



At Dunottar we want to add value to every pupil so that, no matter what a child's individual abilities are, they are challenged and supported to develop a love of learning and to be prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Our Warrior Learner concept encourages our pupils to embrace the behaviours of aspiration, tenacity, curiosity, creativity, collaboration, inclusivity and independence. Lessons are designed to allow pupils to display these behaviours and reporting at KS3 refers directly to these.

Lessons are well-paced, challenging and fun. Within the curriculum each pupil is encouraged to achieve his/her full potential and the needs of each pupil. The curriculum aims to educate the whole person through creative thinking and creative learning and the curriculum at Dunottar School extends far beyond the classroom and is enriched by a wide range of co-curricular activities.

On the following pages you will find an overview of the topics covered in each subject during Year 7.

## English

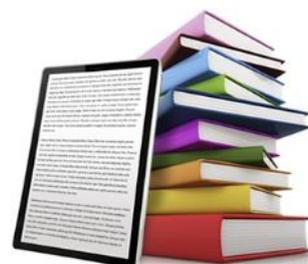
The aim of the Key Stage 3 English curriculum is to provide students with a solid foundation for the GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. This will equip your child with the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to realise his or her potential.

The English department follows the skills-based United Learning mastery curriculum, which is linked to the national curriculum. It covers evidence-based reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, which we develop through literature and a wide range of related activities. After the first half term, Year 7 also have a fortnightly *Let's think in English* lesson. This is a cognitive acceleration programme of spoken analytical activities that have been proven nationally to raise GCSE results.

At Key Stage 3, pupils have the opportunity to study a range of contemporary and classic poetry, prose and drama, which might be from the British literary heritage or from different cultures. They also have regular lessons in spelling, punctuation and grammar, which continue throughout Years 8 and 9.

In Year 7, pupils study the following:

- Modern nonfiction
- Modern prose
- Introduction to Shakespeare
- Modern poetry
- Examination preparation and practice
- Oracy



The best way for pupils to develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills is through reading as widely as possible outside the classroom; to support this, we have initiatives such as *Book Bingo!* and e-books that can be downloaded onto pupils' iPads. In our experience, pupils are more motivated if they choose their reading material. Some ideas, however, can be found in: <https://www.dunottarschool.com/For-Parents>

## Mathematics

The aim of the maths curriculum is to broaden, develop and inspire students in all strands of mathematics; giving them a solid foundation for the new Edexcel Mathematics GCSE that we now teach over three years, beginning in Year 9. The maths department follows the United Learning mastery curriculum in Year 7 & 8, which is linked to the national curriculum.

In Year 7, the students study:

- Whole numbers and decimals calculations
- Negative numbers
- Order of operations
- Factors and multiples
- Fraction, decimals and percentages
- Algebra: expanding, factorising, substitution
- Perimeter and area
- Angles and polygons
- Symmetry and reflection
- Statistics and representing data

All students in the year group have their maths lessons at the same time and are taught in ability sets. All sets follow the same flow of topics meaning that students can easily move from one set to another to maximise their learning. Students use Hegarty Maths both in class and for homework, they can access both video lessons and quizzes on [www.hegartymaths.com](http://www.hegartymaths.com). The TTrackstars app is used by all students to develop their speed of recall of their times tables facts. In the summer term, a large number of students have the opportunity to compete in the Junior Maths Challenge, a national competition.

## Sciences

The Year 7 Science pupils are taught in mixed ability groups and are taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics in blocks throughout the year. The course follows our own scheme of work based on the National Curriculum. Lessons are designed to be interactive and consist of practical activities, data logging, group and individual work. Throughout the course pupils develop their scientific knowledge and alongside this learning there is an emphasis on developing their independent working skills and the skills needed to apply their knowledge to new situations.

In Year 7 the topics covered are as follows:

### Biology

- Cells, tissues and organs
- Reproduction and variation
- Ecological relationships and classification

### Chemistry

- Particles
- Chemical reactions
- Materials and the Earth

### Physics

- Forces and motion
- Energy
- Light and space



## Foreign Languages

In Year 7 pupils' previous (if any) experience of the languages taught is reviewed and existing knowledge is extended, whilst ensuring all pupils master the basics of the language.

**In French** *Studio* is our main text book but there is plenty of extension, especially with the possibilities offered by iPads and many language-specific apps. Topics covered include the alphabet, numbers, greetings, pets, colours, pencil case and bag contents, likes/dislikes and hobbies. Pupils learn about pronunciation, articles and gender, singular/plural, present tense verbs and develop listening and reading skills as well as writing/grammar knowledge.

**In Spanish** *Viva* is our main text book but again there is plenty of extension, especially with the possibilities offered by iPads and many language-specific apps. Topics covered include the alphabet, numbers, greetings, days of the week, months, birthdays, family members and personal descriptions. Pupils learn about pronunciation, articles and gender, present tense, possessive adjectives, reflexive and non-reflexive verbs. Pupils will develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

## Geography

The Geography curriculum is designed to create curious and enquiring minds. The topics covered include a brand new unit 'Fantastic Places' which introduces pupils to new locations and geographical themes whilst introducing the key skills of scale, grid references, contours, data presentation, OS maps and mapping skills. This unit sees pupils travelling the world (from the comfort of the classroom) and selects one fantastic place from each continent in which to deliver these skills.

This is followed by a global study of hazards and why some places are more at risk than others. Through the 'Plate Tectonic' unit pupils are challenged with investigating the reasons why Haiti suffered so severely from the earthquake in 2010.

After Christmas, pupils study the varied continent of Africa looking at its physical geography, where our charity donations from Comic/Sports Relief go, the consequences of mining for resources for mobile phones and whether we should be buying African grown food. During the summer term pupils enjoy a field-trip to Juniper Hall at Box Hill to study the River Tillingbourne as part of the 'Rivers' unit.

## History

The History curriculum is based on a series of enquiry questions. In Year 7, these questions are:

- What is history?
- How far did the Norman Conquest change England?
- How powerful were medieval monarchs?
- To what extent was medieval life dirty, diseased and chaotic?
- Why was the Black Death so terrifying?
- How could medieval people increase their chances of going to heaven?
- What are The Crusades and why should we learn about them?
- What can we learn about our local area?

Pupils are encouraged to think critically throughout and topics are explored through a variety of lesson activities, projects and discussions.



## Religious Studies

We aim to develop enquiring and thinking skills, beginning with an exploration of some important questions. In Year 7 we cover the following main topics:

### What is Religion?

This unit will get pupils thinking about what religion is. It will address big questions such as how important is religion today? We will also think about spirituality and different perspectives people have about the world.

**Big Story (Old Testament)** A look at the Old Testament and the important stories in it. The idea of prophecy will be examined.

**Big Story (New Testament)** A look at the nativity story and how the idea of prophecy connects the New and Old Testaments.

**Hinduism** Pupils will explore the main themes and beliefs of Hinduism.

**Death and Resurrection of Christ** What happened in the last weeks of Jesus' life? What does the resurrection mean and what is the relevance of Easter today?

## Art & Design

Pupils will explore the formal elements of line, tone, colour and texture through a variety of media throughout the year under the broad theme of Still Life and Landscape. Projects will include work in both two and three dimensions and will introduce pupils to different approaches to recording from both primary and secondary sources. Drawing and painting skills play a continuing vital part in the year forming the basis for experimentation and development of ideas. Pupils will also use their sketchbooks to complete research and analysis of artists and their work, as well as plan, record and evaluate their progress.

## Music

The music curriculum in Year 7 focuses on nurturing all pupils' curiosity, confidence and creativity in music to ensure that all pupils feel challenged and make progress in the subject. In Year 7, pupils visit the O2 Arena in London to perform in the Young Voices concert with thousands of other school pupils. They also sing as a choir in the school Carol Service and take part in the Summer Concert. Musical participation is important and through these opportunities, all pupils gain experience in the art of performance.

All pupils at Dunottar learn to perform in lessons using their voice, keyboard, ukulele, and are regularly encouraged to bring their own instrument to participate in lessons. Pupils make use of a state-of-the-art iMac facility, equipped with the latest version of Sibelius notation software and Garageband. Emphasis is also placed on understanding musical theory and vocabulary, and the ability to appraise music through listening.

In Year 7, pupils learn about:

**The Instruments of the Orchestra:** different instrumental families and timbres; visits from instrumental teachers involving class brass and class violin lessons.

**Rhythm and Pulse:** understanding rhythm and metre to create 'music for robots' using different rhythmic patterns, tempi and key signatures.

**Form and Structure:** recognize and perform music for marches and celebrations using treble and bass stave notation; compose and perform using binary, ternary and rondo form structures.

**Music from around the World:** understand musical traditions from around the world, musical features of folk music from the British Isles; reels and jigs; and music from the Far East.

## Design & Technology

Design & Technology is on a rotation with Food & Nutrition. In Year 7, pupils will complete three D&T modules. In the first, pupils learn about the tools and machinery in the workshop and they produce an acrylic photo frame. They learn how to use a bending jig, how to mark out, cut and shape a piece of plywood, how to use a vacuum former and profile cutter and how to use the pillar drill and power drill amongst other tools. The second project is CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design / Computer Aided Manufacture) based, where students use Corel Draw X7 to design a door sign which is cut out on the laser cutter. The third module 'Hug It' is a plastic, metal and graphics project where the outcome is a mobile phone holder. Pupils learn about the design process from identifying a client through to marketing a product; how to mark out, shape and finish different types of thermoplastics (acrylic, HIPS, laminate, vinyl) and metal (aluminium); how to join different materials together (double-sided tape, pop riveting); how to present concept ideas and finished designs. They will also learn (and carry out) primary and secondary research, self and peer assessment.

## Computing

We intend that pupils will have rich, deep learning experiences that balance all the aspects of computing. In Year 7 we look at some questions such as 'What makes a computer?' and 'How does a computer store text, numbers and images?'. Pupils will learn how to program the small BBC microbit computers to create games, and applications such as a step-counter. Pupils then learn to develop algorithms to solve problems and use Scratch to design and implement an original game.

## Food & Nutrition

Food & Nutrition is on a rotation with Design & Technology. By the end of KS3, pupils will have had experience of cooking a range of different dishes. During Year 7, pupils will learn the importance of a healthy balanced diet with a focus on the importance of breakfast and healthy snacks. Pupils learn about Health and Safety in the kitchen, key food safety temperatures, safe knife skills (bridge and claw), use of the hob, grill, oven, kettle and blender. The routine of the kitchen is taught including washing and drying equipment at the end of the lesson. Dishes may include soup, tomato sauce, koftas, crumble, scones, curry, banana breakfast muffins, shortbread and chicken wraps.

Pupils will complete an independent cooking task and also undertake written evaluations, peer assessment, self-assessment, time planning and there will be a written practical examination. Pupils will work independently and as a team to ensure workspaces and equipment are left clean and tidy. There will be a food investigation into a food commodity where students will extend their knowledge of the functions of ingredients. We encourage pupils to adapt their recipes to enhance their creativity and engagement with the ingredients.

## Drama

During Year 7, pupils are given the basic blocks needed for success in the study of drama and theatre. They are introduced to the concept of storytelling, and explore the purpose and effect that storytelling has on others. Pupils are introduced to a range of theatrical styles and genres, using melodrama as a starting point in considering the performance style of theatre rather than film or television. They go on to learn how to look at a piece of theatre from the perspective of an actor or director, as well as developing their ability to critically analyse and evaluate the pieces they have performed. Later on in the year, pupils explore the genre of physical theatre, looking at a variety of companies and theatre practitioners to build their understanding of the genre, and the students' performance skills.

## Physical Education /Games

In the Lower School, students follow a programme which includes rugby, football and cricket for the boys, netball, lacrosse and cricket for the girls and swimming for all. Athletics, rounders and tennis also take place in the summer term. There are also opportunities to experience a host of other activities for example, badminton, handball, fitness and hockey to name a few. Pupils are encouraged to experience a number of roles, including coaching and officiating. Co-curricular clubs run during both lunchtimes and after school for both competitive and recreational activities. Fixtures for our main competitive sports take place every Saturday with occasional mid-week fixtures for other activities.

## PSHE

The pupils follow a progressive course which builds on topics over the years. Topics include: Organisational Skills, Planning and Resilience, Friendship, E-safety, Healthy Eating, Self Awareness, Employability, Self Confidence, Cultural Differences, Puberty and Being a Good Citizen. As part of the PSHE programme, pupils will also learn study and revision skills.

## Expanding Horizons (Critical Thinking)

This subject offers the chance to explore topics that are important to our pupils and the ever-changing world in which they are growing up. Through discussion and debate they will learn how to evaluate information, view issues from different perspectives and develop informed opinions. Topics we will cover include ages of consent, law and order, equality and poverty, nationalism and borders and security and privacy.

Subject	Lessons/week	Subject	Lessons/week
Maths	4	PE	2
English	4	Games	3
History	2	Biology	2
Geography	2	Chemistry	2
RE	2	Physics	2
French	2	PSHE	1
Spanish	2	Computing/Drama (Carousel)	2
Latin	1	Music	2
Art	2	Critical Thinking	1
Food/DT (Carousel)	2		