



# HIGHCLARE SCHOOL

## L4 Curriculum Plan

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This curriculum plan includes an outline of the topics and themes studied in each subject throughout the year. In addition to the subjects listed, Lower Fourth pupils also have Skills and Values sessions twice a week for half an hour, covering a variety of co-curricular areas such as character education and British Values.

The table below shows the time allocated to each subject per week.

Subject	Hours
Art	1
Design & Technology	1
Drama	1
English	4
Food & Nutrition	1

Subject	Hours
MFL	2
Geography	1
History	1
ICT / Computing	1
Mathematics	4

Subject	Hours
Music	1
Physical Education	2.5
PSHCE	0.5
Religious Studies	1

Subject	Hours
Science: Biology Chemistry Physics	3

All KS3 pupils have internal school examinations in all subjects (except Drama, PSHCE and PE) in the week before half term in the summer term.

In the case where a student has a clear aptitude for MFL, we also offer a second language using some of the flexibility in our Period 7 on the timetable, without impacting on their other subjects.

We hope that you find the plan informative and useful.

Mr M Coles  
Deputy Head of Senior School: Academic

# Art

## Autumn term

Developing key drawing and shading skills in a variety of mediums, and watercolour painting skills through exploration of Natural forms – bugs, fruit, vegetables, autumn leaves, nuts, flowers, shells  
Green-Man mask project  
Design and planning  
Construction phase – air drying clay  
Manufacture clay leaves and mask  
Assessed work  
Mark-making Bug Drawing

## Spring term

Green-Man mask project  
Decoration phase  
Paint techniques  
Development of a personal visual style  
Exploration of architectural photography and Photoshop techniques  
Assessed work  
Green-Man mask

## Summer term

Development of mixed media artwork linked to themes including animals, sea life, i, and environmental issues  
Assessed work  
'Time is running out'  
environmental issues inspired design (End of year exam)

Developing a personal project based on a generic theme and working in a sketchbook

# Design & Technology

## Autumn term

### Textiles

Machine skills  
Health and safety  
Use of sewing machine and open seams

### Photoshop

Repeating pattern Design using CorelDraw/Tinkercad  
Sublimation printing

## Spring term

### Textiles

Fastenings - Inserting zips, making, and evaluation of practical work.

### Logo design

Designing for a purpose. Hand drawing. CAD

## Summer term

### CAD/CAM

CAD product and logo design  
Use rotary cutter CAD.

### Introduction to Design movement

Research and present PPT of designers and design styles.

Throughout the year: Sustainability and the Environment

## Drama

### Autumn term

Characterisation – performing a range of different ages.

Vocal technique

Projection

Preparing for performance

### Spring term

Directing others

The importance of a director.

Abstract drama technique.

Theatre in Education: using the theme of anti-bullying

### Summer term

Devising for camera

Adverts

Presenting a TV show for primary-aged children

## English

### Autumn term

Baseline spelling and reading task

Creative writing and short stories based on gothic fiction

House poetry competition

Class novel: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

### Spring term

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by

William Shakespeare

Shakespearean sonnets

Study of Roald Dahl short stories

### Summer term

Creative reading and writing skills

School examinations

Spoken presentation to the class on a historical figure.

Study of poems 'The Charge of The Light Brigade' and 'Checking Out Me History'.

Weekly spelling test of 10 spellings and grammar task. Independent reading skills and writing challenges.

## Food & Nutrition

### Autumn term

Green section of Eatwell guide

Fruits and vegetables

Vitamin C

Potatoes

Cutting and peeling techniques

Ingredients from farm to fork

Christmas cookery

### Spring term

Yellow section of Eatwell guide

Staple foods

Rice investigation

Pasta

Eggs

Carbohydrates

### Summer term

Practical examination – 2 star chef award

Fruit

Practical demonstrations and practical skills lessons throughout the year

## French

### Autumn term

Sports and hobbies  
Online activities

### Spring term

Home town  
Directions  
Likes and dislikes  
Describing yourself and others

### Summer term

Holiday plans  
Buying drinks and snacks  
World Geography and French-speaking countries

## German

### Autumn term

Introducing yourself  
Describing yourself and your family  
Pets  
Sports and hobbies

### Spring term

Technology  
School subjects  
Describing a school  
Home town

### Summer term

Holiday plans  
  
Researching German-speaking places

## Geography

### Autumn term

Climate change and Earth's future?  
What is climate change?  
The evidence for climate change  
Causes of climate change  
Global consequences  
UK consequences  
Study of places impacted:  
Antarctica  
Attitudes to climate change in local areas – geographical enquiry.

### Spring term

Development and Trade  
What is development?  
How do we it?  
What are LICs, HICs and BRICs?  
Poverty and inequalities.  
Sustainable development  
Trade and its impact  
Study of a Place: Africa  
History, physical Geography and common myths  
Compare and contrast different countries in Africa  
Tourism in Africa  
Climatic religions  
Populations.

### Summer term

Rivers and flooding (field visit to The Wolseley Centre, near Rugeley)  
Rivers of the world  
Water cycle  
Drainage basin  
Course of a river  
How do rivers shape the land?  
What happens on a river bend?  
Flooding causes and effects  
MEDC country  
Project work on Wolseley Centre Trip

## History

### Autumn term

The Tudors  
The reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII  
The Reformation and its impact  
The reigns of Edward VI and Mary  
The achievements and events of Elizabeth I's reign  
Assessed essays on Henry VIII and Elizabeth I

### Spring term

The Stuarts  
James I and divine right rule  
Charles I and the English Civil War  
The rule of Oliver Cromwell  
Assessed essay task on the outcome of the Civil War

### Summer term

The Making of the UK  
The restoration of Charles II  
The later Stuart monarchs –James, William and Mary and Anne  
The Glorious Revolution and its significance  
The Industrial revolution

## ICT & Computing

### Autumn term

Spreadsheets and macro programming using Microsoft Excel  
BBC Micro-bit programming

### Spring term

Design a game or album cover using Photoshop or Illustrator  
Learning coding using Minecraft Education

### Summer term

Computational Thinking and Algorithms  
Python programming competition

## Mathematics

### Autumn term

Probability  
Indices  
Standard form  
Estimation  
Scatter graphs  
Area: parallelograms, triangles, trapeziums, compound figures  
Circles: area and circumference  
Volume and surface area  
Fractions and percentages

### Spring term

Algebra: Expanding single brackets, substitution, sequences, solving equations  
Transformations: reflections, rotations, translations, congruency

### Summer term

Travel graphs  
Scale drawing  
Bearings  
Polygons: interior and exterior angles

# Music

## Autumn term

Audiation and Dictation  
Vocal Skills  
Chords & accompaniment styles  
Developing Keyboard Skills

## Spring term

Ostinati in different musical styles  
(Tubular Bells / Latin Music /  
Pachelbel's Canon / Cup Song /  
Stomp! / Dance continued)  
Bass clef notation

## Summer term

The Beatles (primary chords, minor  
keys and ensemble performance)  
Group work project: 'The Band'

# Physical Education

## Autumn term

Swimming  
Netball  
Hockey  
Football  
Rugby  
Indoor athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball

## Spring term

Indoor athletics  
Badminton  
Gymnastics  
Health and fitness  
Netball  
Hockey  
Football  
Rugby  
Basketball

## Summer term

Athletics – track and field  
Rounders  
Cricket  
Softball  
Tennis

## PSHCE

### Autumn Term

What is bullying? What to do if you see someone being bullied. Who can you turn too?

Anti-social behaviour - what to do in intimidating situations and how to behave appropriately

E-safety

### Spring Term

Voting - Looking at political parties and what they stand for.  
Learning the process of voting and how this impacts the United Kingdom.

What is meant by prejudice?

What is identity?

Discrimination and equality

### Summer Term

Appropriate behaviour

Hygiene

Age of consent - why it is important to respect yourself.

My skills – Recognition of skills and what careers suit these attributes.

## Religious Studies

### Autumn term

Islam 2

Why do Muslims use artwork?

Why did Islam split?

What is the holy book of Islam?

What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

What is Hajj? What happens?

Why is Islam a religion of giving?

How is Islam portrayed in the media?

Judaism 2

Who is Abraham?

Who is Moses?

What is Shabbat? What happens?

Celebrations in Judaism – Pesach

Celebrations in Judaism - Rosh

Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Key word mini assessment and prejudice and discrimination

### Spring term

Hinduism

What are Hindus key beliefs?

Karma and rebirth

Hindu scriptures

Forms and places of Hindu worship.

The Hindu moral code

Key word assessment and celebrations in Hinduism

Sikhism

What are Sikhs key beliefs?

How did Sikhism begin?

Who is Guru Godind Singh and what is

the Khalsa?

What is a Gurdwara?

What is Sewa and why is it important?

What is the Guru Granth Sahib?

### Summer term

Buddhism

What do Buddhists believe?

Who was the Buddha?

How do you reach enlightenment?

What does Buddhism teach about life?

Mini key word assessment and how do Buddhist's practice their religion?

Social Injustices

What is social injustice? How should we respond?

Who was Rosa Parkes?

Who was Martin Luther King?

Who was Mahatma Gandhi?

Pair/group presentation



# Science

## Biology

### Autumn term Health and lifestyle

This unit covers breathing and gas exchange, and the digestive system (both primarily in humans) and looks at the effect of diet, disease on health and disease.

### Spring term Respiration

A vital topic in biology that enables students to understand how energy is released from foods, comparing the processes with oxygen (aerobic) and without oxygen (anaerobic). Students will explore how anaerobic respiration is used in industry.

### Summer term Photosynthesis

How do plants make food? How are leaves adapted to being producers? Students take an in-depth look at photosynthesis to consider the chemical components involved, as well as the transfer of energy.

### Variation and Genetics

This unit consolidates student understanding of organism advantageous characteristics and enables them to learn about adaptations in terms of survival and thus learn about natural selection and evolution. Students will secure an understanding of the gene in relation to the component that codes for information in living things. Students are then challenged to explore how natural selection is used selectively in agriculture and rearing of animals.

## Chemistry

### Elements and the periodic table

Students will define and examine the terms 'atom' and 'compound' in detail. Students will have already been exposed to the periodic table in U3 but will learn about how the periodic table was developed over time. The unit explores trends in the periodic table and students will look at atomic structure in relation to protons, electrons and neutrons.

### Energy in reactions

This topic looks at fuels and the combustion of them, and explores reactions in terms of being exothermic or endothermic. This brings in ideas involving energy on a basic level, in preparation for term 2 unit of "Energy".

### Separation techniques

#### Metals and acids

Building on their previous understanding of matter, atoms, elements and compounds, students learn about crystallisation/evaporation, filtration, distillation and chromatography. Using these techniques, students learn how the nature of matter influences the technique required to separate them.

### Energy in heat transfer

Students build on their previous understanding of energy and look at how substances heat up. Students also make links between the properties of substances and their conductivity and resistivity.

## Physics

### Electricity and magnetism

Students learn about current and potential difference in a circuit as well as the underlying phenomena of resistance and its effect on current. Students investigate relationship between current and potential difference through a filament bulb, using ammeters and voltmeters to do so.

### Forces

Students learn about speed and motion, and how contact and non-contact forces affect motion. They investigate practical situations involving forces including those involving resistive forces and Hookes Law.

### Waves

Students investigate the properties of light waves and sound waves including reflection and the phenomena of refraction. Students are challenged to explain how dispersion causes a spectrum (*rainbow*) to form and also look at how coloured objects are observed. Students explain all terms in relation to energy transfer (longitudinal or parallel).

## Spanish

### Autumn term

Introduction to Spanish  
Classroom language  
Pronunciation  
Masculine and feminine  
Introducing yourself  
Name  
Age  
Birthday  
Numbers 1-31  
Classroom items  
School subjects  
Classroom activities

### Spring term

At School  
Grammar focus- regular present tense verbs  
Describing teachers (adjectival agreements)  
Justified opinions about school subjects  
Talking about and ordering snacks  
Numbers up to 100  
  
My Family  
Siblings  
Pets  
Physical descriptions  
Character descriptions

### Summer term

My Freetime:  
Activities (present tense)  
Telling time  
Sports  
Saying what you like to do (me gusta + infinitives)  
Future tense activities  
  
My Home & Town:  
Describe where you live  
Describe your house  
Describe your town  
Directions  
Making and responding to invitations  
Weather  
  
Research Spanish speaking towns/cities