

YEAR 8



Home Learning

11 / 05 / 2026



Home Learning - Parent/Carer guide

These home learning booklets will be emailed to all parents/carers of all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 every 2 weeks on a Monday A week.

The idea is that, across 12 subjects, you will be able to speak with your child about the key pieces of knowledge that they will need to know across that 2 week period. Key Stage 3 is all about students being exposed to a knowledge-rich curriculum so that they know more and remember more about each area of study.

This E-booklet allows all parents and carers to quiz their children, to talk to them about the knowledge and maybe learn things together.

Much like the primary model of learning spellings every week, this allows all parents/carers to know the key knowledge that your child will be learning in the next two weeks and also how well your child is doing in remembering these key pieces of knowledge and information.

It is to be expected that students can remember more towards the end of the two weeks than at the beginning and you should be able to see your child make progress.

This can all be done with no pen, no paper, just discussion. Quiz your child whilst having dinner maybe, or even let them quiz you if you would like to learn together! Of course, you can get your child to write down answers but it is not necessary.

I hope that this new initiative allows parents to be more involved with your child's home learning without the pressure and stress that some homework tasks can put on child/parent relationships.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about home-learning at Penketh High School then please get in touch with me directly on ***ifarrar@penkethhigh.org*** and I will only be too happy to assist in any way I can

Kind Regards

Ian Farrar

Vice Principal - Progress and Outcomes

ART

Current Learning

Quick Task

1	Collage	A technique where different materials (paper, images, textures) are cut and arranged to create an artwork.	Create a small collage using cut and glued materials (e.g. magazines, coloured paper). Arrange them to make an interesting composition.
2	Monoprint	A printing technique where a single unique print is created from a surface.	Create a simple monoprint by drawing onto a surface (e.g. plastic sheet) and pressing it onto paper to transfer the image.
3	Oil Pastel Resist	A technique where oil pastel resists paint or ink to create contrast.	Draw a design using oil pastels, then paint over it with a wash to reveal the resist effect.
4	Abstract Art	Contemporary art often explores ideas using shapes, colours, and textures instead of realistic images.	Create an abstract drawing using shapes, lines, and patterns to express a mood or feeling.
5	Mixed Media	Using more than one material or technique in a single artwork.	Create a small artwork combining at least two techniques (e.g. collage and drawing, or pastel and print).
6	Personal Expression	Contemporary artists often explore personal ideas, identity, or experiences.	Create an artwork that shows something about you (your interests, feelings, or experiences).
7	Experimentation	Trying out different materials, techniques, and ideas to discover new effects.	Create a page of small experiments, testing different techniques (e.g. mark-making, textures, layering) and label what you tried.
8	Still Life	Drawing everyday objects arranged in a composition. Contemporary artists may explore unusual angles or styles.	Draw a simple still life of objects at home (e.g. fruit, shoes, or stationery) using line and shading.
9	Speech Bubbles	Shapes used in comics to show what a character is saying or thinking.	Draw one object at least three times in a row and colour each differently.

Prior Learning

Quick Task

10	Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like the noise they describe, often used in Pop Art (e.g. BAM, POW).	Write one onomatopoeia word in big bubble letters and decorate it using bold colours.
11	3D Paper Layering	Using layers of paper to make artwork stand out and look three-dimensional.	Cut out one shape and stick it on top of another shape so it sticks out from the page.
12	Roy Lichtenstein	A Pop Artist known for comic-style art, bold outlines, and Ben-Day dots.	Draw a simple face or object using thick black outlines and add dot patterns inside.
13	Andy Warhol	A Pop Artist famous for repeating images and using bright, bold colours.	Draw the same simple image four times and colour each one differently.
14	Colour	Pop Art uses bright, bold, eye-catching colours.	Create a small drawing using only bright colours (no shading or blending).
15	Typography	The style and design of letters and words.	Write one word in a comic-style font and add a thick black outline.
16	Outlines	Thick black lines used to make shapes stand out.	Draw a simple object and carefully go over the outline with thick black lines.
17	Ben-Day Dots	Small dots used in comic art to show colour and texture.	Fill one shape using neat dot patterns instead of colouring it in.
18	Speech Bubbles	Shapes used in comics to show what a character is saying or thinking.	Draw one object at least three times in a row and colour each differently.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Current Learning

1	Network	2 or more connected computers. Computers are linked together in order for them to share and exchange data with each other
2	LAN	Local area network covering usually 1 room, building or site.
3	WAN	A wide area network or WAN is a computer network that joins computers together over long distances.
4	Node	A device connected to a network
5	Data Packet	This term is related to transmitting data over networks. Rather than send a whole file the data is split into 'blocks' or 'packets' which are then sent separately to the destination computer.
6	Internet	The Internet is a computer network that connects computers worldwide. The Internet is made up of many smaller computer networks
7	World Wide Web	The World Wide Web is that part of the Internet which is made up of web sites. Each Web site is made up of one or more web pages.

Prior Learning

10	Binary	This is a digital coding system which uses two values to represent data, 0 and 1.
11	Bit	A bit that is the smallest amount of information that a computer can store. It can be set to 0 (false) or 1 (true), this is called binary
12	Byte	Computer storage space is measured in bytes. A byte is a series of 8 bits. One character on a keyboard is a single byte.
13	Pixel	Is short for Picture Element. A pixel is the smallest individual dot that can be displayed on a computer monitor.
14	ASCII	ASCII stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. There are 128 standard ASCII codes, each of which can be represented by a 7 digit binary number from 000000 through to 111111

DRAMA

Current Learning

1	What is empathy?	Where you put yourself in someone else's position to understand how they feel.
2	What is music?	A melody / song with a particular pitch, beat and pace - with or without lyrics.
3	Why would we use music in a performance?	To enhance the mood and atmosphere for the audience.
4	What is volume?	How loud or quiet the music is.
5	What is pace?	How fast or slow the music is.
6	What is a flashback?	Where we show the audience something that has happened in a character's past.
7	Which type of technique do we use to get in and out of a flashback?	Non-naturalistic.
8	Which techniques can we use to get in and out of a flashback?	Still image, slow motion, narration, thought track.
9	Why would we use a flashback in performance?	To give context to the story or show them an important moment that has happened prior to this part of the script.

Prior Learning

10	What is stage combat?	Used to safely create the illusion of fighting on stage.
11	Out of Distance, On Target	Your partner is too far away to make contact, meaning you can aim on target as you won't reach them.
12	In Distance, Off Target	When your partner is close enough that you would hit them if you aimed for the target, so you aim off target to keep the moves safe.
13	Reverse Control	Where the 'victim' in the scene is controlling the stage combat movement, although it looks the other way to the audience.
14	Marking the Moment	Where we use a non-naturalistic technique in a naturalistic scene to highlight or mark an important moment.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Current Learning

1	What is a wood joint?	Joinery is a part of woodworking that involves joining together pieces of wood or lumber, to produce more complex items
2	What is glass paper?	Paper covered with powdered glass, used for smoothing and polishing
3	What is a client?	A client is a person or organization using the services of a professional person or company
4	What are design ideas?	Realization of a concept or idea into a drawing that for fills what you set out to achieve.
5	What is a mitre saw?	A mite saw is a saw used to make accurate crosscuts and mites in a work piece by pulling a large backsaw back and forth across the work to cut at a desired angle.
6	What is a disc sander?	A machine having one or more flat circular disks faced with abrasive for smoothing wood surfaces
7	What is a laser cutter?	Laser cutting is a precise method of cutting a design from a given material using a CAD file to guide it, this is a CAM device
8	What is CAM?	Computer Aided Manufacture
9	What is sand sealer? And what does it do?	A sanding sealer can be used on bare timber products, it protects the timber making it resistant to water and adds a shinney finish
10	What does assemble mean?	To fit together the separate component parts of a machine or other object.

Prior Learning

11	What is a final design?	A Final design is a drawing that has been developed or selected from previous design ideas that might get made into a real item.
12	What is a vice? What do we use it for?	A vice is a mechanical piece of apparatus used to secure an object; it allows work to be performed on it
13	What does CAD stand for?	Computer Aided Design
14	Name 3 H/S rules in a DT classroom?	
15	What is an evaluation? And why do we use them?	Designers evaluate their finished products or prototypes to test whether they work well and if the design can be corrected or improved.

ENGLISH

Current Learning

1	Understanding “true evil”	Exploring how writers define and present the idea of evil.
2	Rhetorical purpose	How speeches can persuade, unsettle or provoke an audience.
3	Inclusive language	Using we, us and our to build unity or manipulate listeners.
4	Rhetorical devices	Emotive language, repetition, rule of three, contrast and rhetorical questions.
5	Imagery	Creating vivid, unsettling or powerful images to express ideas about evil.
6	Structure	Crafting a clear opening, developed argument and impactful ending.
7	Voice and tone	Adopting a sinister, persuasive or authoritative voice depending on purpose.
8	Audience manipulation	Understanding how speakers influence beliefs, fears and emotions.
9	Model analysis	Studying examples of powerful speeches (fictional and real) to understand technique.
10	Drafting and refining	Editing for precision, clarity and rhetorical impact.

Prior Learning

11	Shakespeare	The playwright behind Macbeth, a tragedy about ambition and moral collapse.
12	Tyranny	Understanding how Macbeth becomes a tyrant through ambition, violence and fear.
13	Ambition	Macbeth’s desire for power and how it leads to corruption.
14	Manipulation	Lady Macbeth’s influence and the role of persuasion in Macbeth’s downfall.
15	Supernatural	The witches’ prophecies and how they shape Macbeth’s choices.
16	Violence and guilt	How murder, paranoia and guilt drive Macbeth’s transformation.
17	Themes	Power, corruption, fate vs free will, moral conflict and consequences.
18	Symbolism	Blood, darkness and unnatural imagery representing evil and guilt.
19	Impact on others	How Macbeth’s tyranny destroys Scotland, Banquo, Macduff’s family and himself.
20	Jacobean	Jacobean refers to anything from the time when King James I ruled England (1603-1625).

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Current Learning

1	Special diet	Diet that has been adapted to the needs of an individual or group
2	pescatarian	person who does not eat meat but does eat fish.
3	Vegetarian	a person who does not eat meat or fish, and sometimes other animal products, especially for moral, religious, or health reasons.
4	vegan	a person who does not eat any food derived from animals and who typically does not use other animal products.
5	Omnivorous	an animal or person feeding on a variety of food of both plant and animal origin.
6	Boiling	the action of bringing a liquid to the temperature at which it bubbles and turns to vapour.
7	Frying	cook (food) in hot fat or oil, typically in a shallow pan.
8	Deep frying	cook (food) in hot fat or oil, typically in a deep pan.
9	Simmering	keep (food) just below boiling point when cooking or heating it

Prior Learning

10	High Risk food	Food poisoning bacteria grow more easily on some foods than others
11	Balanced diet	a healthy balanced diet containing foods from each food group, so they get a wide range of nutrients to help them stay healthy
12	Deficiency	the state of being deficient; lack; incompleteness; insufficiency.
13	Deficiency disease	a disease caused by a lack of one or more essential substances (as a vitamin or mineral) in the diet.
14	Scurvy	Lack of vitamin c

GEOGRAPHY

Current Learning

1	What are the 4 layers of the earth?	Crust, mantle, outer core and inner core
2	What are tectonic plates?	Earth's crust split into large pieces of rock
3	What is a plate boundary/margin?	Where two plates meet
4	What plate margins are earthquakes created at?	Destructive, constructive, collision and conservative
5	What are the 4 layers of the earth?	Crust, mantle, outer core and inner core
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9	What is the focus?	The point below the earth's surface where the waves start
10	What is the epicentre?	The point directly above the earth's surface where the earthquake hits
11	What are primary effects?	Direct impacts of an event e.g. deaths, injuries, buildings destroyed
12	What are secondary effects?	Indirect impacts of an event occurring in the weeks, hours, months after the event e.g. outbreak of disease

Prior Learning

13	What is development?	Development is how rich or poor a country is compared to other countries.
12	What is a developing country?	Often poor compared to others, with fewer services and a lower standard of living.
15	What is an emerging country?	One which has rapidly developed and displays some characteristics of a developed country, but not all.
16	What is a developed country?	Often has lots of money, many services and a high standard of living.
17	What is Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?	The total number of goods and services sold by a country within a year.

HISTORY

Current Learning

1	What was the term for the hope of gaining land and riches in America?	The American Dream
2	How much more railway track than Europe did the USA have by 1840?	Nearly Double
3	From what country did many migrants come to work on the railways?	China
4	What is the name for people who go somewhere to search for gold?	Prospectors
5	Where was there a massive gold rush in 1848?	California
6	What was the name for the group of people who famously got lost in the mountains in 1846 and had to resort to cannibalism to survive?	Donner Party
7	What term was given to the romanticised idea of the lawless and free western territories?	The 'Wild West'
8	What act offered people ownership of 160 acres of land for \$10 if they farmed it for five years?	The Homestead Act
9	What was the name for thieves who stole cattle?	Cattle Rustlers
10	What fuel was used for fires in western homesteads?	Cow chips (made of dung)

Prior Learning

11	What mountain range formed the natural western border of the thirteen colonies?	Appalachian Mountains
12	Who were the explorers sent by President Jefferson to map the interior of the continent?	Lewis and Clark
13	What two European powers already controlled large areas of the North American interior?	France and Spain
14	What was the name of the massive purchase of land from France made by Jefferson in 1803?	Louisiana Purchase
15	What territory did the USA annex in 1845, triggering the Mexican American War?	Texas
16	What crop was grown across the south-western territories on plantations worked by slaves?	Cotton
17	What was the name of the agreement that slavery would be permitted in the southern states but not the northern states?	The Missouri Compromise
18	What was the name for the idea that Americans had a God-given right to expand to the west?	Manifest Destiny
19	Which major abolitionist was considered radical because she campaigned for voting rights for Black women as well as White women?	Sojourner Truth
	Who continued this woman's work and founded the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP)?	Ida B. Wells

MFL

Current Learning

1	ma grand-mère	my grandma
2	sévère	strict
3	mon grand-père	my grandad
4	il a les cheveux courts	he has short hair
5	où il y a	where there is
6	huit pièces	eight rooms
7	un marché	a market
8	derrière l'aéroport	behind the airport
9	je n'aime pas	I don't like
10	mais il n'y a pas de	but there isn't

Prior Learning

11	ma tante	my aunt
12	méchante	mean
13	mon cousin	my cousin (male)
14	elle a les cheveux longs	she has long hair
15	dans une maison jumelée	in a semi-detached house
16	trois chambres	three bedrooms
17	un musée	a museum
18	en face des magasins	opposite the shops
19	j'aime	I like
20	par contre	on the other hand

MUSIC

Current Learning

1	Primary Chords	Chords 1, 4 and 5
2	Stave	Five lines used to write staff notation on
3	Treble Clef	Symbol representing higher pitched music, used in notation
4	Bass Clef	Symbol representing lower pitched music, used in notation
5	Tablature	Form of notation for guitar/ukulele using numbers to represent frets and lines for strings.
6	Riff	Memorable section of a song that is usually repeated. Typically played by Guitar/Bass
7	Ensemble	Group of performers
8	Expression	Use of articulation and dynamics in music to improve performance
9	Dynamics	Volume of the music - using this to improve a performance
10	Accuracy	Playing a musical part correctly in terms of pitch and rhythm

Prior Learning

11	Style/Genre	The type of music e.g. pop/rap
12	Decade	Period of 10 years
13	Chord	Three notes played together at the same - notes 1, 3 and 5 of the scale.
14	Staff Notation	Traditional music notation using a stave
15	Chord Box	Diagram to display hand position on a guitar/ukulele to make a chord

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Current Learning

1	Enlightenment	The state of being awakened to the truth about life.
2	Four Sights	Four things seen by Siddhartha when leaving the royal palace - old age, sickness, death and a holy man.
3	Four Noble Truths	The basis of the Buddha's teachings: all creatures suffer; all suffering is caused by selfish desires; suffering can be ended; the way to end suffering is to follow the Eightfold Path.
4	Karma	The forces that influence people's fortune and future rebirth.
5	Middle Way	A lifestyle between luxury and having nothing at all.
6	Nirvana	A state of bliss experienced by those who have found enlightenment.
7	Samsara	A continual process of life, death, and rebirth.
8	Suffering	The state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship.
9	Three Jewels	Buddha, dharma, sangha, also known as the three refuges.

Prior Learning

10	Buddhism	A religion that started in India 2500 years ago, it is now the world's fourth largest religion.
11	Buddha	The awakened or enlightened one.
12	Caste System	A series of social classes that determine someone's job and status in Indian society.
13	Dharma	The Buddhist teachings.
14	Five Precepts	Five rules all Buddhists are expected to follow.

SCIENCE

Current Learning

1	What does classification mean in biology?	Sorting living things into groups based on their structures and features.
2	What do scientists call any living thing?	An organism, like a human, a tree, or even bacteria.
3	How does a classification key help?	It helps identify organisms by asking questions about their traits.
4	What does "dichotomous" mean in a classification key?	It means the key uses two choices at each step to sort organisms.
5	Who created the classification system we use today?	Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish scientist who revolutionized how we group living things.
6	What is a genus, and how should it be written?	A group of organisms below family and above species; it's written with a capital letter.
7	What makes a species special?	It's a group of organisms that can mate and have offspring that can also reproduce.
8	What is a vertebrate?	An animal with a backbone, like humans, birds, or fish.
9	Can you describe an invertebrate?	Animals without a backbone, such as spiders, crabs, or jellyfish.
10	What makes mammals unique?	They're warm-blooded, have fur or hair, and feed their babies with milk.
11	What features do insects have?	Insects have three body parts, six legs, and usually one or two pairs of wings.

Prior Learning

12	Imagine a battery or a full stomach. What does it mean if something has an energy store?	It means it has energy saved up that can be used later or changed into another form.
13	When you're running or riding a bike, what kind of energy do you have?	Kinetic energy, because you're moving.
14	When you lift a ball high above your head, why does it have energy?	It has gravitational energy because it's high up and could fall.
15	What kind of energy is in a chocolate bar or a car's fuel?	Chemical energy, stored in the food or fuel, ready to be released.
16	When you stretch a rubber band, what kind of energy is stored?	Elastic energy, which is stored when the rubber band is stretched.
17	When you touch something warm, like a mug of hot chocolate, what kind of energy are you feeling?	Thermal energy, which is the heat from the moving particles inside.
18	Where is nuclear energy stored, and how is it released?	It's stored in the center of atoms and released during nuclear reactions.
19	What happens when you turn on a lamp or a car engine?	Energy is transferred from one place or form to another, like electrical energy to light or heat.
20	Why do things like machines get warm when they work?	Some energy dissipates as heat, spreading out and becoming harder to use.
21	Why can't energy just appear or disappear like magic?	The conservation of energy says energy can only be moved or changed into different forms.