READING SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE
KEY STAGE THREE

YEAR 7

Dear Parents,

In order to keep you fully informed about our curriculum, we have compiled a list of the topics which your son is expected to cover in each of his subjects in Years 7 to 9. In addition, during his lessons he has been introduced to the principles of 'Ready For Learning' which will develop and strengthen his capacity to learn. At Reading School we aim for all students to:

- Be resilient and rise to the challenges of learning and life;
- Be curious and balance logic with imagination;
- Be passionate and purposeful;
- Achieve excellence with integrity;
- Value learning for its own sake and for the benefit of others.

Here are some of the ways in which you could help your son develop as a successful learner:

- Create a comfortable learning environment at home and establishing good working habits;
- Engage him in conversations about his progress at school and support him in overcoming obstacles to learning e.g. time management;
- Provide opportunities to question and try out new activities;
- Encourage him to read for a range of purposes.

Our aim is to inform you of what your son is doing in order to help him to fulfil his potential at school and in the world of the future.

Yours faithfully,

Miss J. M. Capon

Assistant Headteacher (Key Stages 3 and 4)

Year 7 -Art

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Working with Bugs and Beetles Students learn to....	…shade using various materials and techniques. Look at the work of Max Ernst and create rubbings and frottage. Create templates for block prints based on African art.	All students complete a Year 7 base line 3D, drawing and written test at the beginning of the year.
	Make 3 dimensional sculptures using wire, newspaper, withies or found materials and research sculptors such as David Vanorbeek and kite designers.	A drawing test using black and white media.A4 size. 3D sculpture
	Learning the principles of colour theory using paint and pastel. Look at the work of Seurat.	Written evaluation at the end of the project.
	Look at pattern in nature, work with textiles. Look at Japanese art, and Batik.	A shaded self-portrait.
Portraiture. Students learn to…	…accurately draw portraits in a variety of media looking at the German expressionists and Picasso.	Gallery Visit. A portrait in colour.
	Learn to use digital media to take manipulate and distort photographs: Photoshop/Photoplus. Look at Francis Bacon. Andy Warhol.	Written evaluation.
	Making sculptures in paper and/or wire and found objects in the style of artist such as Alexander Calder and Naum Gabo, Peter Blake.	

Additional Information

All students will be expected to complete a Gallery Visit during the course of the year – usually during the Easter break.
Homework is set on a regular basis, these are all relevant to the project, some will be artist research, and some will be collecting materials.
During the course of the year, students learn to work together, and independently.
There is an Animation club which runs weekly, using programs such as Pivot stick figure and Flash.
The department and staff are also available/on hand for extra support and use of space.

Year 7 - Biology

Topic	Skills	Assessment
All topics	• Thinking Scientifically • Using scientific terminology • Scientific literacy	Each topic: Homework every lesson. Usually one or two graded pieces of work per topic. Usually an end of topic test.
Cell, cell functions and the characteristics of living things.	• Working critically with evidence • Scientific literacy • Thinking Scientifically • Using scientific terminology • Microscope use • Practical skill development • Understanding applications and implications of science • Creativity exercise • Research	
Variation, classification and keys.	• Using investigative approaches • Working critically with evidence • Literacy exercise • Research • ICT • Graph drawing	
Reproduction and growth.	• Working critically with evidence • Graph drawing	
Ecology.	• Using investigative approaches • Working critically with evidence • ICT • Working as a team	
Controlled assessment training for the future.	One extended investigation for feedback and training purposes.	
The order of the topics may vary.		

Additional Information

Standard homework will not necessarily be awarded a mark and hence is a 'can do task'.
A check is made on whether homework has been completed and on the quality of the work. This contributes to assessing the work ethic, enthusiasm and effort being shown by the student but also gives information on the organisational skills of the student. Peer and self-marking may be used. Comments may be written to the student. Students have a place to make self-assessment comments at the front of the book. Key pieces of work are graded and this should be clear to the student. Tests are also graded.

Year 7 - Chemistry

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Safety in the Laboratory	• Using scientific terminology • Practical skill development • Hazard awareness and risk assessment • Graph and data handling skills • Data recording and presentation skills	Poster on safety in the laboratory.
Separation Techniques	• Thinking scientifically • Using scientific terminology • Drawing accurate diagrams • Using investigative approaches • Working critically with evidence • Creative problem solving	APP task End of topic test.
Particle Theory and States of Matter	• Thinking scientifically • Using models • Drawing accurate diagrams • Using scientific terminology • Working critically with evidence	APP task End of topic test.
Acids and Alkalis	• Thinking scientifically • Understanding the applications of science • Further development of practical skills and safe working practice • Hazard awareness • Communicating and collaborating • Using data-loggers and precision equipment • Using investigative approaches	Assessed practical. APP task End of topic test.
Physical and Chemical changes	• Using data loggers • Modelling • Using scientific terminology • Observation, recording and classification	Classification exercise. One extended investigation for feedback and training purposes.
The air	• Working critically with evidence • Modelling • Using scientific terminology • Working critically with evidence • Extended research • Literacy	End of topic test.
Energy in Chemistry	• Understanding the applications of science • Using scientific terminology • Working critically with evidence • Thinking scientifically	End of year exam.
The order of the topics may vary		

Year 7 - Chemistry

Additional Information
Standard homework will not necessarily be awarded a mark and hence is a 'can do task'. Homework is not set every lesson but will include research tasks. A check is made on whether homework has been completed and on the quality of the work. This contributes to assessing the work ethic, enthusiasm and effort being shown by the student but also gives information on the organisational skills of the student. Peer and self-marking may be used. Comments may be written to the student. Students have a place to make self-assessment comments at the front of the book. Key pieces of work are graded and this should be clear to the student. Tests are also graded.

Year 7 - Classics

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Chapter 1 1st conjugation verbs; principal parts; present, imperfect, future and perfect tenses Chapter 2 1st declension nouns; subject and object and subject in the verb Chapter 3 Using all the noun cases; prepositions Chapter 4 2nd conjugation verbs and 2nd declension nouns Chapter 5 Adjectives; agreement of adjectives; puer and magister; Adjectives in –er; plural nouns Chapter 6 3rd conjugation verbs; questions in Latin; 4th conjugation verbs; the historic present Chapter 7 Mixed conjugation; Roman numerals; irregular 2nd declension nouns (filius, deus, vir) Classical Civilisation throughout the year The stories at the end of Chapters 1-10. Mythology taught at teachers' discretion from myth book (includes the creation myth, Prometheus, Orpheus and Eurydice, Daedalus and Icarus etc); Gladiators; the Roman Army; daily life; Roman house	• Learn new language • Learn and understand new elements of language (e.g. imperfect tense, principal parts, noun cases) • Memory recall • Translation skills – application of knowledge; analysis; logic; sequencing • Expanding vocabulary – derivations; links with MFLs • Start to develop skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation when reading/ discussing Classical Civilisation topics • Group / project work on Roman Army	After Chapters 1 and 2 have been taught: Assessment 1: Latin to English sentences (vocab boxes 1 and 2 must be learnt for this assessment) After Chapters 3 and 4 have been taught: Assessment 2: English to Latin sentences (vocab boxes 1,2,3 and 4 must be learnt for this assessment) Summer exam Pupils are examined on the language content of Chapters 1 – 6 (vocab boxes 1-6 must be learnt for the summer exam). They are also examined on the background stories at the end of Chapters 1-10
Additional Information Vocabulary and grammar are regularly tested throughout the year. Trip: Corininum Museum – Term 6. This links in with the Roman Army project.		

Year 7 - Drama

Topic	Skills	Assessment
1. Introduction to Drama	Use of voice to create character Use of mime to create objects Facial expression to communicate emotion/attitude Body language to communicate emotion/attitude All the above to create a character	Peer assessment by evaluating each other's performance Teacher assessment in feedback following performance Performance of polished improvisation graded using Drama levels as a baseline assessment
2. Non-naturalism	Body as prop Non-verbal communication Exaggerated performance style Soundscape Spoken thought Direct address	Performance of devised scene incorporating all the elements, graded and Drama level awarded
3. 'Joe' – Drama structure	Role play Using given circumstances to create a plot	Devised story incorporating specific pieces of information, performed and graded using Drama levels Performance of scripted extract. Drama level assessment
4. Use of space	Stage configurations Stage directions Blocking	

Additional Information

The Ready for Learning 'learning muscles' form an integral part of most Drama lessons as the boys always work in groups (Reciprocity), rehearse scenarios and evaluate their own and other's performances (Reflection), learn from watching others and from feedback (Resourcefulness) and build confidence through performance (Resilience).

Extra- curricular Drama provision: lunchtime drama club, run by year 11 drama students, Berserk Productions after school drama club focusing on drama skills and LAMDA examination.

Year 7 - English

Topic	Skills	Assessment
All About Me	Mind Mapping Structuring effective paragraphs using topic sentences and connectives.	Spelling, Baseline writing test Essay: All About Me
Transition to Key Stage 3	Understanding how a writer constructs a character, plot and setting, use of metaphorical language. Close textual analysis.	
Introduction to Shakespeare	Shakespeare's use of language and stagecraft. Effective openings, setting & characters to engage.	Crafting a newspaper article for a chosen play. Creating a foul recipe inspired by 'Macbeth'.
Reading skills	Decoding questions, selecting and retrieving information and understanding meaning through a writer's choice of language.	Reading practice papers
Studying a whole text: 'A Christmas Carol'	Changes in language over time. Dickens' language choices to convey meaning. Constructing characters, setting and plot. Close textual analysis.	Analytical writing skills
Myths and Legends	Descriptive writing skills. Empathy writing skills.	Transforming a classical myth.
Studying a play: 'King of Shadows'	Dramatic conventions. Use of language, structure and form to convey meaning.	Crafting an additional scene in the style of the writer. Speaking and listening
Poetry	Defining poetry and its conventions. The use of poetic language, structure and form. Textual analysis.	Poetry anthology. Using paintings as a stimulus for writing.
Media	Defining media. Use of codes and symbols. The use of USPs. Writing for a specific purpose and audience. Understanding persuasion and manipulative language.	Constructing an advertising campaign.

Additional Information

Opportunities for students to become involved in: Year 7 reading club; Reading School 2015 Book Festival; visiting poets and poetry workshops; visiting touring theatre groups; Rooted In Writing project; McIlroy extended writing competition.

Year 7 - French

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Term 1 : Encore Tricolore 1 Days and birthdays - Classroom language - Where do you live? -Family and pets	Basic language, presentation, Alphabet /pronunciation Learning vocabulary	Speaking
Term 2 : Start Studio 1 : "C'est perso" - Likes and dislikes - Physical description	Listening – gist and detail Speaking – social and classroom language Writing – building a text Grammar: all regular verbs er, ir, re in the present tense , avoir and être	Reading/Listening + Grammar (verbs)
Term 3 : "Mon college" - School subjects - Timetable -Au collège en France (educational system in France) - Food	Listening- gist and detail Speaking – using intonation and tone, using social and classroom language Grammar: revision of all regular verbs er, ir, re in the present tense , avoir and être , the negative , partitive article (du, de la, des)	Listening/Reading + Grammar
Term 4 : "Mes passetemps" - Hobbies - New technologies - Sports - Leisure and activities - Revision of opinions	Speaking – using prompts Reading – main points and detail, looking at text features, dealing with unfamiliar language Grammar: Near future (access to level 5), irregular verb "faire" and "aller"	-End of year speaking exam (modules 1 to 4)
Term 5 : "Ma zone" - Where I live (town/ village) - Giving directions - Things to do in town " 3,2,1,Partez !" -Talking about holidays - Reflexive verbs - Buy drinks and snacks - Saying what you would like using " je voudrais"	Listening – interpreting intonation and tone, identifying unfamiliar language, Reading – identifying the main points and detail, text features, unfamiliar language, text selection Writing – building text, different text types Grammar – consolidation of near future and set phrases about the past and future	-End of year exams (listening / reading and writing. Modules 1 to 6) Writing
Term 6 : Projects Poetry, using language creatively		

Additional Information

Throughout the year, we teach and reinforce listening, reading, speaking and writing skills as well as transcription and translation to improve the commands of the language. We consider a range of strategies for learning vocabulary in particular the 'Look, say, cover, write, check' technique. The vocabulary needed is at the end of each unit and strategies for learning vocabulary are also offered in these pages of the textbook. There are regular vocabulary and grammar tests in order to consolidate the work done in class. The use of the website "quizlet" is recommended to help learning vocabulary and the main verbs. There are Mary Glasgow magazines available in the LRC and on SharePoint, students can also use websites such as MYLO and languages online for revision and practice. Word reference is our recommended online dictionary.

Year 7 - Geography

Topic	Skills	Assessment
We will cover 5 topics, each one taking around the length of one half-term in duration. 1. Amazing Geography 2. Map Skills 3. Restless Earth 4. How Incredible is India 5. Rivers	We will cover the Ready for Learning skills of Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness, Resilience and Reciprocity. Individual skills will include for example; being open minded to ways of learning, making links and connections, being patient and listening to others and being aware that being wrong is part of the process of learning.	Assessments with National Curriculum levels are provided at the end of each topic. Assessment takes three parts; 1. One assessed homework that is a two week in duration 2. A formative assessment by the teacher on work attitude and general behaviour in class 3. A written response to an unseen question based on a revised theme 4. A summative assessed end of topic test

Additional Information

All lessons are located on SharePoint for reference and in case any students miss a lesson they are expected to catch up during their own time and prior to the next lesson. Each student will be awarded a National Curriculum level at the end of each unit which the student records at the front of his book to monitor progression during the year. The level awarded is made up of differing elements of work. These include an end of unit summative test, a two week homework assignment, an in class written response to an unseen question and general engagement in the class and presentation of his textbook. To help support and engage your son please discuss current affairs related to the topic he is studying.

Year 7 - History

Topic	Skills	Assessment
In Year 7 we aim to introduce students to the key developments in British history from the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 to 1700. We ensure students are given the foundations upon which to excel in history at Key Stage and focus our topics around big overarching questions. 1. 1066 and all that 'How did William become the Conqueror? 2. Medieval Realms Did the Church or Monarchs have more power in the Middle Ages? 3. Tudors 'Why was image everything to England's most famous family?' 4. Stuarts 'Did the Stuarts do any better than the Tudors?'	The history department has its own philosophy about what key skills and processes our students should be developing throughout their studies at Reading School. These are: Causation Change and continuity Significance Source evaluation Interpretations Independent enquiry Diversity Writing skills Creativity Real historian activity Research	Progress is assessed through a series of varying tasks that each involves a variety of these different skills and processes. Over the course of their studies, students will have lots of opportunities to demonstrate progress in different areas in lessons, across lessons and over years.

Additional Information

The history department aims to develop a passion and enthusiasm for the subject and an awareness of its importance in understanding the world today. We achieve this through studying contemporary issues through history, taking philosophical approaches to big issues, providing extra-curricular opportunities and always trying to include European and World events as part of our studies.

Year 7 - ICT

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Using ICT Project based on "Myself" involving Word, PowerPoint and Internet searches involving the integration of information between applications.	Formatting, design tools, importing graphics, internet searches, keywords, transitions, animations, exchanging information, inserting sounds, Internet, concept of differing target audiences.	By end of project Evaluation Document, Evidence Trail documents and other specific evidence provided as screen shots.
Handling Data Project based "My Budget" tutorial and "Company Spread Sheet" tasks involving the exploration of the functions and features in Excel spread sheets.	Entering data, formatting cells, applying formulae to a range of cells, using other functions, producing and amending graphs and charts. Writing and amending formula to achieve different outputs.	By end of project Evaluation Document, Evidence Trail documents and other specific evidence provided as screen shots.
Creating a Leaflet Project based on "Spring Fayre" poster for RSPA involving Publisher, Word and research on the Internet.	Internet search techniques, keywords in search engines, desktop publishing, graphic design, importing and manipulating images.	By end of project Evaluation Document, Evidence Trail documents and other specific evidence provided as screen shots.

Year 7 - Mathematics

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Number Number skills revision BODMAS Fractions Decimals Percentages Ratio Directed Numbers Approximations (rounding) **Algebra** Manipulating and simplifying expressions and formulae Solving linear and simultaneous equations Using coordinates Equation of a straight line Solving inequalities Finding nth term of a sequence **Geometry and Measures** Angle properties of parallel and intersecting lines and triangles Properties of polygons Perimeter Area Volume Compass points and bearing Construction Loci Pythagoras theorem **Handling Data** Statistics revision Averages and range Stem and leaf diagrams Scatter graphs Surveys Probability	Confidence in using basic number skills in a variety of subjects and contexts. Developing the ability to handle abstract concepts and to recognise and use patterns. Developing approaches to problem solving. To develop practical accurate measuring and drawing skills. The ability to collect, display and interpret data. To start to develop a critical awareness of limitations of statistics used in the media. To start to develop an understanding of chance. **Ready For Learning** Resilience – perseverance in solving problems. Resourcefulness – questioning is an integral part of each lesson. Boys are encouraged not simply to accept answers or methods but to suggest alternatives and to think more deeply about problems. - appreciating connections between topics is developed. Reflection – looking to apply what has been learnt is a key skill in mathematics. Reciprocity – giving and taking feedback is encouraged.	Assessment in Mathematics is on-going and takes a variety of forms. These include regular homework, tests and teacher assessment of student interaction, discussion and responses to open-ended questioning. Homework is set every lesson and may include written exercises, online homeworks, learning for tests and research. This is to enable students to reflect on their own learning and to practise applying Mathematics in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts, as well as for teachers to assess progress. There are end of year examinations.

Additional Information

- In year 7 boys are taught in their tutor groups.
- SAT (Stretch and Think) booklets are available for able students.
- Boys are entered for UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.
- Investigational/open-ended work is embedded in the syllabus.
- MIG maths club to stretch able students.
- Maths clinic twice a week.

Year 7 - Music

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Module 1: Developing Rhythm	• Performing rhythms fluently using dot & box notation; • Talking and writing about music using the appropriate technical vocabulary; • Investigating the Banda Linda Horns and how they relate to the practical work; • Using basic rhythmic notation and convert between systems.	Practical assessment in addition to the on-going theoretical and written tasks: Performing and composing from dot & box notation polyrhythm composition
Module 2: Preparing a concert	• Performing from stave notation; • Recognising and using syncopation and dotted rhythms; • Transposing stave notation up and down an octave; • Playing as part of an orchestra; • Responding to advice from teacher and peers; • Singing music from memory.	Practical assessment in addition to the on-going theoretical and written tasks: Performance in the Year 7 concert
Module 3: Short composition task	• Using what has been learnt in performance to improve composition; • Bringing together different elements of theoretical and technical knowledge.	Practical assessment in addition to the on-going theoretical and written tasks: Basic Theory Test Short composition task
Module 4: Theme and Variations and Keyboard skills	• Finding the way around a keyboard; • Explaining and use correct keyboard technique; • Identifying and composing variations; • Identifying the primary triads	Practical assessment in addition to the on-going theoretical and written tasks: Keyboard performance **Variation composition**
Module 5: Pictures at an exhibition	• Listening intelligently to music; • Writing descriptions and explanations of music • Composing music which communicates a particular character or mood; • Identifying intervals by ear and in notation;	Practical assessment in addition to the on-going theoretical and written tasks: Modal melody composition End of Year Listening Exam
Module 6: Popular song before the pop charts	• Using a keyboard as a compositional tool; • Continuing accompaniment patterns; • Demonstrating and improving research skills; • Discussing the development of popular music.	Practical assessment in addition to the on-going theoretical and written tasks: Assessment of Song Composition

Year 7 - Music

Additional Information

- The Year 7 scheme of work is given to each Year 7 student in the form on Animando! the department's own textbook.
- The performance project of the second module involves group instrumental tuition being provided for all pupils who have no previous musical experience.

Year 7 – Physical Education

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Physical Literacy	Develop a range of skills including: Agility, Balance, Co-ordination, Running, Jumping, Bouncing, Throwing, Catching, Striking, Skipping, Twisting, Turning, Hopping, Kicking, Trapping, Rhythm, Power, Lunging. To use the correct terminology when talking about PE, Sport and Healthy and Active Lifestyles. Activities used: - Ball games - Striking & Fielding - Gymnastics - Swimming - Dance (Capoeira) - Athletics	Based on their ability to perform and describe correct technique. This can be seen in a swimming stroke being efficient and therefore achieving a faster time, or a gymnastic forward roll being efficient and achieving a smooth, controlled rotation and travelling movement from one balance to the next. With the exception of Health Related Fitness all subject areas will assess the pupils Physical Literacy.
Resilience	Determination to succeed in whatever physical task they have been given. This will be practiced through: Develop swimming speed Develop track and field performances Perform to their maximum with fitness tests.	*Physically:* Exerting themselves showing physical strength and endurance. *Mentally:* Showing the confidence to have a go. The determination to face up to challenges and keep going. Expressing and dealing with emotions. The desire to achieve success for oneself and others.
Making informed choices about healthy and active lifestyles	Health Related Fitness: - Understanding of the concepts of health, fitness and exercise. - Understanding of the physical, mental and social benefits of exercise. Every activity: - Understanding how and why to warm-up and cool down.	This is mainly assessed via the Health Related Fitness end of unit test. The pupils are formally assessed in activities through the use of questioning, observations and formal assessments.

Additional Information

End of Year 7 PE National Curriculum Average - **3**

The pupil's grade will be taken from an average of all of their assessment grades attained throughout the year. These are a combination of the above 3 topics.

Year 7 – Physics

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Measurement Electricity and Electronics Forces and Motion Energy Astrophysics and Cosmology	• Thinking Scientifically and creatively • Using Physics and Engineering terminology • Literacy exercise and learning technical vocabulary • Practical skills for experimentation and Engineering • Understanding history of Physics and Engineering • Research skills • Graph drawing • Working as a team. • Communicating and collaborating • Using investigative and explorative approaches • Understanding the application and implications of Physics & Engineering • Working critically with evidence	Homework every lesson. End of topic tests every 6-7 weeks. End of year exam.

Additional Information

The KS3 Physics course works to build the basic building blocks required for further study in Physics and Engineering. Around 65% of all Year 7 Physics lessons will be practical based with emphasis put on creativity as well as experimentation.

Year 7 – Religious Studies

Topic	Skills	Assessment
Cosmology	Questioning one's own world view	RSVLE online tests
History of Religion	Connecting different Religious beliefs in an historical framework Developing empathy	RSVLE online tests
Life After Death	Defining key terms & exploring philosophical concepts	RSVLE online tests
The Existence of God	Imagination! Art	RSVLE online tests
Faith & Technology	Enquiry in newspapers + of local faith groups	Poster
Faith in Practice		Newspaper report
Additional Information		