

Subject	Paragraph
Art	In Art, Year 11 students are currently focused on Component 1, which accounts for 60% of their overall GCSE grade. Each student is working on their own personal project, exploring a theme of their choice and developing a unique creative journey. This term, students have been refining and developing their ideas, experimenting with different materials, techniques, and visual research to strengthen the quality of their coursework. This preparation is leading up to their Drop-Down day, where they will have extended time to complete their outcome for this component at the end of the half term. We are encouraging students to stay organised, act on feedback, and ensure their sketchbooks clearly show their progress and creative thinking. This will help them secure the strongest possible marks for their coursework. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at rosie.knowles@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of Art)
Business	This term, students have enjoyed investigating how and why businesses grow. They were particularly interested in how businesses finance themselves. Students learned about bank loans and the stock market, and many expressed an interest in investing in shares in the future. Globalisation was the final topic covered, where students gained insight into markets and cultures around the world and were able to relate this to their own backgrounds. Linked to globalisation was online trading, which is very popular with students who are highly engaged in social media. Revision guides, Seneca, textbooks, and past exam questions are used for homework and students are expected to complete the work to a high standard every week. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at tunokan.ogbe@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of Business Studies)
Computing	Students are currently delving into the topics of network security, preventative measures for network threats, and Python coding skills, building on the strong foundation they established last term when they explored the components of computer systems and data representation. Their enthusiasm and engagement with the material have been exceptional, resulting in significant progress and a deeper understanding of these key computing concepts. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at waqas.asghar@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of Computing)
Design Technology	Since September, students have been working on Component 1, which accounts for 60% of their overall grade. They've completed the research phase and are now finishing the experimentation stage, where they have turned their 2D ideas into 3D models. The next step is to create a prototype or a refined version of their final design. I'm very impressed with the quality of their work and the effort they've put in. The atmosphere in the workshop is excellent, and I'm excited to see their finished projects. After Christmas, students will begin Component 2, worth 40% of their grade. This will conclude with a 10-hour practical assessment in the workshop. To succeed, they'll need to maintain a steady pace each week and plan carefully for this assessment.

	To support your child, ask them to share their online portfolios with you. Ask questions about their research, why they have chosen a particular designer, and why they like them. This will help develop their oracy skills and strengthen their opinions on design. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at rae.harrison@walthamstow-academy.org
English	This term, students have learned about Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> and Stevenson's <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> for their English Literature GCSE and have also revised Language Paper 2 for the English Language qualification. They were assessed on all these topics in the recent PPEs. We are now focusing on giving feedback and improvement time so that students know how to add marks to what they achieved in their PPEs. Each week, we are supporting exam preparation with English Power Hour on Wednesdays after school. During this intervention, students complete an exam question under strict exam conditions to build stamina, resilience, and confidence. At home, students should continue to focus on English Literature revision using flashcards and model essays to help prepare for the next set of PPEs in March and to accelerate their progress in lessons. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at emma.kraemer@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of English)
French	Since the start of the year, students have studied the Travel and Tourism unit and learned about French-speaking countries such as Martinique and Quebec in Canada. They built upon their existing grammatical knowledge and learned specific vocabulary related to holidays. They applied their French practically by preparing role plays for the speaking exams and producing language independently to describe how they spend their holidays and where they would like to travel in the future. All this knowledge was applied in their PPE1 exams, where they successfully completed a full speaking exam. Students will build upon this progress in the next half-term to improve their exam skills. We encourage parents to continue having meaningful conversations about their learning journey in languages. Finally, it is vital that students regularly learn key vocabulary and practise grammar on a consistent basis. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at daisy.mash@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of MFL)
Geography	Year 11 students have been working hard in class, learning about <i>Urban Issues and Challenges</i>, focusing most recently on the case study of London as a city in a high-income country. We will be finishing the content with our final unit on <i>Hazards</i> next, where students will learn about how tropical storms, earthquakes, and climate change can impact people and the environment. We will then focus on revision, exam practice, and preparation for the pre-release Paper 3 once it becomes available in 2026. How parents can support at home: • Encourage students to use their green CGP revision guide for short daily review sessions. • Check that they complete Seneca Learning tasks, homework, and holiday homework (Day 1–5 packs), revisiting any areas they find challenging. • Ask them to explain what they learned in their geography lessons this week.

	For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at alice.bearman@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of Geography)
History	The History department has been very impressed with the Year 11 students. So far this term, students have focused on completing the final parts of our Weimar and Nazi Germany module. At first, many found the complex political changes and key historical interpretations challenging, but they have shown real determination and made excellent progress. Students have developed stronger analytical skills, particularly when evaluating the impact of events such as the Treaty of Versailles, the Munich Putsch, and Hitler's rise to power. We are also very proud of the maturity and effort shown during their recent PPE exams for Papers 1 and 3. Many students demonstrated improved exam technique, using evidence more effectively in source questions and writing well-structured explanations and judgments. Their resilience and commitment to refining their historical thinking have been brilliant to see. Homework continues to be set weekly, and students should ensure their revision tasks and practice exam questions are completed to a high standard. We encourage parents and carers to discuss what students are learning in History, including the significance of past events and how they shaped the modern world. We are incredibly proud of Year 11's hard work so far and look forward to continuing their journey towards success in the summer GCSE exams For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at vimal.pandya@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of History)
Maths	In Maths, we are very pleased with how Year 11 have started their GCSE journey this year. Most students are working hard and have the right attitude in lessons. They have now completed their Progress Point Test, their PPE1, followed by DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time). Students have been shown how they can gain up to 10 extra marks per paper. To keep up with regular practice, all Year 11 students will be working on two past exam papers per week: • Hannah Kettle half past paper for 45 minutes at home. • Maths Power Hour paper for 50 minutes in the hall. All papers are expected to be completed under timed conditions, self-assessed, and clearly labelled with the percentage and grade. Students will track their results and progress weekly. Students are set 30 minutes of Sparx homework weekly, due on Wednesdays. If a student cannot complete the homework to 100%, we encourage them to see their teacher before the due date. We run Sparx Club after school and at lunchtime on Tuesday and Wednesday. As we are all aware, maths cannot be learned overnight as it builds on prior knowledge. Students need to practise regularly and deepen their understanding further. The following websites are very useful and have videos, worksheets, and solutions to help students practise maths independently: • www.mathsgenie.co.uk • www.corbettmaths.com • www.1stclassmaths.com Students should also use their textbooks and exercise books for revision. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at sheraz.hussain@walthamstow-academy.org.
PE	Since the start of the year, PE students have explored a wide range of GCSE PE theory and practical content. We are currently covering commercialisation in sport and the impact it has on performers, officials, and spectators. Students are

	continuously growing in confidence when applying this knowledge to real sporting examples. In our health and fitness unit, students have learned about the different components of fitness and how they relate to performance. They also explored somatotypes, obesity, sedentary lifestyles, and the importance of nutrition, gaining a clear understanding of how lifestyle choices can impact physical, emotional, and social well-being. Many students have excelled in linking these topics together and applying them to exam-style questions. Alongside the theory work, students have continued developing their practical performance in netball, football, and handball. It has been fantastic to see their teamwork, communication, and tactical decision-making improve, with many students showing resilience and a willingness to challenge themselves in competitive situations. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and progress this half-term and look forward to supporting them as they continue to grow in both confidence and skill. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at ruel.gibson@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of PE)
RE	Year 11 students have shown fantastic commitment while working on the AQA Themed Paper. They began with Theme A: Relationships and Families and are now exploring Theme B: Religion and Life. Students have engaged well in class discussions and practice exam questions, and we are proud of their progress. Homework is completed using Seneca Learning, which supports their understanding of key concepts. All RE students also have a revision guide, knowledge organisers, and key religious scripture sheets to help with practising past questions and independent study. How parents can support at home: • Encourage students to use their revision guide and knowledge organisers for short daily review sessions. • Check that they complete Seneca Learning tasks and revisit any areas they find challenging. • Ask them to explain key religious teachings or ethical issues aloud—this helps reinforce understanding. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at lashanna.hamilton@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of RE).
Science Combined	The Science team is very pleased with Year 11. They have shown a strong and mature approach to challenging concepts. There is a great emphasis on using time wisely, working hard, and thinking hard during lessons, and students have shown excellent ambition since starting Year 11. The class is now studying Homeostasis, a biology topic that is particularly knowledge heavy. Students will need to prioritise memorising core facts and key processes to keep up with the demands of the course. As a class, they show good engagement, but one of our key areas for development is improving their confidence and accuracy with six-mark questions, particularly those involving practical work. Many students are still hesitant to write full methods or include the level of detail needed for the highest marks, so this will remain a strong focus in lessons. To support their GCSE preparation, they have been completing a past-paper homework each week to develop exam technique, build confidence, and strengthen their ability to work under exam conditions. Please support your child in completing these in exam conditions and self-assessing with a green pen. There is also a folder on Microsoft Teams that students can use to access extra resources and work.

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	For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at sam.kelly@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of Science)
Sociology	Since the start of the year, students have completed the Crime and Deviance unit, where we examined gender, ethnic, and social class differences in offending, as well as critically evaluating sources of data on crime (e.g., official statistics, self-report studies, and victim surveys). This is just a brief overview; in preparation for GCSE examinations, students have been completing practice exam questions as a 'Do Now' activity, writing out model answers, and engaging in lots of exam practice. We are now moving on to our final unit, Social Stratification, which we expect to complete in early January. Students have access to the GCSE 9–1 textbook to further consolidate their knowledge and learning. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at nusrat.shabir@walthamstow-academy.org
Spanish	Since the start of the year, students have studied the Travel and Tourism unit and learned about Spanish-speaking countries such as Bolivia and Puerto Rico. They built upon their existing grammatical knowledge and learned specific vocabulary related to holidays. They applied their Spanish practically by preparing role plays for the speaking exams and producing language independently to describe how they spend their holidays and where they would like to travel in the future. All this knowledge was applied in their PPE1 exams, where they successfully completed a full speaking exam. Students will build upon this progress in the next half-term to improve their exam skills. We encourage parents to continue having meaningful conversations about their learning journey in languages. Finally, it is vital that students regularly learn key vocabulary and practise grammar on a consistent basis. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at daisy.mash@walthamstow-academy.org (Head of MFL)
Triple Science	This half-term, our triple scientists have completed some challenging chemistry topics, in which they performed exceptionally well. We are now moving into a series of biology topics. These can be more demanding, as triple content often goes beyond what students have previously covered in combined science. This means we are frequently linking new material with prior knowledge, and students need to be flexible in drawing from both. The content is manageable, but only if homework is completed to a consistently high standard. Homework will frequently involve six-mark questions or printed exam-style questions. Please support your child by checking that these are completed thoughtfully and thoroughly. As all students in this class are working towards grades 7–9, they should be aiming for around 70–80% on these tasks. Scores consistently below this indicate that they should be doing additional revision to strengthen their understanding. For any further queries or to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at bailey.wolkowski@walthamstow-academy.org