

What will I be studying in Year 7?

Art

In Year 7 we start by considering what Art is and how it is visible in the world around us. We make links to literature and look at the storytelling techniques of artists throughout history. You will have the opportunity to make collage illustrations. We will study the use of symmetry and pattern in Art and Design and you will be able to produce relief prints based on your own designs.

We will look at the importance of portraiture and consider its function and links to history. You will learn the proportions of the body and face and use these to produce portraits in the style of a number of different artists. You will have the opportunity to use photography and our Adobe computer suite to make your work as well as a range of drawing and painting techniques.

You will have the opportunity to make work for the House Art competition and to submit work for the Sutton Festival of Youth Art.

A protective garment will also be needed for work in Art & Design as the materials we use can be messy! We have some aprons in the department but you are welcome to bring your own. You will work on your artwork during lessons but will also require basic equipment to complete tasks at home. A set of drawing pencils, oil pastels and a watercolour set with paintbrushes will help you to complete homework tasks.

Biology

The study of Biology involves understanding the world around you and how your body works.

In Year 7 you will be learning about biologists of the past in 'Back to the Future'; how your body works in 'Inner Space'; animals and their relationship with the environment in 'Zoo' ; and lastly, you will tackle the outside world in 'Explorer'! You will learn about cells and microscopy, the characteristics of living things and how multicellular organisms are organised as well as mammalian reproduction, digestion and movement.

You will also develop the following skills: scientific literacy and numeracy by conducting investigations and collecting data; teamwork and participation by carrying out lots of group activities; reflective learning by self and peer assessment; creativity and independent learning by undertaking projects, making models and setting up nature trails.

Chemistry

The study of Chemistry involves learning about the substances that form all matter in the universe.

In Year 7, you will be learning about the way that particles move and interact in 'Particle Theory'; how we categorise the different kinds of particles in 'Elements, Mixtures and Compounds'; how we use experiments to separate different substances in 'Separating Substances'; how to identify different kinds of reaction in 'Types of Chemical Reaction'; and how acids and alkalis behave and react in 'Acids and Bases'.

You will also develop the following skills: scientific literacy and numeracy by conducting practical investigations and collecting and analysing data; teamwork and participation by carrying out lots of group activities; reflective learning by self and peer assessment; creativity and independent enquiry by solving problems in the world around us caused by chemical reactions.

Classics

The study of Classics involves everything to do with Ancient Greece and Rome. It also involves learning Latin as well!

In Year 7 you will be learning about Greek and Roman religion, what gods they worshipped and how they did this. You will also learn about adventures of the heroes that took part in the Trojan War such as Hector, Achilles and Odysseus.

In order to learn about the gods and heroes you will be introduced to the basics of Latin language. You will use these skills to translate parts of the Trojan War story such as the birth and judgement of Paris, the wrath of Achilles and death of heroes, the Trojan horse and the fall of Troy.

In Classics you will develop skills in Latin language, literary analysis, team work, creative thinking and debate.

Computer Science

You will be learning about the basics of computers and how they work. You will first be introduced to programming languages like Flowgorithm, where you will develop algorithms to solve simple problems. You will then learn some of a more advanced text-based programming language like Python. You will use online learning resources such as code.org. Together with this practical programming development, you will learn functional skills such as spreadsheet management and using word processors.

Python is the language that we will look at in most detail. In Python we will look at different data types, getting and using input from a user, writing 'if.. then...' structures and loops, and creating functions. We'll put them together into interactive projects and games!

If you want to get some experience of this material before starting, we suggest downloading flowgorithm and Python 3.8 onto your computer, and start exploring these programming environments.

Design & Technology

During your KS3 Design & Technology course you will:

- Learn how to use the Iterative Process of Designing (iPoD) to explore, create and evaluate solutions to problems that are fit for purpose and meet the needs of a range of users.
- Work with a range of resistant materials (wood, metal & plastic) and electronic components
- Use tools and machinery to mark out, cut, shape, finish and assemble materials
- Learn how to design & build electronic circuits and make electronic products that work
- Learn a range of Computer Aided Design (CAD) software packages
- Use a range of Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines
- Be assessed on knowledge & understanding through a range of short tests and longer project based assessments.

The Key Stage 3 Foundation Course introduces and develops the technological competencies below:

1. Resistant Materials Technology
2. ICT: Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture
3. Electronic Products
4. Graphical Design techniques

The Department enjoys 'state of the art' ICT facilities. All students will become proficient in the use of 'industrial standard' 2 & 3D Design Software Packages, including those used to 'drive' our computer guided laser cutter. During practical lessons you will use tools to form and shape woods, metals, plastics and components. Students will apply their knowledge and designing skills to produce three-dimensional products that work from their own specifications and drawings.

Drama

Drama is a practical, artistic subject; it relies on the human ability to pretend to be someone or something else. Your Drama lessons will ask you to use your imagination to explore how people in particular circumstances might behave, now and at different periods in history as well as in different societies. Drama will give you opportunities to experiment with voice and movement, and will help you in improving your communication and presentation skills. It will also encourage you to develop the fundamental skills needed to work well within a diverse group of people.

In Year 7, you will be learning how to:

- Express yourself creatively in ways that inspire and challenge you.
- Develop your speaking and listening skills in ways that have real purpose and meaning.
- Develop an understanding of a range of dramatic techniques.
- Work individually and collaboratively to create scripted and unscripted work, which maintain the attention of an audience.
- Extend your spoken repertoire by experimenting with language in different roles and dramatic contexts.
- Develop dramatic techniques to explore 'in role' a variety of situations and texts.
- Explore techniques and ideas for designing for performance.

If you are particularly interested in Drama, you will be able to get involved in extracurricular activities and have the option of choosing it for GCSE. We always put on at least one play each year, in addition to the House Drama Competition which takes place in the Autumn Term. We aim to provide the opportunity for all students to attend at least one theatre trip during each key stage at the school.

English

English at WCGS, despite the name, is about understanding different perspectives from across cultures and history. It's about learning where stories came from, how they evolved and where they're going next, and it's about finding yourself falling in love with characters, settings, histories and stories.

The study of English involves developing your personal, learning and thinking skills in addition to the reading, writing and speaking and listening skills that are specific to the subject. In Year 7 you will be learning about the global dimensions and the community in which you live, whilst exploring different text and writing types from across the breadth of literature, including drama, poetry, non-fiction and the 21st century novel, investigating these through different assessment modes and forms: not just writing, but speaking and drama too.

Starting with the earliest recorded literature from Ancient Mesopotamia, you will track the evolution of literature through the Greek tragedians, the chivalric knights of King Arthur and Chaucer and the works of William Shakespeare, before delving into the blood-chilling and bone-shivering world of Gothic horror. You will eventually work your way up to reading, debating and discussing some of literature's most engaging and exciting modern texts. Along the way, you'll begin to develop the skill of empathy and how learning about other's stories through the medium of literature can be a truly enriching and rewarding experience.

Food & Nutrition

In Year 7 you will acquire a broad range of skills in both theory and practical lessons.

You will learn about where food comes from, how to cook a range of dishes safely and hygienically and how to apply your knowledge of healthy eating.

You will be taught basic cooking techniques and methods and will take part in practical lessons once or twice a month. You will be encouraged to source your own ingredients and as the year develops you will be given opportunities to adapt standard food products with your own ideas. Learning how to cook is an important life skill and you will be encouraged to cook at home as much as possible in order to increase your confidence in practical lessons and also experiment with different ingredients.

French

The study of French involves learning lots of new French vocabulary, listening to short French passages, reading short French texts and writing small paragraphs or role-plays. Sometimes you may have to perform these role-plays or even give a short speech in French. You will also learn some French grammar and verbs. Finally, you will also learn about French culture and traditions.

In Year 7 you will be learning about a vast array of topics including: giving personal information, talking about where you live, talking about your family and pets, talking about festivals and traditions, talking about the weather, your town, the time, your school day and school subjects, food & drink and hobbies!

You will also develop the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. You will do this by completing comprehension exercises when listening to and reading in French, speaking French with a partner or to the class, writing mini-essays and role-plays, doing translation tasks from and into French and taking part in many class games.

Geography

The study of Geography at WCGS involves exploring a wide range of topics and learning a broad range of new skills to become an expert Geographer throughout your time as a pupil here.

The theme for Year 7 Geography is 'Amazing Places' and you will learn about many different places, cultures, processes and interactions. In their first year at school Geographers also have the opportunity to develop their skills in ICT, map reading, data presentation, GIS analysis and evaluation. Assessment in Geography takes many different forms, including decision making and extended writing, all of which are explained thoroughly and give students the opportunity to show originality and creativity. We will also have some opportunities for students to begin to develop their fieldwork skills.

In Year 7 Geography we currently study the following topics:

Coasts - Processes occurring along a coastline, different landforms and the processes involved in their formation.

Map skills - Different types of maps and how to use them, focussing on OS and GIS maps skills.

Africa and development - How Africa has changed over time, looking at the physical and human features of the continent and approaches to sustainable development.

Global Issues - Contemporary issues facing our world today.

History

History involves studying how people lived in the past to help us to see the bigger picture and to teach us how to learn from the mistakes of others. By being able to empathise with historical characters and situations you will be able to enrich your understanding of past events. Many of the skills needed in adult life are developed through a study of History; not least an inquiring mind.

In Year 7 you will study a broad curriculum involving some of the most famous stories of early British history. Starting with the Norman invasion of England and the Battle of Hastings in 1066, you will then move on to look at Anglo-Norman society, before looking at a broad range of events closely related to the changing experiences of the people, such as the murder of Thomas Becket, the implementation of Magna Carta, the impact of the Black Death, and the Peasants Revolt. Your year will end with a look at the important monarchs and events of the Stuart and Tudor periods, and the English Civil War.

During the year, you will also develop research skills, the ability to find and evaluate sources of information, and the means to identify and evaluate diverse interpretations. Work in History also improves basic writing and speaking skills. History is such a great subject; is there any other subject which can claim to be disgusting, revolting, rude, humorous, exciting, scary, inspiring, informative and fun?

Mathematics

If you enjoyed puzzles and problem solving in primary school, you will love the challenges in Maths here at Wallington. Not only will you be able to get your head round some mind-bending conundrums, you will also learn new skills that will help you develop your conceptual understanding and your problem-solving skills to a new level!

The main areas of Mathematics you will focus on will be algebra, geometry, numbers, probability and data handling. You will also be rigorously prepared for the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge, which you will take part in in the spring.

We have an explorative, creative approach to Mathematics at WCGS, where you will be supported in being creative thinkers and independent learners, able to discover things for yourselves. You will do a range of mini-investigations in year 7, such as describing interesting sequences and deriving formulae to calculate angles in polygons. You will also apply what you have learnt to real-life problems, such as calculating statistics from your actual year 7 PE data to determine which school house is the fittest.

By the end of year 7 you should emerge as a confident, capable problem solver, ready for even greater challenges! Thinking caps on...

Music

The study of music involves the development of three skill areas: performing, composing and appraising. The curriculum places an emphasis on creative music-making through performing and composing with these being further nurtured and developed by listening to a range of different music including popular and world music as well as vocal, classical and film music. In Year 7 you will be learning about the elements of music (rhythm, pitch, texture, timbre and dynamics) and the particular emphasis is on keyboard playing and singing. In Year 8 students will also learn to play guitar.

You will further develop skills by being involved in some of the extra-curricular activities that we have on offer: instrumental group, choirs, jazz ensemble, composing club and woodwind group. For the last few years we have taken the Upper Voice Choir to perform at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices Choir which was an experience they will never forget! We have also made musical productions in the past year (Oliver Twist! In 2020, Addams Family in 2023 and Peter Pan in 2024) and the Year 7 students have been able to take part too. There are also opportunities to perform in the school concerts during each school year.

There are several peripatetic instrumental teachers teaching a full range of instruments during school time on rotating timetables so that missing particular lessons is kept to a minimum. The form to request private peripatetic music lessons is currently being revised and will be shared with you as soon as it becomes available.

Music is now based in a new building since September 2019, with 1 large classroom with instruments and computers, as well as 5 practice rooms, as well as a studio room. Students are able to practice during school hours by using the practice rooms, we are able to teach many different ways and offer more to our students.

Physical Education

The study of PE involves participating in one practical core PE lesson a week to improve basic skills and fitness levels. You will also participate in one games session per week to improve the knowledge and understanding of rugby and other games.

In Year 7 PE you will be learning about the basic skills required to participate effectively in a range of different sports and activities as listed below. You will develop these skills and techniques, and learn how to apply them in different activities and situations. You will also start to understand what makes a performance effective and how to apply these principles to your own and others' work through self-analysis and peer assessment. You will learn to take initiative and make decisions about what to do in increasingly challenging situations which will allow you to begin to perform more effectively in competitive game situations.

In games you will participate in team sports, mainly Rugby, Cricket & Athletics. You will have the opportunity to represent your house in a number of different house competitions including Rugby, Football, Cricket, Cross Country, Table Tennis as well as the Assault course.

In PE and Games you will develop the following skills...

- Rugby – Passing; Running; Tackling, Rucks and Mauls; Attacking and defensive plays; Position specific set plays (e.g. backs moves; line outs; scrums).
- Football – Passing; Shooting; Tackling; Turns; Movement off the ball; Tactics and Strategies.
- Badminton – Grip and ready position; Serve; Overhand and underhand clear; Smash; Backhand shots; Drop shot; Singles and doubles tactics.
- Table Tennis - Grip and ready position; Serve; Forehand drive; Backhand drive; Spin; Singles and doubles tactics.
- Basketball – Passing; Shooting; Dribbling; Tactics and Strategies.
- Gymnastics/Dance – Movement; Capoeira; Rolls; Individual balances; pair balances; counter balances; counter tension; choreographing routines.
- Cricket – Grip and stance; Batting techniques; Bowling techniques, fielding skills; Tactics and Strategies.
- Athletics – Individual skills for the following events
 - Sprints – 100/200/300 and Relays
 - Middle distance – 800/1500
 - Throws – Shot; Javelin; Discus
 - Jumps – High Jump, Long jump & Triple jump
- Health and Fitness – Undertake the following fitness tests to assess different components of fitness.
 - Agility – T-test
 - Stamina – Copper run test
 - Muscular Endurance – Sit up test
 - Upper body power – Seated basketball throw test
 - Lower body Power – Standing Long Jump test
 - Co-ordination – Alternate wall toss test
 - Speed – 20m sprint test

Please see the 'Tackle Bag' information on the WCGS website for Games/PE kit requirements.

Physics

The study of Physics involves understanding how nature works, from the smallest scales for sub-atomic particles to the scale of the Universe as a whole.

In Year 7 you will learn about two of the most fundamental topics in physics: forces & motion and energy. At the end of the year we move onto studying space.

Forces and motion looks at speed, acceleration, and analysing graphs. The forces topic studies how they affect the movement of objects and why vehicles can only go so fast. In energy you will study the different forms of energy and how they are converted and then moves onto how heat is transferred between different objects. In the space topic you will learn about the solar system and the comets and galaxies beyond.

In year 7 you will complete lots of experiments, to test out your predictions and develop your practical skills. You will also develop the following skills: interpreting, analysing and evaluating data, presenting information, working as part of a team, problem solving and using mathematical equations.

Religious Studies

The study of Religious Studies involves:

- Learning about what religious people believe and do.
- Thinking about the problems and challenges of religion.
- Looking at different opinions on important real-world issues like justice, prejudice and conflict, as well as more philosophical issues like the existence of God or human nature.
- Evaluating religious beliefs – do they make sense? Is there enough evidence? Do we need evidence?

In Year 7 you will be learning about:

- The beliefs and practices of Christianity, Hinduism and Islam
- The reasons why religion plays an important role in our society today and the value that it can offer to people from different backgrounds.
- The potential dangers of religion, including intolerance, violence and the rejection of scientific discovery.
- How concepts such as evil, death and suffering might be seen to challenge the existence of God, and different people's response to this.

You will also develop the following skills:

- Debating and discussion skills, by taking part in small group and whole class discussions. This will also help to develop your listening skills.
- Teamwork skills, by working together to research, analyse and evaluate religious beliefs and the actions of religious people.
- Independent learning, by extending your learning with extra personal research and coming up with original arguments on religious issues.
- Creative skills, by using your knowledge and understanding to produce stories, artwork and models demonstrating the key ideas you learn.

Spanish

The study of Spanish involves learning lots of new Spanish vocabulary, listening to short Spanish passages, reading short Spanish texts and writing small paragraphs or role-plays. Sometimes you may have to perform these role-plays or even give a short speech in Spanish. You will also learn some Spanish grammar and verbs. Finally, you will also learn about Spanish culture and traditions.

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Wellbeing

Wellbeing education acknowledges and addresses the changes that young people are experiencing, beginning with transition to secondary school, the challenges of adolescence and their increasing independence. It teaches the skills which will equip them for the opportunities and challenges of life. Students are encouraged to manage diverse relationships and the increasing influence of peers and the media. Wellbeing education allows students to be more confident in addressing the challenges of effective learning and making a full and active contribution to society.

At Key Stage 4, students extend and rehearse the skills, further explore attitudes and values, and deepen knowledge and understanding acquired during Key Stage 3. Wellbeing education reflects the fact that learners are moving towards an independent role in adult life, taking on greater responsibility for themselves and others. Wellbeing education at WCGS is carefully tailored to reflect our students' needs and local priorities. Delivery is built around the three core themes of 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the Wider World'.

The Key Stage 5 curriculum focuses on readying our young people for independent adult-life. Following a similar framework to Key Stage 4 but with a heavier focus on ethical and legal implications of navigating the world as an adult.