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Dear Parents

Smithdon High School Mrs A Gibbins Headteacher Downs Road, Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 5HY

Telephone: 01485 534541

e-mail: office@smithdonhigh.org.uk website: www.smithdonhigh.org.uk

Smithdon High School Curriculum

As we are welcoming our students to the new academic year, I wanted to write to you to explain a little about our curriculum and point you to where you can find out more information about what, and how, your child will be learning. Full details on our curriculum including detailed information for each subject can be found on our website https://www.smithdonhigh.org.uk/curriculum.

In Years 7,8 and 9 (Key Stage 3) we offer all students a wide breadth of subjects. In terms of languages some of our students will study French, some German and some both, you can check this on your child's timetable. At KS3 most of our classes are taught in mixed ability groups, the only exceptions to this are Maths and Science.

In Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4) all students study the core GCSEs in Maths, English and Science alongside the subjects that they opted for at the end of Year 9. Again, these are all taught in mixed ability groups except Maths and Science.

All of our students study Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) through our ASPIRE programme delivered by form tutors on 2 mornings per week. This ensures all our students develop an understanding of the wider world and their place in it.

Smithdon High School Homework

Homework is set in order to help learning, revise previous learning, and develop independent study.

All homework is posted on Google Classroom with a minimum of one week to complete each task. As parents you can sign up to receive daily or weekly summaries of what your child has been set.

In Years 7-9, Knowledge Organisers are available on the school website and Google Classroom. These include a summary of the content for every subject, as well as learning techniques, which can be used to support homework. Using the learning techniques helps to develop them and support each student to become a good independent learner.

Homework will be set as follows:

- Maths (set on Sparx) once per week
- English (Sparx) reading weekly
- Science and MFL once per week
- Humanities (History, Geography or RE) on rotation once per week
- All other subjects on rotation once per week (the rotation is on the Google Classroom)

In Years 10 and 11 each subject will set a weekly homework, based on revising and reviewing in preparation for exams. A number of resources are available to students. Unfortunately, due to cost we will no longer be using GCSEPod but the following are some of the more widely used resources:











- 50 Question booklet
- Sparx
- Seneca
- BBC Bitesize
- Everlearner
- Revision books (available from the school shop)

Finally, all students have a copy of our Student Handbook <u>"The Smithdon Way".</u> This document outlines what we expect of our students and what they should expect of us, including how we will teach them. Students should have this with them at all times. This is also a useful document for parents, so please have a look by clicking on the link above.

If at any point you have any questions about your child's learning, please get in touch with the relevant head of department or email me at s.robinson@smithdonhigh.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Robinson Deputy Headteacher

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