



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
Prep

MTP Year 6 curriculum

ENGLISH

Autumn Term

This term the pupils progress through a variety of writing activities – both fiction and non-fiction. They also develop their comprehension technique, as well as continuing to improve the accuracy of their spelling, punctuation and grammar. There are also opportunities to improve their speaking & listening skills through presentations and debates.

Spring Term

This term, the pupils continue to work on comprehension and in particular concentrate on inference and the structuring of comprehension answers. We look at a variety of skills each week and in terms of written tasks we focus on genre specifics for science fiction/fantasy writing. All pupils take part in a half-termly debate and participate in the 'MTP500', a school-wide short story writing competition.

Summer Term

This term, the pupils continue to work on enhancing their creative writing, reading comprehension, grammar, spelling and punctuation skills. Each week, the pupils practise each section of the upcoming assessments in order to ensure that they are as well-prepared as possible. Towards the end of term, the pupils enjoy a curriculum involving persuasive writing exercises, a media project and some comedy scripts.



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MATHEMATICS

Autumn Term

This term pupils develop their understanding of number theory: odd, even, composite, prime, square, and cube numbers. They delve further into factors and multiples, HCF, LCM and digital roots. The Singapore Maths approach to teaching continues in Year 6 when tackling new topics such as working with negative numbers and understanding basic concepts in algebra – pupils use manipulatives, models and online apps to ensure that they develop a deep, conceptual understanding, thus ensuring mastery. There is plenty of opportunity for pupils to engage in solving complex and challenging word problems in most of the topics studied. There is an emphasis on developing the pupils' problem-solving skills using various methods including the bar model, systematic lists and tables, reversal, flow charts, and algebra.

Mastery of mental arithmetic continues to be of importance and regular practice and testing will help to identify any pupils who need to do extra work in this area. Later in the term pupils participate in the Primary Maths Challenge with the chance to progress to the Bonus Round if they do well.

Spring Term

In order to reflect the changes already being seen in Mathematics, a problem-solving approach continues to be central to the way in which the material is covered. This term we start by looking at scaling and then we continue to develop our understanding of algebra including solving equations. Pupils use manipulatives to support them in developing conceptual mastery alongside procedural mastery. Later in the term we also examine percentages in more detail and start a unit on circles. Pupils are given every opportunity to engage in mathematical reasoning, as opposed to merely repeating well-rehearsed procedures. Selected pupils also prepare for the UK Junior Maths Challenge, which takes place early next term. IXL continues to be used to help pupils reinforce their learning.

Summer Term

This term we look at pie charts and developing our understanding of compound area. Later in the term we explore volume of cubes and cuboids. In addition, we continue to work on strengthening the pupils' problem-solving skills, and some pupils take the Junior Maths Challenge early in the term.



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SCIENCE

Autumn Term

The first unit of work, in the autumn term, is on heat and temperature, how to measure temperature change accurately and investigate the effect of thermal insulation. Following this, pupils learn about acids, alkalis and how to test their strength using different indicators. Pupils also learn about healthy living. They learn about major organs in the human body and about blood. They investigate how activity affects pulse rate and about how the abuse of solvents, alcohol and other drugs can affect health. The pupils also learn about how food can be used as a fuel in respiration and the function of skeletal joints and muscle pairs.

Spring Term

The initial focus of work in the spring term is upon microbes; the different types, how they affect our health, and about vaccinations. Following on from this, pupils learn about light, focusing on how it is reflected in plane surfaces and on how the human eye works. The pupils also complete a unit of work on electrical circuits, learning about circuit diagrams and the effect of different components in those circuits.

They then begin a unit of work on classification and keys to discriminate and classify the differences between different living things, and to consider the pioneering work of Carl Linnaeus.

Summer Term

Following the completion of the classification and keys unit and a period of revision before sitting their summer examinations, the pupils complete their final unit of work this year on evolution and inheritance. They learn about fossils and palaeontology, that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but that offspring vary and are not identical to their parents. They finally learn how adaptation to certain environments leads to evolution.



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MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Autumn Term

Pupils continue to use the Studio 1 textbook. This term's topics include town description, directions and Christmas celebrations in France. Lessons will build on previous knowledge but greater emphasis will be placed on high-frequency words (see grid in exercise books) and grammatical aspects such as spelling and tenses (present and near future).

Spring Term

Pupils continue the study of the Studio 1 course. This term's topics include what you can do in a town, entertainment, holidays, getting ready to go out, and future plans. Lessons consider new vocabulary and build on previous knowledge. Emphasis is placed on grammatical aspects such as reflexive verbs, higher numbers, vouloir + infinitive and the future tenses of verbs.

Summer Term

Pupils focus on the topics of personal descriptions, school and leisure in order to revise for the May School exams. They use past and future tenses in relation to some of the topics seen in their textbook and develop their knowledge of advanced structures to write more advanced sentences/paragraphs in the May examinations



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GEOGRAPHY

Autumn Term

The pupils study coastal processes in the UK, looking at various types of coastline and ways in which people have adapted to the coastal environment.

Spring Term

This term Year 6 look in greater depth at weather and climate and the effect that they have on our lives. We also begin to look at the impact of climate change and the way this could shape our future. Pupils are expected to watch the weather forecast at home on a regular basis and follow news related items in enrichment time.

Summer Term

This term we study the themes of energy, resources and pollution, and look into the causes and effects of global warming.



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HISTORY

Autumn Term

This year, pupils consider the transition of medieval into early modern Britain. They start with a study of the Wars of the Roses, thinking about the causes of this period of instability and how far the character of a monarch influenced the success of their reign. Later in the term, the pupils look at the emergence of the new Tudor dynasty and how it secured its hold on the English throne. Pupils focus on the importance of religious ideas in the early modern period. They consider different Tudor monarchs' attitudes to religion and assess the causes of the English Reformation. Throughout the term, they build their ability to analyse historical interpretations, and assess the reliability and utility of sources.

Spring Term

This term, pupils then look at contemporary and subsequent interpretations of Henry VIII's children, especially how his children responded to the break with Rome. They learn about the Elizabethan era: the Catholic threat, the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots and the causes and consequences of the Spanish Armada. They also consider how Elizabeth I controlled her image and used it to strengthen her rule. Throughout the term, they build their ability to analyse the content and utility of sources, with a focus on pictures as evidence. Their written arguments should now use multiple sources to support their conclusions.

Summer Term

This term, pupils consider the transition to the Stuart era and the continuing Catholic threat in the Gunpowder Plot. They consider the traditional interpretation of the revolt, offered by the government, and consider if the evidence supports this, before constructing their own interpretation. In the final half term, pupils explore events in the 16th Century in a different location, considering the rule of Suleiman the Magnificent and the Ottoman Empire and contrasting his reign to his contemporary, Henry VIII. This term, pupils focus on the key skill of finding and assessing contradictory evidence, offering their own justified opinion in the conclusion.



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LATIN

Autumn Term

Our learning continues from *Cambridge Latin Course Book 1*. This term pupils will study the perfect and imperfect tenses. Aspects of Greek mythology are also studied, especially the Trojan War.

Spring Term

Our learning continues from *Cambridge Latin Course Book 1*. Pupils study in particular the dative case and the Roman baths. Aspects of Greek mythology are also studied, especially the Trojan War.

Summer Term

Pupils will complete Cambridge Latin Course Book 1, using Stages 11 and 12, and will study the fall of Troy.

THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION & ETHICS

Autumn Term

In theology, we explore the relationship of God between Israel through three key figures (Abraham, Moses and Elijah). We explore areas such as commitment, promises, sacrifice, rules and consequences.

In religion, we begin our study of religious rites to do with formal commitment, focusing on 6 world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism).

Spring Term

We complete our study of religious rites to do with formal commitment.

In philosophy, we examine how philosophy survived the Middle Ages in the form of Scholasticism. We explore the debate around the concept of a 'just war', using Augustine of Hippo and Aquinas as a starting point. We encounter the life and thought of Machiavelli.

Summer Term

We complete our study of Scholasticism.



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In ethics, we delve deeper into our responsibilities and priorities with regard to the environment.

ART & DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Autumn Term

This term the pupils explore different types of mark-making and produce a detailed observational pen and ink drawing and a clay sculpture of an insect and an animal. Pupils will study the reed pen drawings of Vincent Van Gogh and contribute to a class drawing based on one of Van Gogh's masterpieces.

Spring Term

This term our focus is on nature when we work towards producing a pen, brush ink and collage drawing of an animal. After half-term we begin our design and technology project brief to create and 3-D print a maze for a ball bearing using Tinkercad and acrylics.

Summer Term

This term pupils are investigating textiles, during which we will design and sew a personalised wallet or pencil case.

DRAMA

Autumn Term

This term the pupils audition and rehearse for the school production to be performed at The Lalani New Barn Theatre in March.

Spring Term

This term the pupils continue to rehearse for the school production to be performed in The Lalani New Barn Theatre in March.

Summer Term

This term the pupils are working with play scripts and dramatic text in exploration of *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* by Alan Ayckbourn. They then have the opportunity to devise and compose their own additional scenes, some of which will be rehearsed and performed.



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COMPUTING

Autumn Term

The pupils continue to learn about online safety. They explore how a computer works and review how internet infrastructure operate. They are introduced to some programming using the BBC Microbit. The UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge is in November and they prepare for the competition.

Spring Term

The pupils are introduced to spreadsheet skills. Using Microsoft Excel, they find out how to enter information using formulae to calculate a range of totals. They also learn how to generate graphs for visual data analysis. Last, the pupils are introduced to 3D modelling, using Google Sketch-Up.

Summer Term

In the first half of term the pupils continue designing mathematical games using Scratch 2. Later, they start to program using the BBC Micro:bit microprocessor.



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MUSIC

Autumn Term

Pupils spend the autumn term learning songs for the Year 6 production.

Spring Term

Pupils continue to prepare for the Year 6 production.

Summer Term

Pupils revisit and extend their learning about keyboard performance and staff notation from the previous year. New skills and knowledge they are introduced to include: minor scales, and how they differ from major scales; sharps and flats, and how these relate to the black keys on a keyboard; tones and semitones, including their role in the construction of different scales; playing right-hand scales and melodies in a variety of major and minor keys, using black and white keys on the keyboard; constructing chord progressions using triads; and playing melodies with chordal accompaniments in pairs.



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PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & ECONOMIC EDUCATION and RSE

Autumn Term

The pupils begin the year by considering the qualities of friendships and considering the benefits of different types of relationships (E.g. neighbours) as well as describing ways in which people show their commitment to each other. They move on to recognising and managing pressure in a variety of situations and the idea of consent and end the term by thinking about how to respectfully express opinions and others' points of view.

Spring Term

This term the pupils learn about valuing diversity and challenging discrimination and stereotypes. They consider how to evaluate media sources and what to share online as well as the benefits of saving money and the concept of taxes.

Summer Term

The Summer Term starts with what affects our mental health and ways to take care of it followed by a recap on puberty which includes learning about managing change and becoming more independent as well as thinking about positive relationships and how a baby is made. We end the year learning about drug use and the law and drug use and the media.



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PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.) AND GAMES

Important Note (all terms):

Pupils will need **football boots** (Autumn/Spring) AND **astro-trainers** as well as having their **indoor footwear** available in their P.E. bag. P.E. bags should always be brought into school on Monday morning and taken home to wash on Friday afternoon. This ensures that pupils always have correct kit whatever the weather.

Autumn Term

In P.E. lessons pupils continue to develop skills and principles involved in hockey. Pupils use a composite hockey stick and will require a **mouthguard** and **shin guards** for all sessions. There is a further focus on the rules of the game and an introduction to umpiring small-sided games to develop understanding. Pupils are involved in fixtures against other local schools.

Pupils continue to develop badminton where they learn the rules of both singles and doubles and develop a range of basic shots with a focus on more advanced techniques and competitive play. Shot development, selection and tactics are a focus as well as building match stamina.

In Games the pupils play football and with an emphasis on developing more advanced skills and both aerobic and anaerobic fitness. Game awareness will form a significant part of sessions. Pupils are involved in a number of fixtures against other schools. Pupils will also begin their cross country training this term.

Spring Term

In P.E. lessons pupils will be involved in both net/wall games and invasion games such as basketball and team handball. There is an emphasis on gameplay and understanding with a focus on basic tactics and skills acquisition. Pupils also take part in a unit of team building activities where there is a focus on working together, the importance of listening and awareness in relation to team success. Activities are both physical and cognitive and require communication and collaboration.

In Games, pupils continue to develop the principles of rugby with a focus on tackling and rucking and an introduction to mauling. All sessions follow the Rugby Football Union (RFU) continuum for safe practice. Pupils will require a **mouthguard** to take part in sessions. Pupils will take part in some matches against other schools. Pupils take part in cross country in and around the MTS lakes to further build general fitness and stamina.



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Summer Term

In P.E. the pupils prepare for Sports Day acquiring skills associated with both track and field event athletics (throwing, jumping, sprint, middle distance running).

During Games, the pupils further develop their cricket skills in relation to bowling, batting and fielding with an emphasis on tactics and playing as a team. Pupils will play fixtures against other schools, and some will play in both local, regional and national tournaments.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to further develop their swimming strokes and personal survival skills with an option to swim at the MTS main pool, as part of the summer games programme.

After Sports Day pupils take part in summer sports such as rounders, softball and ultimate frisbee.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

Year 6 pupils have formal assessments in English and Mathematics in early January. Revision guidance will be provided in the first week of December.

Year 6 pupils have formal examinations in English, Mathematics, Science, MFL, Geography, History and Latin in late May. Revision guidance will be provided in the first week of the Summer Term.

PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

Year 6 tutorials will take place in-person in November, and Parents' Evenings will take place online in January. In the meantime, should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your son's Tutor via either email or telephone.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on Teams.

Document changelog

Date	Note
2023-09-14	English, Science, History, ADT and Music updated
2023-06-13	PSHE updated
2022-09-10	Science updated
2022-09-01	Created