

YEAR 7 SUBJECT SUMMARIES

Art	This term, Year 7 students have been exploring the themes of tone and identity. They have developed their understanding of tone by practising techniques to show different levels of light and dark, creating depth and realism in their work. Students have also been learning how artists express identity through art. They studied the famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, exploring how she used symbolism and self-portraiture to represent her emotions and personal story. To celebrate Black History Month, students were introduced to local artist Kelvin Akoar, examining how his work reflects culture, heritage, and community. As the term continues, students will build on these ideas and techniques to create a final self-portrait that reflects their own identity and individuality. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at rosie.knowles@walthamstow-academy.org
Computing	Year 7 students have been exploring the impact of technology on society, learning how digital solutions influence the way we live and work. We also discussed online safety, focusing on creating strong passwords and protecting personal information. This half-term, students are learning about spreadsheets and their practical applications. They have shown great curiosity and an increasing awareness of how technology shapes our world. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at waqas.asghar@walthamstow-academy.org
Drama	This half term, Year 7 students have taken part in an introductory drama scheme designed to familiarise them with the routines, expectations, and collaborative nature of practical drama lessons. Through group work, they have explored key performance techniques including characterisation, freeze frames, role play, and improvisation. The focus has been on building confidence, creativity, and teamwork as they begin their journey in drama. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at rachael.quince@walthamstow-academy.org
English	We welcomed Year 7 to Walthamstow Academy this year by encouraging them to find their voice. All classes began by exploring what it feels like to join the school through the medium of creative writing. This involved an in-depth study of narrative structure and the use of language for specific effects.

	After creative writing, we moved on to study one of England's greatest writers, William Shakespeare. We are currently exploring the big ideas presented in <i>The Tempest</i> and will soon be learning how to analyse Shakespearean language in greater depth. Alongside classwork, students complete 30 minutes of Sparx Reader as homework. This is designed to expose them to a wide range of texts and boost their literacy levels. We encourage you to monitor and support your child with these tasks whenever possible. Each Friday, we also have a dedicated grammar lesson, which has already yielded promising results in student writing. This half-term, we are starting to diagram sentences as a way to improve fluency. All classes have excelled with their homework, challenging each other to achieve the highest SRP scores. They are keen to share ideas and support one another wonderfully in their learning. As we move forward with our Shakespeare unit, we will focus on effective annotation and analysis, particularly developing extended analytical writing skills. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at emma.kraemer@walthamstow-academy.org
French	Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to learning French at Walthamstow Academy! In the first half-term, they began with the basics—introducing themselves and talking about their hobbies in French. This half-term, they are moving on to describing family members using the third-person form (he/she/they) and key verbs. Students have also been developing their grammar skills, learning how to express opinions with justifications, apply adjectival agreements for gender, and use present-tense conjugations. Throughout the year, they will continue to practise listening, reading, speaking, and writing across a variety of topics, building confidence and fluency. Each skill will be assessed during our assessment windows. To support their learning, students complete 20 minutes of Language Nut homework each week, which helps consolidate what they've learned in class. We encourage you to check in and support your child with these tasks whenever possible. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and progress so far, and we're excited to watch their language skills grow even further! If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at daisy.mash@walthamstow-academy.org
	Year 7 have made a fantastic start to geography at Walthamstow Academy, with many enthusiastic learners passionate about exploring the world around them. This half-term, students began by honing their geographical skills—working with maps, grid

Geography	references, and building general knowledge of the continents, oceans, and UK nations. They have now started learning about climate and the greenhouse effect, exploring how human activity is increasing carbon emissions and what this could mean for the future. We encourage students to continue learning about geography at home, as there are always news stories, books, and films related to the topics they are studying in class. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at alice.bearman@walthamstow-academy.org
History	Year 7 students have been exploring fascinating empires from around the year 1000, including the Song Dynasty in China, the Islamic Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the Holy Roman Empire. They have investigated key features of these civilizations and how ideas, technology, and trade connected different parts of the world. Students have also studied migration to England before 1066, deepening their understanding of how people, cultures, and beliefs shaped early medieval Britain. Next half-term, we will move on to the Norman Conquest of England and explore how this pivotal event transformed the country. Throughout these topics, students have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm for understanding the past. Many have developed impressive skills in using evidence and making comparisons between different societies. We are proud of their progress and look forward to continuing this journey through history together. We encourage parents to discuss what their child is learning in History—ask them which empire they found most interesting or how life in England changed over time. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at vimal.pandya@walthamstow-academy.org
Maths	Year 7 students have settled in very well. Since September, they have spent time recapping core numerical skills and then built on their understanding of prime numbers, factors, and multiples. They have also been introduced to algebra and have been working diligently to solve for unknown variables. Throughout these topics, students have demonstrated curiosity, resilience, and a willingness to challenge themselves. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to continuing this journey of learning and growth. Homework is set weekly and is always due on Wednesday. Sparx homework is expected to be completed to a high standard, and if your child needs help, they can attend the lunchtime Sparx club, which runs throughout the week. We encourage parents to have meaningful conversations about their child's learning journey in Maths. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at sylwia.urbania@walthamstow-academy.org

PE	Year 7 students have shown fantastic enthusiasm across a range of activities, including netball, trampolining, football, fitness, badminton, and table tennis. They have developed their teamwork, communication, and leadership skills while learning the importance of fair play and resilience. It has been great to see students supporting one another and celebrating progress in both individual and team settings. We are particularly proud of the positive attitudes shown towards trying new sports and improving personal fitness. There are extra-curricular clubs available at lunchtime and team fixtures hosted after school. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at iona.mills@walthamstow-academy.org
RE	Year 7 have made an amazing start to RE at Walthamstow Academy, with many enthusiastic and curious learners. We are proud of the progress they have made so far and look forward to continuing this journey through deep and thoughtful discussions about worldviews and faiths. This half-term, we began our curriculum journey by studying the <i>Origins of the Abrahamic Faiths</i>. This unit introduces the beginnings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam through a focus on Abraham (Ibrahim), an important figure in all three religions, along with the role of Moses in the emergence of Judaism and the role of Prophet Muhammad in the emergence of Islam. So far, we have explored topics such as Abraham's covenant with God, the Exodus, Leviticus, Jesus' teachings, and Jesus' death and resurrection. As the term and year progress, we will complete the unit on the Origins of the Abrahamic Faiths and then move on to an in-depth study of Judaism and Christianity. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at: lashanna.hamilton@walthamstow-academy.org
Science	Year 7 have made a fantastic start to this half-term. Recently, the classes have been reorganized, and all students have been allocated to sets. They began with Chemistry, where they learned about different separation techniques and the Particle Model. Currently, they are studying forces, and in the upcoming weeks, they will move on to energy. The next topic will focus on Biology, including Cells and Organisation. Homework is set on Science Sparx every Wednesday, and students have one week to complete it. The expected duration of the homework is one hour. Overall, all students have shown a fantastic attitude toward learning For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at sam.kelly@walthamstow-academy.org.uk

Spanish	All Year 7 Spanish classes have had a positive start to language learning at Walthamstow Academy. During the first half-term, students began with the basics, learning how to introduce themselves in Spanish and talk about their hobbies. This half-term, they will move on to describing family members using the third-person form (he/she/they) with key verbs. In terms of grammar, they have been learning how to express opinions with justifications, apply adjectival agreements for gender, and use present-tense conjugations. Throughout the year, they will continue practising their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills across a range of topics. Each skill will be assessed during our assessment windows. Every week, students are given 20 minutes of Language Nut homework to consolidate what they have learned in lessons. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at daisy.mash@walthamstow-academy.org
Design and Technology	Year 7 have made an excellent start to the academic year, bringing energy and enthusiasm to every lesson. Most students have now completed their acrylic keyrings with a creative 'twist,' showcasing both their design thinking and practical skills. They have learned to work safely in the workshop, confidently using a range of tools and machinery. Students are also developing their design vocabulary, gaining a deeper understanding of material properties and the stages of the design process. This is helping them articulate their ideas more clearly and make informed decisions in their projects. I've been particularly impressed by their conduct and collaborative spirit. Students have consistently supported one another—sharing skills, maintaining tidy workspaces, and contributing to a positive, fun, and safe learning environment. Their teamwork and willingness to help each other have made the classroom a genuinely enjoyable place to learn. For any questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at rae.harrison@walthamstow-academy.org