

## TO IMPROVE... (TIPS for Year 7)

### RE

**This year, in RE...** your child has studied the foundations of the Catholic faith through a discovery of Catholic beliefs about who God and who Jesus really are. They have inbuilt key terminology such as omnipotence and omnibenevolence into their writing and had the opportunity to study Hinduism.

**To consolidate** their learning, your child could continue to improve their evaluative skills through discussion of key world events, taking time to explore and reflect upon their own beliefs and independently researching any of the six world religions.

**Next year,** you child will explore three of the main six world religions: Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. They will also continue to build upon their extended writing and evaluative skills through structured model paragraphs in class and independently.

### English

**This year, in English...** your child has studied 'The Story' where all lessons have been focussed on understanding how writing and story-telling has evolved over time from cave paintings to Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' to Philip Pullman's 'Northern Lights'. Alongside this, your child has used these texts to inspire their own creative writing allowing them to put into practise what they have learnt about story telling.

**To consolidate,** 'Northern Lights' is part of a trilogy: 'His Dark Materials' by Philip Pullman. The second and third books in this trilogy would be a brilliant next step for your child's reading. It would also be beneficial for your child to continue practising their writing skills.

**Next year,** the focus of study will be 'The Form' where your child will learn about the various different forms that writer's write in including plays, poetry and different types of genre.

## Maths

**This year, in Mathematics...** your child has studied core aspects of the mathematics KS3 curriculum across number, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics. They will have been solving linear equations, manipulating algebraic expressions and delving deeper into topics that build upon their KS2 knowledge.

**To consolidate**, your child should recap and review their learning from this year by using our online learning platform Mathswatch and their most recent assessment feedback to improve on the aspects of mathematics relevant to them.

**Next year**, your child will build on the mathematical foundations set in Year 7 by exploring these core principles of mathematics in greater depth. They will revisit some key topic areas from Year 7, like algebraic manipulation, to review their understanding. They will also be exploring a new core aspect of maths: ratio.

## Science

**This year, in Science...** your child has begun their science education at St Peter's studying topics from across the 3 science disciplines. They have considered aspects of science from human reproduction to our understanding of the universe.

**To consolidate** their learning, they could spend time watching quality documentaries, there are lots available for free on iPlayer or listening to podcasts like "30 animals that made us smarter" that looks at how engineers are inspired by the living world.

**Next year**, they will build on their learning and hopefully get the chance to undertake more practical work. To prepare for this they could spend time attempting some of the "Kitchen Science" activities from the Science Museum.

## Geography

**This year, in Geography...** your child has studied the work of a geographer, the United Kingdom, Earth's story, how ice changes the world, how we use our planet as a natural resource, Brazil as a NEE and the importance of weather and climate.

**To consolidate their learning,** your child could practise map skills including scale and direction, measuring distance, grid references, longitude and latitude, interpreting relief on OS maps using contours, spot heights and layered colouring. In terms of knowledge, they should read and watch a range of media about geographical issues in the news such as climate change, plastics pollution and natural hazards.

**Next year,** your child will study population, coasts, global and development issues. They will also investigate how Asia is being transformed and the global economy. Therefore, keeping up to date about current affairs will help them prepare for this.

## History

**This year, in History...** your child has studied the Romans and Medieval England. They have learnt about historical concepts such as change, continuity and causation. They have also worked on extended writing and the use of primary and secondary sources.

**To consolidate,** your child could read more about the topics they have studied this year and those they will study next year. They can also listen to podcasts and watch historical documentaries.

**Next year,** your child will study the Renaissance, the Tudors, the Civil War, slavery, its abolition and campaigns for civil rights. Therefore, reading about these or visiting historical places from these periods would aid their understanding. Reading or watching the news to keep up with current affairs would also be advantageous.

## MFL

**This year, in Spanish/French...** your child has learnt to give personal information, talk about their family and pets and talk about their likes and dislikes regarding school and free time activities. They have also learnt to discuss healthy and unhealthy food options.

**To consolidate**, pupils could continue to revise vocabulary and structures using the knowledge organisers provided, as well as the study sets on Quizlet. They can also explore websites like Seneca Learning in Spanish, too, to revise the topics covered this year.

**Next year**, pupils will be learning to talk and write about the world around them: their house, their town and whether they like them or not, giving reasons for their opinions. They will discuss about what they already do to help the environment, and what they will do in the future, as well as their interests for future pathways and jobs.

## PE

**This year, in PE...** your child has completed a range of activities including Athletics, Football, Basketball and Gaelic Football, as well as understanding the tactical demands of each sport. They have also completed a range of theoretical concepts which has highlighted the main themes that underpin physical education.

**To consolidate**, your child should continue to take part in a range of physical activity over the summer holidays. This will not only improve their physical fitness but also their mental well-being.

**Next year**, your child will take part in a wide range of sports with a specific emphasis on individual skills as well as teamwork and tactical awareness.

## Music

**This year, in Music...** your child has studied the Elements of Music, Instruments of the Orchestra, Rap music, how to use a software programme called Bandlab, a pentatonic project on the glockenspiels and have recently started to work on their ukulele skills.

**To consolidate,** your child could continue to extend their listening and elements of music skills by listening to a wide variety of different styles of music - right from medieval to current day! They could maintain a listening diary to keep a record of the different musical elements they can identify within different musical genres.

**Next year,** your child will study a range of practical musical skills and be able to transfer a lot of the theoretical skills covered this year into practical ones. They will be using the keyboards and focusing upon Blues music and creating a 4-chord song.

## Drama

**This year, Drama...** your child has watched The National Theatre's *Peter Pan*, and answered GCSE based questions on the performance of the actors. We have read *Our Day Out* by Willy Russell and explored the characters and situations they have found themselves in. They have also had the opportunity to start some practical work, learning about the basic physical and vocal skills an actor might use, as well as some non-naturalistic performance conventions such as still images and choral speech.

**To consolidate,** your child could watch as much live theatre as possible, and there is some great productions on the BB. They could theatre themselves, telling stories and working with others to practice their creativity.

**Next year,** your child will have Drama once a fortnight, and will study themes such as eating disorders, safe driving, the environment and homelessness. Therefore, keeping up with current affairs, reading about topics that interest them and developing their sense of being a good citizen will support their learning next year.

## Computing

**This year, in Computing...** your child has studied E-Safety and explored how to stay safe online and keep themselves protected. They have also studied different programming fundamentals and developed small applications using Scratch and Python programming. This has helped them understand the logic behind computer science as well as expanding their problem-solving skills.

**To consolidate**, your child could continue to access free resources online, such as [www.programiz.com](http://www.programiz.com) and [www.w3schools.com](http://www.w3schools.com) to continue to develop their understanding of programming. This will also allow your child to get creative with computers and produce their own small applications. To further advance their creative side they could also use free software such as iMovie or Windows MovieMaker to create their own short clips.

**Next year**, your child will continue to study programming fundamentals. They will also explore other areas of computing such as encryption, hardware and software, how to develop spreadsheets as well as the ethical side of computing such as E-Waste and E-Safety.

## Art

**This year, in Art...** pupils have enjoyed more theory in their Art lessons. They have been limited by not having access to subject specific rooms.

**To consolidate**, the Art department would recommend over the summer pupils should be maintaining or working to build on their current level of ability by sketching things around them. They could use any media that they find exciting from pencil colours to more adventurous things like coffee or paints depending on what is available for them to use with permission.

## **Design Technology**

**This year, in Design Technology...** pupils have enjoyed more theory in their DT lessons. They have been limited by not having access to subject specific rooms.

**To consolidate**, the DT department would recommend over the summer pupils should be maintaining or working to build on their current level of ability by observing and discovering the things around them. They could research and find out about three things around their house or garden. (This might involve finding out how it, or a similar product, was designed and made, what materials have been used and how far it has come before going into the shops).

## **Food Technology**

**This year, in Food Technology...** your child learning has been focused on developing their understanding of topics such as hygiene and safety, healthy eating and nutrition.

**To consolidate** your child's learning, you could encourage your child to put their learning into practice by planning and preparing nutritious healthy meals for the family.

**Next year**, your child's learning will focus on developing their culinary skills by planning and preparing a range of nutritious and healthy dishes as well as covering topics such as food provenance and world foods.