



Year 13 Subject Leader Comments – Term 4

Subject	Subject Leader Comment
Art (Fine)	In Term 4, Fine Art students have been developing work on their external exam unit, 'Observe, Seek, Challenge' and have been working hard to ensure their sketchbooks are ready for the 15-hour exam from the 1-3 May. As part of the preparation period, students have had the opportunity to develop their own ideas and practical pieces from the individual tasks given weekly. The external exam is worth 40% of the overall grade and students have been encouraged to work quickly and at a high standard this term to ensure they show enough developmental work for moderation. The exam unit will be used in conjunction with the completed coursework unit to establish a final overall A-Level grade. This also forms the basis for our predictions as given in the report.
Biology	Year 13 students are all on course to finish the A-Level Biology syllabus either by the end of term 4 or early into term 5. The attainment for this report is their average test score covering all tests completed since Year 12.
Business Studies	This term students in Year 13 have been finishing off Theme 4 and therefore starting the revision process. The revision process will allow students to both request theory to be discussed and recapped, whilst also allowing ample time for students to complete exam style questions. Students will begin with a focus on Paper 3 as this is a style of paper that differs from Paper 1 and Paper 2. I wish all students the best of luck as they approach their A-Level examinations and implore them to engage in teacher materials as much as possible.
Chemistry	Students have continued to study the final topics in the A-Level specification. The attainment grade shown in the report is the average of the most recent end of topic tests in each side of the course.
Computer Science	As the time before exam leave rapidly approaches students in Computer Science have been putting the finishing touches onto their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) projects. It's clear that many students have put lots of work into their NEA and the marks will be given after the Easter break. This term also saw the end of learning new topics as the final topic on the Theory of Computation was finished. This allows around 2 months to go back and revise the harder parts of the A-Level in class. Of course, students should also be revising hard at home.



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Design Engineering	Over the course of the term, students have been working on completing their coursework for the Easter deadline. This has included the design of housings and PCBs, coding microcontrollers, manufacturing prototype parts of their projects and producing the associated write-up. All the tasks are being assessed in line with the Design Engineering specification.
Drama & Theatre Studies	This report is based on students work in Term 4 which focused primarily on essay practice for their forthcoming written exam.
Economics	This term the students focused on revision of Themes 1 and 3, including two timed full papers. We are in the long run into the summer exams but are in a very good place in terms of lesson time available for specific revision.
English Language	Students are currently working on their Non-Examined Assessments, developing their independent research and analysis skills. Once completed, our focus will turn to revision and final exam preparation.
English Literature	Students are currently working on their Non-Examined Assessments, developing their independent research and analysis skills. Additionally, they are reading and analysing the last of our core texts in preparation for the final exams.
Further Mathematics	Further Mathematicians have now finished the course, but the hard work is not yet over. They should be working in a focused and organised manner to identify areas of weakness using past papers and address them using more specific questions. Plenty of lesson time and teacher time is available to the students if they are driven and make the most of the opportunities offered.
French	In Term 4, students have studied the topic of 'Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power?' enhancing further their knowledge and understanding of culture and society in the French speaking world. The focus has been to develop skills and strategies for a variety of listening and reading tasks ready for the A Level exam. We have also continued to practise asking and answering questions on each of the topics in preparation for the speaking exam next term. They have studied the structure, style and literary techniques used in the novel ' <i>No et moi</i> '. The Term 4 assessment was a timed essay on ' <i>No et moi</i> '.



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Geography	Students have now completed all the required units for the course. They have now completed the Geographical debates part of the topic focusing on 'future of food'. This consists of studying the global food systems and the political, social and economic factors that influence food security on a variety of scales. They have also completed Human Rights with Miss Pollard.
German	During Term 4 students covered the topics of youth engagement and racism in the German-speaking world. For the literature element of the course, they further developed their understanding of aspects of <i>Die Verwandlung</i> . In addition, students continued with their research for their independent research project and essay and exam techniques. Grammar points covered this term were reported speech, using and translating the gerund as well as revisiting using different tenses and key grammar, such as relative clauses.
History	For Unit 1, students have been learning about the reign of Mary I and the extent to which her marriage weakened England. Students have studied the causes of Wyatt's rebellion and have begun to explore the religious and political reform of the period. For Unit 2, students have explored the causes and events of the Vietnam War. For Unit 3, students have concluded their study of King John, which marks the completion of the chronological content for the Unit. Students have begun to review the Unit from a thematic point of view and are honing their ability to respond to thematic essay questions. Students have completed their independently researched topic-based essay about the causes of the Pilgrimage of Grace, which will contribute 20 per cent towards their final grade.
Law	In Law, the first two terms of Year 13 were spent covering the substantive Law of Tort topics and the non-substantive aspects of the English Legal System for Paper 2. The Mock Exam in Law was last year's Paper 2. Towards the end of Term 2, we also looked at introductory aspects of Contract Law, and we have been building understanding in this area in Term 3. Contract Law is the substantive element of Paper 3A, the final paper that the students will sit in the summer. We should complete Contract Law by Easter, leaving just a review of the Paper 3A non-substantive topics, some work on Question 9 across all the papers (students can prepare part of this in advance) and revision across the papers prior to study leave. In response to the Mock Exam in Law, students have received AQA examiner guidance on that Paper 2 and exemplar student answers. I will be recapping Paper 1 topics in revision lunch-time sessions in Term 4.



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Mathematics	At this stage of Year 13 students have finished or are close to finishing the course and ready to start formal revision in lessons. It is crucial that work in lessons is backed up by similar time and effort at home. The attainment grade given on the report likely only represents the mock examination grade due to the limited amount of time since the mock.
Media Studies	In Term 4 students have finished off the last Paper 2 Section A unit and have moved into the final synoptic section on Long Form Television Drama. Here the students will be tested on their knowledge and understanding of the entire theoretical framework against two set texts. All NEA work has been submitted for final internal moderation.
Music	Year 13 have been focusing on their coursework this term, making sure their two chorales are complete and continuing to make good progress with the free composition. In addition, revision lessons have been taking place, with practice questions analysed together as a class. Finally, the window for recording performing coursework opened on March 1st, so the students have either begun recording their final pieces or have been practicing towards them.
Physical Education	The students have now completed the course and the grades listed in the report are based upon several areas of assessment. Firstly, exam based on Biomechanics and within the class for Commercialisation and the Media. These have been combined with their current coursework mark to form an overall grade.
Physics	The attainment grade for term 4 is based on the average of the two end-of-topic tests on the topics of Capacitors and Gravitational/Electric Fields.
Politics	Students are being prepared for three papers at A-Level. The examining body is Pearson/Edexcel. Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas. Paper 3: Comparative Politics - the Government and Politics of the USA. All three papers are taught concurrently. Each paper is worth a third of the overall result at A-Level. In Term 4, the students have been considering the key ideas, leading schools, and prominent thinkers of Socialism.
Psychology	Year 13 Psychology students have now completed the 'Relationships' unit and have started work on 'Issues and Debates', the final unit of the AQA Psychology course (which also functions as a unit of



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	synoptic revision). It looks likely that there will be around two weeks of class-time after this unit, during which we will be able to hone exam skills and practice questions. Crucially, these will not be 'revision' lessons in terms of reteaching content knowledge. This knowledge needs to be present already, and students should already be well into an organised and disciplined revision program. The Easter holidays represent the longest period of uninterrupted revision time that they have remaining, and it is important that this time is well spent.
Religious Studies	Students are being prepared for three papers. The examining body is Pearson/Edexcel. Paper 1D: Study of Religion - Buddhism. Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion. Paper 3: Religion and Ethics. Each paper is worth a third of the overall result at A-Level. In the 'Philosophy of Religion' aspect of the course, the students have been examining the nature and reliability of religious experiences. In the 'Religion and Ethics' aspect of the course, the students are presently engaged in a study of free will and determinism. In the 'Study of Religion - Buddhism' aspect of the course, the students have been exploring the issues that arise from being Buddhist in the modern world.
Sociology	Year 13 Sociologists have now finished the Crime and Deviance topic, in which they investigated the Criminal Justice System and approaches to the causes, types, and prevention of crime. As this is the last unit of the Sociology course, lessons will now be spent reviewing and revising content, to ensure knowledge is solidified and misconceptions addressed. In addition to this, exam technique will be honed and refined, to ensure that students are comfortable with the application, analysis, and evaluation skills needed for the summer exams.
Spanish	In term 4, our Year 13 students have studied the topics of the power of the trade unions and examples of protests and strikes in the Hispanic world. They have equally explored the theme of racism focusing on racist and xenophobic attitudes in the Spanish-speaking countries, measures to combat racism and existing legislation against racism. Our grammar focus was on the conditional, future tenses, use of "if" clauses + pluperfect subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive. The assessment in Term 4 consisted of a past paper 1 (Listening, Reading and Translation).