students will undertake a piece of coastal fieldwork meaning that the placement of this unit is at an ideal time to facilitate this.
PE	Every group choses the sports they do in their PE lessons for the term. Y10 will be able to choose from Rounders, Softball, Football, Athletics, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, Kinball, Short Tennis, Fitness.

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

Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for Year 11 (Summer 1).

PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
- Revision Strategies 1 - Revision Strategies 2 - Revision Strategies 3	Overcoming Adversity: World Refugee Day, Helen Keller Day	- How to revise effectively – workshops - Life chance Trust –targeted student support - Rounders South Devon Competition	CSW appointments

Subject	Unit of Work
English	REVISION - All course content has been covered by this point and we will use this half term to revise. Although specific to each class, there are common areas that the whole year group will focus on. As an example, the first 2 weeks will be spent revising and assessing the reading sections of the English Language GCSE papers, as these are the areas we have identified as needing focus (based on data from PPEs and class teachers). You will receive an email before the start of summer term outlining the range of revision opportunities available to year 11 students.
Maths	REVISION Now that the curriculum has all been taught, students will now prepare for the Summer Exams. Revision in maths takes many forms. Students will see: - Staff reteaching areas of weakness identified from summative exam data - Staff teaching a topic which frequently is examined and ensuring that every student has mastered that skill - Staff using exam papers and mark schemes in lessons - Staff using resources which present students with a wide variety of questions from several topics At home students are expected to use: https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/ to revise specific skills with video support https://sparxmaths.com/ to revise specific skills with video support https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/papers.php to complete past papers, mark past papers and watch the videos to support.
Science	Revision and mock improvement - Now that all the content has been taught, and the pupils have taken their last PPE exams, we are now preparing for the upcoming GCSE's. Summer 1 will be spent preparing for the first papers (Biology 1, Chemistry 3, Physics 5). A list of topics can be found in the front of the revision guides. In lessons we will - Reteaching areas of weakness identified from summative exam data - teach topics which are frequently examined - Practice past paper questions

Subject	Unit of Work
History	Exam Preparation and Revision Why are we learning this? When students return, we will have finished teaching all the required content and skills for the four GCSE History units. This means we can begin focused revision in lessons. We will start by revisiting the key concepts and exam skills needed for Paper 2, helping students build confidence and refine their exam technique ahead of their GCSE's.
Geography	Exam Preparation and Revision Why are we learning this? When students return, they will begin examining the issue evaluation component of paper three. Students will be equipped with the skills to unpick the pre-released, enabling them to develop a critical perspective on the issue studied, consider the points of view of the stakeholders involved, make an appraisal of the advantages and disadvantages, and evaluate the alternatives. Once complete, we will revisit the key concepts and processes that underpin paper one and two, tailoring revision to focus on the areas that require further development following internal assessments.
PE	Every group choses the sports they do in their PE lessons for the term. As this is the last term of compulsory sport the key focus is sport for life and the importance of sport for mental wellbeing. Y11 will be able to choose from Rounders, Softball, Football, Athletics, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, Kinball, Short Tennis, Fitness.

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

	PSHE Lessons	Assemblies / Tutor	Events	Careers
Year 12	- Sexual Harassment - Coercive Control - Domestic Violence	- NSSW – Career talks - Summer Safety - Cancer awareness - UCAS introduction	- Paris trip launch – Voc Ed - Peru Launch 2025 - UCAS launch - Spring Formal	- CSW meetings - Level 2 Next Steps interviews
Year 13		- Revision focus - BTEC course work - Unlearn – Science and Maths	* Spring Formal	UCAS Support drop in's

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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.

Top Tips for Supporting Revision

1. Help them plan their time

Support your child to create a simple revision timetable that spreads subjects across the week. Short, regular sessions (30–45 minutes) are far more effective than last-minute cramming.

2. Create the right environment

A quiet, well-lit space free from distractions can make a big difference. Encourage phones to be put aside during revision time where possible.

3. Focus on active revision

Encourage techniques that involve thinking, not just reading. This might include: Self-quizzing, Flashcards, Practice questions, Teaching you what they have learned

4. Use school resources

Remind your child to use the materials provided by their teachers, including revision guides, online platforms, and past paper questions.

5. Encourage regular breaks

Breaks help students to stay focused and avoid burnout. A short break after each revision session can improve concentration.

6. Talk about what they're learning

Ask your child to explain a topic to you—this is a powerful way to strengthen understanding and identify gaps.

7. Support wellbeing

Ensure your child is getting enough sleep, eating well, and taking time to relax. Wellbeing has a direct impact on performance.

Talking About Reports and Next Steps

Your child has recently received their report, it is important to take time to review it together in a calm and positive way.

- ✓ Look beyond individual grades and discuss effort, progress, and areas of strength.
- ✓ Recognising what has gone well helps to build confidence and motivation.
- ✓ Help your child understand what they need to do to improve. Setting small, achievable goals can make this feel manageable.
- ✓ Ask questions such as: What are you most proud of? What did you find challenging? What will you do differently next term?
- ✓ Help your child see how their current effort connects to their future pathways, whether that be sixth form, college, or careers.

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/>