



Year 7 Curriculum

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, inclusivity, collaboration 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. 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 pupils 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 fiction and nonfiction, and a wide range of related activities.

At Key Stage 3, pupils have the opportunity to study contemporary and classic poetry, prose and drama, which might be from the British literary heritage or other cultures. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are integrated into the curriculum.

In Year 7, pupils study the following:

- Poetry from other cultures
- From Beowulf to the Bard: an introduction to the history of English literature
- Modern nonfiction
- Modern prose
- Oracy: a public speaking competition

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 our popular Book Bingo! Year 7 also enjoy regular library lessons to inspire students with their reading. Students can borrow books from the library, or borrow ebooks from a library app on their iPads. The school subscribes to The Day, a news app that we highly recommend for broadening pupil knowledge of current affairs.

To promote reading and writing, the department runs a lunchtime book club as well as an Ezine club for aspiring journalists.



Mathematics

The aim of the maths curriculum is to broaden, develop and inspire pupils 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 pupils study:

- Whole numbers and decimals calculations
- Measures, perimeter and area
- Factors and multiples
- Statistics
- Angles and 2D shapes
- Transformations
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Order of operations
- Expressions, formulae and equations

All pupils 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 pupils can easily be moved from one set to another to maximise their learning. In the spring term, a large number of pupils have the opportunity to compete in the Junior Maths Challenge, a national competition. Each student has access to Sparx, an online homework and independent learning platform. All homework will be set using this intuitive programme with follow up support, or stretch and challenge tasks created from their homework responses.

Sciences

The Science Department aims to develop global citizens that can make informed decisions on scientific issues that affect our lives today and in the future. Our values include curiosity, independent thought, perseverance and communication.

The Year 7 Science pupils are taught in mixed ability classes—6 lessons per week and have separate lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. 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 the 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

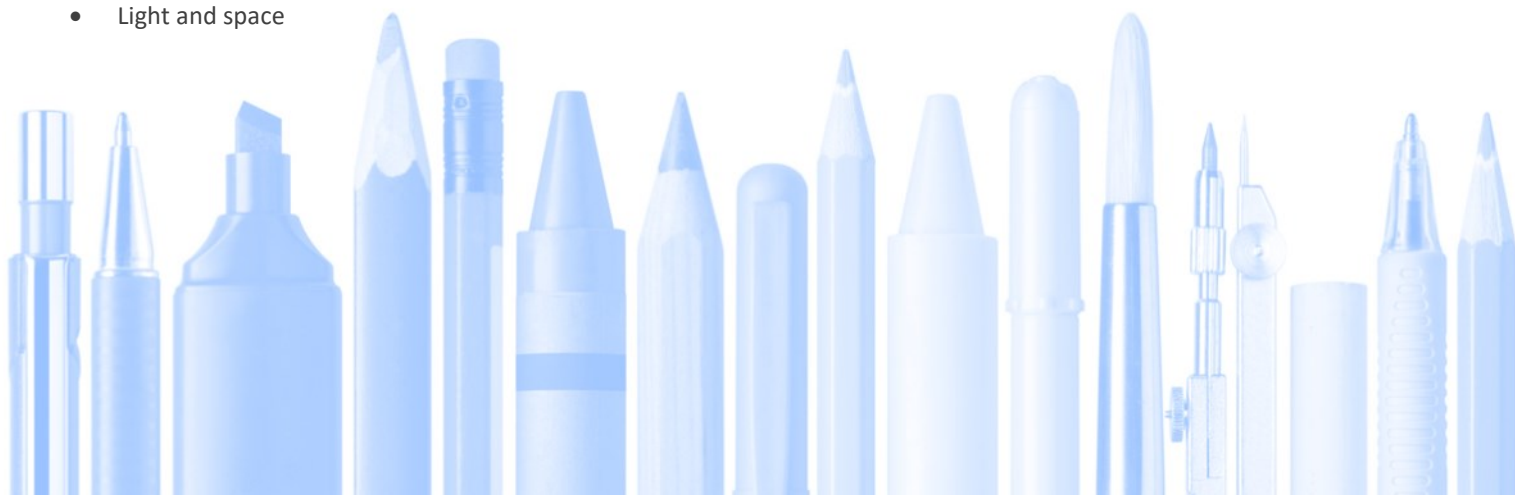
- Cells, tissues and organs
- Reproduction and variation
- Ecological relationships and classification

Chemistry

- Particles
- Chemical reactions
- Materials and the Earth

Physics

- Forces and motion
- Energy
- Light and space



Foreign Languages

Spanish:

In Spanish we cover the vocabulary of topics such as the alphabet, numbers, greetings, days of the week, months, birthdays, family members and personal descriptions. We learn about pronunciation, articles and gender, present tense, possessive adjectives, question words and connectives. Throughout the year we develop the four key skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students are also encouraged to engage with Hispanic culture and have the opportunity to complete a number of cultural projects.

French:

In French we cover vocabulary of topics such as alphabet, numbers, greetings, pets, colours, stationery and equipment, likes/dislikes, school subjects, weather, free time activities and town. We learn about French phonics, articles and gender, singular/plural and present tense verbs. Throughout the year we work on the four key skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Lessons focusing on Francophone culture take place every half term, allowing students to broaden their cultural knowledge of French speaking countries around the globe.

Geography

We start Geography at Dunottar with an exploration of a fantastic place in every continent of the planet from the favelas of Rio, the cascading waters of Victoria Falls and the stunning coral ecosystems of the Great Barrier reef; pupils are introduced to the awe and wonder of our home through immersive technologies, making full use of the iPads and VR headsets. Each place is studied whilst integrating map and cartographical skills. This is followed by a global study of hazards and why some places are more at risk than others through our 'Plate Tectonics' unit. Assessments at the end of each unit are varied and will range from display work to extended writing and oral presentations giving pupils a range of skills and building confidence through providing a variety of formative and summative assessments. These are used to ensure pupils are well informed about their learning and can be clear of their goals and targets for further improvement. Throughout this course pupils will access ICT through the use of GIS and Geographical apps on the iPads. Year 7 will also participate in off site fieldwork to put into practice some of their map skills.

History

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

- What is History?
- How did the Normans conquer England?
- How powerful were English medieval monarchs?
- What travelled along the Silk Roads?
- How could medieval people increase their chances of going to Heaven?
- Who were the Tudors?

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:

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.

Sikhism Pupils will explore the main themes and beliefs of Sikhism and what it means to be Sikh today.

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 themes of still life and landscapes. Projects will include work in both dry and wet colour media. Drawing and painting skills play a vital part in the year forming the basis for experimentation and development of ideas. Pupils will also carry out research on relevant artists and use their sketchbooks to plan, record and evaluate their progress alongside all studio work.

Music

The curriculum is designed to offer a broad and enriching music education so that all pupils are equipped with the necessary skills to enjoy, create, perform and understand music from a wide range of styles and historical periods. In all years learning takes place within the following three main areas:

- Musical activity: listening and appraising; composing and improvising; performing; exploring and producing.
- The language of music: form and structure; genres; melody, harmony and musical elements; musical devices; scales and tonality.
- Music in the wider community: the various functions of music in society, music for ceremonies, fanfares, celebrations, communication, dance, theatre, world music and cross-curricular links.

We begin the year with vocal music, exploring the various types of singing voice (male, female, SATB), their ranges and different uses across a variety of styles and cultures. Piano/keyboard performance work is developed each term through pieces of progressive difficulty. Any pupil who already plays a musical instrument is encouraged to bring this along to lessons and to join one or more of the music groups. Composing skills are developed throughout the year, including and improvising is encouraged to develop each pupil's creativity and build self-confidence. Knowledge of the orchestra, music theory and listening and appreciation skills are developed as an integral part of the learning.

Design & Technology

Design & Technology is on a rotation with Food & Nutrition. In Year 7, the focus is on workshop health and safety, and developing the pupils' practical skills with the tools and machinery in the workshop. As well as designing a safety sign (graphics communication), pupils also make a photo frame from a variety of polymers, and a tealight holder from hardwood. Pupils also learn how to use CAD (Computer Aided Design) to make products on the laser cutter.

Food & Nutrition

In Year 7, students will study a unit called "Chefs in training". The students will learn about health and safety in the kitchen and key food safety temperatures, knife skills, including bridge and claw grip, they will also learn how to use the hob, oven and food processor. There is an emphasis on developing safe, organised and hygienic working routines in the kitchen. The dishes the students cook include sticks and dips, chicken fajitas, apple crumble, healthy chicken nuggets, scones and shepherd's pie potatoes. The students will also complete an independent cooking task, called "Super subway Sandwiches". This task involves recipe designing, recipe writing, time planning, preparing a creative and delicious sandwich and self-evaluation.

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 programme the BBC microbit computers to create games and applications such as a step-counter. Pupils then learn to develop algorithms to solve problems using Lego robots. They learn about key programming constructs through a varied programme of activities.

Drama

In Year 7, pupils acquire the building blocks for effective performance through their study of the History of Theatre. Pupils' learning starts with an exploration of the features Commedia dell'Arte and Melodrama. During this period, pupils will not only learn about the features of these theatrical periods and style, they will also focus on skills such as: voice projection, spacing and audience manipulation. In the Spring term, students will study extracts from Macbeth from both an acting and technical perspective. This will build on their knowledge of bringing a text to light and help them establish the basics in set design, lighting, sound, costume, hair and makeup. In the final term, Year 7 will focus the basics of Stanislavski's system for actors during their exploration of Ernie's Incredible Illucinations by Alan Ayckbourn.

Physical Education

During Key Stage 3 pupils follow a programme which includes rugby, football and cricket for the boys and netball, football and cricket for the girls. Athletics and swimming are also available weekly for both boys and girls. Within weekly 'PE' lessons students will complete 6-week blocks of Physical Activity. We cover a broad range of activities throughout our 'PE' curriculum and within each activity we bed in GCSE PE terminology, so we are building a strong foundation and understanding of sport (tactical and technical) and physical activity from Year 7 through to Year 9 when students chose their GCSE options.

All of our 'PE' lessons are geared up to help students identify how to live a healthy and active lifestyle through the participation of sport and physical activity. Throughout the PE and Games lessons, students will experience different roles, such as coaching and officiating too, to develop their communication and leaderships skills. Co-curricular clubs run during both lunchtimes and after school for both competitive and recreational activities with fixtures taking place during the week and on Saturday mornings.

PSHE/RSE

PSHE is taught as a timetabled lesson by allocated members of staff with a number of the themes being followed up in Assemblies, with outside speakers and in form times. The pupils follow a progressive course which builds on topics over the years. Topics covered in Year 7 include: Building Relationships, Diversity, Developing Skills and Aspirations, Decision Making and Health, Puberty and Safety. Staff specialise in an area of delivery with the result being an expertise amongst the staff in approaching sometimes challenging topics. We ensure full coverage of RSE and the statutory expectations of the government guidance. As part of the PSHE programme, pupils investigate changing trends in the world of work, discuss the role of various jobs in society and practise negotiating skills to solve a problem.

Subject	Lessons/fortnight	Subject	Lessons/fortnight
Maths	6	Games	4
English	6	General Science:	8
Library	1	Biology	
History	3	Chemistry	
Geography	3	Physics	
RE	3	PSHE & RSE	2
French	3	Drama	3
Spanish	3	Computing	3
Art	3	Music	3
Food/DT	4		
PE	2		