



# Highclare School

## L4 Curriculum Plan

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

## Subject

### Autumn term

### Spring term

### Summer term

## Art

Developing key drawing and shading skills, with a particular focus on texture, in a variety of mediums including pen, watercolour and collage. Exploration of a range 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

Green-Man mask project continued  
Decoration phase  
Paint techniques  
Development of a personal visual Style  
Assessed work  
Green-Man mask  
Exploration of theme 'Environmental Issues' including Photoshop work

Exploration of theme 'Environmental Issues' including development of mixed media artwork  
Assessed work  
'Time is running out'  
environmental issues inspired design (End of year exam)  
Photography mini project – exploring use of angles to take interesting photographs of the environment

## Design & Technology

### Unit 1 – Gadget Stand

- Needs of the User
- Product Analysis
- Other research techniques
- Design Brief and Specification
- Design Ideas – sketching
- Design Development
- Materials Theory
- 2D and 3D drawing techniques
- 2D and 3D CAD
- Modelling

### Unit 1 (cont)

- Planning
- Manufacture
- Evaluating and Testing

### Unit 2 – Textiles

- Making a pencil case
- Fastenings

### Unit 3 – Sustainability

- 6R's
- Recycling
- Re-using
- Product Upcycling

## 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

## Subject

### Autumn term

### Spring term

### Summer term

## English

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

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare  
Study of Roald Dahl short stories

Creative reading and writing skills  
School examinations  
Spoken presentation to the class on a historical figure.  
Study of a range of war poetry.

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

## Food & Nutrition

Growth of microorganisms  
Food safety  
Food poisoning  
Taste testing

Healthy eating  
Nutrition  
Factors affecting food choice  
Fats and oils  
Protein

Cereals  
Where does our food come from?  
Food miles  
Food waste  
seasonality

Practical demonstrations and practical skills lessons throughout the year

## French

### **My local area**

What is in your town  
Giving simple directions  
Where you go at the weekend  
Inviting someone to a place  
What you can do in your town

**Grammar:** il y a/ il n'y a pas de.../ tu and vous/ à + definite article / vouloir + infinitive / on peut + infinitive

### **Holidays**

Describing usual holidays  
Getting ready to go out  
Buying snacks and drinks  
Revise higher numbers  
Talking about holiday plans  
Dreams for the future

**Grammar:** Nous form of verb/ reflexive verbs / near future tense/ je voudrais + infinitive

### **Media (T'es branché(e)?)**

TV & cinema  
Reading  
Internet  
What you did yesterday evening

**Grammar:** Revise present tense of regular verbs (ER/IR/RE) / Perfect tense

### **A trip to Paris (Paris, je t'adore)**

What you did in Paris  
When you did things  
Understanding information about a tourist attraction  
Where you went and transport

**Grammar:** Perfect tense of regular & irregular verbs/ perfect tense with être

### **My identity (Mon identité)**

Personality  
Relationships  
Music  
Clothes

Talking about your passions

**Grammar:** Adjectival agreements/ reflexive verbs/ near future/ Past, present and future tenses

### **Culture - Project work**

World Geography and French-speaking countries

## Subject

### Autumn term

### Spring term

### Summer term

## Geography

### **Climate change and Earth's future?**

What is climate change?  
The evidence for climate change.  
Natural and physical causes of climate change.  
Global effects of climate change.

### **Global Issues**

Plastic pollution.  
Ocean environments and Coral  
Sustainable tourism  
Tropical Rainforests and Palm Oil

### **Development and Trade**

What is development?  
How do we measure it?  
Life and Disease  
Reducing the gap – Aid  
Sustainable development  
Trade and its impact

### **Rivers**

Water cycle  
Drainage basins  
Rivers source to mouth  
Erosion and Deposition  
Flooding – causes and effects.  
Field visit: Carding Mill Valley

### **Place study Africa**

History of Africa.  
Human geography of Africa  
Physical geography of Africa  
Common misconceptions – the danger of a single story.  
Deserts  
Life in the desert  
Development  
Poverty  
Tourism in Africa

## History

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

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

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

Spreadsheets and macro programming in Excel  
BBC Micro-bit programming

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

Computational Thinking and Algorithms  
Python programming continued

## Subject

### Autumn term

### Spring term

### Summer term

## Mathematics

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

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

Travel graphs  
Scale drawing  
Bearings  
Polygons: interior and exterior angles

## Music

Audiation and Dictation  
Chords & accompaniment styles  
Developing Keyboard Skills  
Working as an ensemble

Jazz and Blues music  
Vocal Skills  
Bass clef notation

Digital Music (how technology can inspire performance and production)  
Rap Music

## Physical Education

Swimming  
Netball  
Hockey  
Football  
Rugby  
Indoor athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball

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

Athletics – track and field  
Rounders  
Cricket  
Softball  
Tennis

## Subject

### Autumn term

### Spring term

### Summer term

## PSHCE

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

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

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

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

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?

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

## Subject

### Autumn term

### Spring term

### Summer term

*The curriculum plans for science may be delivered in a different order to that shown, depending on circumstances.*

## Science Biology

### **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.

### **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.

### **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**

**Chemistry of the Earth:** In this unit students learn and understand about the chemical processes that affect our atmosphere and the balance that exists between human need for resources (through metal and mineral extraction) and the impact humans have as a consequence.

### **Review of key concepts:**

Students will revisit the topic of atomic structure and how this links to relative reactivity. Students will also review the organisation of the periodic table and how chemists communicate chemical reactions.

# Subject

## Autumn term

## Spring term

## Summer term

### Physics

#### **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 Hooke's Law. so.

#### **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

#### **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).

#### **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.

### Spanish

#### **My life:**

Pronunciation  
Masculine and feminine  
Introducing yourself – name, age, birthday  
Numbers 1-31  
Character descriptions  
Brothers and sisters  
Pets

**Grammar:** Adjective endings, tener,

**Culture:** Research Hispanic countries/towns/cities

#### **My free-time:**

What you like to do  
Activities you do  
Weather  
Sports activities (hacer / jugar)

**Grammar:** Me gusta + infinitive, present tense of –AR verbs, cuando + weather, the verbs hacer and jugar

**Culture:** Christmas in Spain, MFL house Christmas card competition

#### **My School**

Opinions about school subjects  
School facilities  
Break time activities  
Describing your school

**Grammar:** Regular AR, ER, IR verbs – different persons of verb, me gusta(n) + nouns

#### **My Family and friends**

Family members  
Physical descriptions  
Where you live

**Grammar:** Possessive adjectives, verbs ser & tener, verbs in 3<sup>rd</sup> person, verb 'estar'

#### **My town/city:**

Describing your town  
Telling time  
Ordering in a café  
Future tense activities

**Grammar:** Using 'a/some/many', verbs 'ir' and 'querer', near future tense

**Film based project work** – exploring Mexican festival 'Día de los muertos' through 'Coco'.