

Curriculum Update Autumn 1

As we begin another exciting academic year, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our students and families. We hope you have all enjoyed a restful summer break and are ready for what we hope will be our best September yet. Our staff are looking forward to seeing our students grow in confidence, develop new skills and achieve great things over the coming year.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 students and their families. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone and one that brings many exciting opportunities. We are delighted that you have joined the TCS community and look forward to supporting you as you settle in, make new friendships and begin the next stage of your educational journey.



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This year we are incredibly proud to have been selected as one of only twenty schools nationally to take part in the UCL Beacon School Programme, led by the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education. This prestigious project, led within our school by Miss Pilkiewicz, will support us in further developing the way we teach about the Holocaust and its lasting significance. Through this work, students will deepen their understanding of the importance of respect, tolerance and standing against prejudice. These are values that sit at the heart of our school and help prepare our young people to become compassionate, thoughtful global citizens who appreciate and value the diversity of the world around them.

One of the things we are most proud of at TCS is our commitment to an inclusive curriculum. We believe every student deserves the opportunity to study a broad and ambitious curriculum and to experience success across all subjects. We do not facilitate students dropping a subject because they find it challenging. Instead, we work alongside them to identify barriers, provide the right support and help them develop the confidence and resilience needed to succeed. If you ever have concerns about how your child is progressing in any subject, please get in touch with us as early as possible. Working together allows us to put support in place quickly and gives every student the best possible chance to flourish

Providing the very best education for our students begins with investing in our staff. Professional development remains a key priority and every teacher takes part in fortnightly instructional coaching, focusing on small, manageable improvements that have a significant impact on classroom practice over time. This continuous cycle of reflection, coaching and development forms the backbone of our professional learning and helps ensure that every student benefits from high-quality teaching every day.

We are also delighted to welcome three new members of staff to the TCS family. Miss Tanner joins our English department, Miss Curtis joins our Technology department and Miss Dundass joins our Maths department. We know they will be a fantastic addition to our team and will further strengthen the excellent provision available to our students. We wish them every success as they begin their journey with us.

Attendance continues to be one of the biggest factors influencing a child's success at school. Every lesson matters, and even small amounts of absence can quickly add up, making it more difficult for students to keep pace with learning, build confidence and achieve their full potential. Excellent attendance supports stronger academic outcomes, helps students develop positive routines and ensures they remain fully involved in all aspects of school life. We greatly appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping students attend school every day whenever they are well enough to do so.

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/>

Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for **Year 10**.

Assemblies	Events	Careers
•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	Unit of Work
English	Unit of Work: <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 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.
PSHE	Unit Of Work: Continuing to prepare for a successful career Why are we learning this? A successful career, whatever that looks like for you, is essential for future financial security and wellbeing. The earlier you plan, accepting that your aspirations will change over time, the better prepared you will be. This half term, in preparation for mock interviews and work experience later in the year, you will reflect on your journey so far, research employer profiles and make conclusions about types of careers that may suit you.



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.





Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for **Year 11**.

Assemblies	Events	Careers
•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
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: C6 rates of reaction + P6 waves Why are we learning this? In Chemistry, students will investigate the factors that affect how quickly reactions take place and explore how these ideas are applied in industries such as medicine, food production and manufacturing. In Physics, they will learn how waves transfer energy and examine real-life applications including sound, light, communication technologies and medical imaging.
PSHE	Unit of Work: Life-Long Wellbeing Why are we learning this? This unit builds on previous work on wellbeing to ensure that you have the knowledge and skills to cope with challenges in adulthood. The unit begins by looking at managing good and bad distractions and changing thinking habits. Work then continues next term. This term work is being supported by an extracurricular workshop with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST).



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Subject	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.

Have a look at what is coming up in the next few months for Personal Development in **Year 13**.

PSHE Lessons	Assemblies	Events	Careers
• 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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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.

One of our key priorities this year is to help our students see the exciting opportunities that learning can lead to beyond the classroom. Every subject has the potential to open doors to a wide range of careers, and we are continuing to strengthen the links between what students learn today and the possibilities available to them in the future.

Throughout the year, departments will be highlighting careers connected to their subjects, helping students understand how the knowledge and skills they are developing are valued in the workplace. Whether it is using mathematical thinking in engineering, creativity in the arts and design industries, languages in international business, science in healthcare and environmental careers, or history and English in law, journalism and publishing, we want students to recognise that every subject can lead to a variety of rewarding pathways.

Students will have opportunities to hear from employers, explore different industries, take part in careers-focused activities and learn about the qualifications and skills needed for a wide range of professions.

Parents and carers have a powerful influence on the aspirations of young people. You do not need to be an expert in careers to make a real difference. Here are some simple ways you can support your child:

- Talk about your own job or career journey, including how your role has changed over time.
- Discuss the skills you use every day, such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and resilience.
- Encourage your child to ask family members and friends about their jobs and the pathways they took.
- Help your child make links between the subjects they enjoy at school and the careers those subjects could lead to.
- Watch documentaries or news stories together and talk about the different careers involved.
- Visit museums, workplaces, universities or local events that introduce children to different industries and professions.
- Explore careers together using the "National Careers Service" (<https://reference-url-citation.invalid/0>), "BBC Bitesize Careers" (<https://reference-url-citation.invalid/1>) and "Success at School" (<https://reference-url-citation.invalid/2>) websites.