

Curriculum Overview and Information (KS3 & 4)

In Key Stage 3 pupils are offered a range of Secondary subjects and work in their classes. Students are supported by a regular TLSA, to enable smooth transitions and a familiar adult to ensure consistency. Some of the core curriculum subjects are outlined below. Students transition to lessons with their TLSA. Pupils also study RE, Computing, Art, Design Technology, Music, PE, Humanities and Personal/Social development. Overviews of each subject can be found on the school website under the curriculum tab.

English

All English lessons focus on the three main areas of English: reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication. We endeavour to provide our children with firm foundations in these areas that can then be built upon as they move through the school.

Pupils are taught daily Phonics, following the Read, Write Inc programme, from the moment they join our school until they are independent readers who have a repertoire of reading skills to assist them throughout their lives.

Reading in the classroom and beyond is a key part of the students' educational journey and pupils have access to our Accelerated Reading Programme which enables them to regularly complete quizzes and improve their comprehension skills whilst also fostering a love of books. Furthermore, they are heard reading by a member of staff on an individual basis, through group guided reading sessions and through a shared class reader; this ensures that pupils read a breadth of texts as well as having the opportunity to hear stories being read to them that are more challenging than they would be able to access independently.

We work through a structured handwriting programme which leads to pupils being able to use cursive handwriting, if and when, they are able. Pupils' opportunities to develop their writing skills are built into the school day from simple mark making in our early years through to extended pieces of writing. Students write regularly across the key stages and our upper school pupils enjoy trying to use our "word of the week" in their pieces in order to enrich their vocabulary usage. Weekly spellings are given and these are differentiated to match the ability of the child.

Maths

At Penn Fields we believe that mathematical skills are an essential part of pupils learning. Maths helps provide pupils with important independence and

decision making skills. Maths is taught across the school at a level that is appropriate to pupils learning styles and needs, following the Maths Mastery programme and aims to motivate pupils to achieve their best. Students across all key stages follow a rich mathematical curriculum with strong emphasis on number skills. Throughout the year pupils in KS1, 2 and 3 will have experience of a range of real life activities, from role play and stories to using weights and measures, in practical situations as a contextual basis for their learning.

Pupils in KS3 and 4, working at National Curriculum Year 1 and above, have access to Accelerated Maths to help boost their skill level and aid retention. Targets are set at a personal level, with specifically targeted work to increase retention of skills. For more information, and to access Accelerated Maths at home, please use the following link:

<https://ukhosted108.renlearn.co.uk/6699521> (please ask pupils for their personal login).

Websites that could be useful for revision:

<https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/z9p3mnb>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/maths>

<https://corbettmaths.com>

Science

Science Autumn Term Year 7

Children work through scientific topics each year and build on these at every Key Stage.

Introduction to Science

Safety practise in science lessons/Naming Scientific apparatus and using it confidently.

Topics

Light and how we see things

Children will use a variety of learning resources and scientific apparatus to explore our eyes and how humans see things. They will learn relevant

scientific vocabulary and begin to record their work using tables, written responses, pictures, photographs and verbally. They will be encouraged to share ideas for experiments and use appropriate equipment.

Electricity and building simple circuits

Children will learn how to build a variety of circuits and record their work using electrical symbols. They will take part in many experiments and be encouraged to use scientific vocabulary to explain what they see. Work will be recorded in their books.

The Science curriculum was updated September 2020. New units of work were introduced, focusing on key scientific skills, vocabulary and investigating activities. This coverage will be cyclical in nature, in order to build on foundations learnt in lower school.

SOLAR

We have now introduced a new recording, assessment and target setting tool across school called SOLAR. It is used by more than 300 special schools and offers the opportunity for moderation and comparison with other special schools across the country and locally. Children will be baselined using SOLAR and then termly targets set for progress and monitored by senior leaders and relevant subject leads. Further information can be found on the assessment tab on the school website.

School Website

The school website has up to date information and weekly news from our Headteacher. You can also follow us on Twitter.

<https://www.pennfields.com>

Swimming

Assessments for Year 7 will take place late Autumn. Information about swimming sessions will follow, but due to large student numbers lessons will need to be organised on a rota basis. Children needing to learn to swim will therefore have priority.

Interventions

Some students may receive weekly interventions, depending on their EHCP areas of need. These include:

- SALT
- OT
- RWI
- Accelerated Maths
- Accelerated Reading
- Haptic Massage
- Sensory Circuits & Sensory Snacks

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