

Our Ref: PBL/ajc/parents2009-10(Y7-11)

October 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Extended Learning Calendar 2009-2010

'Extended Learning is work or activities, which students are asked to do outside lesson time on their own, in groups or with parents or carers. It is about being creative and broadening students' experiences.' (Extract from the DCS Extended Learning Policy 2009.)

It differs from homework in that it recognises all work students do outside of lessons, for example, at breaks and after school.

Extended Learning promotes learning and is a key feature of raising student's achievement. Dinnington's objectives for Extended Learning are:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own or in groups, an essential skill for adult life.
- To encourage students to become organised learners and to prepare them for the world of work.
- To encourage and develop a positive attitude to school.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding learnt in class.
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading and develop research skills.

Extended Learning activities will include a wide range of experiences such as: written assignments, learning assignments, preparing an oral presentation, reading in preparation for a lesson, finding out information/researching a project (other activities could include: Questions, Past papers, thinking activities, self-study resources, choice, cut up, decision making, Quizzes, model answers and making notes.)

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and students that the Learning Resource Centre is open each day until 4.30 p.m. (Monday to Thursday) and students are free to complete Extended Learning activities here. A late bus leaves school at 4.45 p.m. on each of these nights.

Attached to this letter is a calendar that indicates the name of the topics that will form the Extended Learning activities for each subject for the year along with a suggested time limit for the activities. Please note that the time limit is just a guide, some activities may be shorter or longer than others.

Teachers may also alter the order or the nature of the activity to suit the learners in their class.

I do hope that you will support us by providing a work space for your son/daughter and talking to them about their Extended Learning activity. If you have any concerns or worries regarding Extended Learning activities please do not hesitate to contact the subject teacher/form tutor of your son/daughter in the first instance who will gladly help with your concern.

Year 11 English and Mathematics GCSE Exams

All students in Year 11 will take their final GCSE exams in November 2009.

GCSE English	9 th & 12 th November - GCSE papers 1 & 2 - all Year 11
GCSE Maths	5 th & 10 th November - GCSE papers - all Year 11
	13 th November - Modules 1 & 3 - some Y10 and Y11 (Students should check with their Maths teacher)

It is our expectation that the vast majority of students will not need to resit these exams again, i.e. those that achieve or exceed their target grade. This will allow them to devote more of their time to remaining examinations. Individual cases may be reviewed by the school.

From 7th September until the exams are completed, Year 11 students will undertake an extensive period of revision and exam preparation. It is critical during this time that your son/daughter attends school every day.

Whilst it is true that many examinations still fall in May and June, many others can and do occur at other key points throughout the year.

For information, the key periods are:

November:	English and Mathematics
December:	Year 11 Mock Exams
January:	Science, Health & Social Care
March/April:	Art, Drama, Music, French and Spanish
May & June:	Key exam period for all subjects

Other exams, for example, Adult Literacy and Numeracy, which all students sit, can take place during any month.

Obviously, your son/daughter will receive information on any dates prior to the actual exams and will be asked to bring them home to show you.

Clearly, attendance at GCSE and other public examinations is critical. As the dates are set by the Exam Boards they cannot be rescheduled. Therefore, I would recommend that you do not book holidays during term time as the chances of missing an exam are now high.

School Uniform

The standard of dress of our students will be a major focus this year, not just what they wear but how they wear it. Many parents have expressed their support for my belief that wearing the correct uniform and in a smart way does make a difference to the ethos of the school. We shall work with all school partners to raise the general appearance of students and, if required, I shall notify parents and send students home who are not appropriately dressed.

Finally, we shall undertake a uniform review during the year to establish whether we wish to remain with the current uniform or make some small changes. All partners will be consulted during this process.

Christmas Fayre

Following last year's very successful event, we will once again be holding a Christmas Fayre on the day of the Parents Day on 10th December 2009. More information will follow later in the term.

Internal Exclusion Unit

As from September 2009, the school will operate an Internal Exclusion Unit at Redwood Court, Outgang Lane.

Wherever appropriate, rather than apply a fixed term exclusion for a student who has seriously or repeatedly breached school policies, they shall receive a period of education in this unit.

All parents will be contacted prior to this occurring by phone and letter and they will be invited to attend school for a reintegration meeting on the student's satisfactory completion of their time there. Whilst at the unit students will receive five hours of education, but limited breaks. They will be expected to work in silence and behave in an exemplary manner.

The Internal Exclusion Unit form part of the school's desire to raise standards of behaviour.

Lunchtime Policy

Can I please remind all parents and students that students cannot leave the site at breaktime.

With regards to lunchtimes, only Year 11 students who live in walking distance of the school can apply for a lunchtime pass to go home only. Students who have a valid pass must leave the site via the main drive (all other gates are locked at lunchtime).

Yours sincerely,



P.A. Blackwell
Head Teacher

Enclosures:

Extended Learning Timetable 2009-10
Internal Exclusion Unit booklet

Y7 Extended Learning Opportunities 2009-2010
2 Extended Learning Activities per night of 20 minutes duration

Subject/faculty		September-October Half term					November - December Half term					January - February Half term					February-March Half term					April- May Half Term					June - July half term				
English	wx	1.Project based on novel 2.Research project based on Shakespeare										1.Project based on a play 2.Biography/autobiography										1.Poetry 2.Writing to describe									
	yz	1.Poetry 2.Writing to describe										1.Project based on novel 2.Research project based on Shakespeare										1.Project based on a play 2.Biography/autobiography									
	Pathways	1.Spelling 2.Private reading project										1.Write a short play 2.What is your best memory?										1.Writing poetry 2.Research project based on Shakespeare									
Maths		N1	A1	G1	N2	R	S1	A2	G2	S2	N3	A3	G3	N4	A3	G4	R	S3	N5	A5	G5										
Maths Key: A= Algebra, S= Statistics, N= Number, G= Geometry, R= Revision																															
DT		These subjects will set a short 20 minute Extended Learning activities every week according to the Extended Learning timetable for each Y7 form the Extended Learning timetable will be set by subject staff and shared with Y7 students in the first week of the school year September 2009																													
MFL		Extended Learning opportunities will be 20 minute French activity weekly and 20 minute Spanish fortnightly. Extended Learning activities will include learning vocabulary, this will be supported in class to find the best strategy to do this e.g. cover and remember, pair work, mini flash cards, card games, association activities, word cards																													
ICT		Spreadsheets					Databases					Business Documents					Computer basics					Presentations					Sequencing				
Science		Household Acids and Alkalis					Modelling Particles					Creative Cells project					Sustainable Living					How does Science Work?									
Humanities	Geography	What is geography?					Dinnington Detectives					Hostile Environments					Consumer Habits					Energy					Disappearing Coasts				
		Individual written assessment					Individual drawing					Making a resource					Fieldwork					Fieldwork					Individual drawing				
	History	Roman Gods Project										Plains Indians Project										Children in Mills Project									
RE	RE	Introduction to RE: Advertisement, writing task and analysis of images					Philosophy of RE: Research, cloze test and comprehension					Judaism: Puppet show, research					Life of Jesus: Newspaper article, research, essay					Early Christianity					Religion and Art				
		Skill build and knowledge base in different creative areas																				Faculty project using all skills and knowledge learnt through: art, drama and music the title of the project is ' <i>Carnivals</i> '									
PE		PE will set very short Extended Learning activities as and when is necessary and relevant to the Y7 PE course																													
Learning for Life		Learning for Life will set a very short Extended Learning activities every week																													
Building Relationships										How can I keep healthy?										What's in my local community?											

Y8 Extended Learning Opportunities 2009-2010
2 Extended Learning activities per night of 30 minutes duration

Subject/faculty		September-October Half term					November - December Half term			January - February Half term			February-March Half term			April- May Half Term			June - July half term		
English	wx	1.Project based on a novel 2.The tempest						1.Project based on a play 2.History of English research project						1.Poetry 2.Writing to persuade							
	yz	1.Poetry 2.Writing to persuade						1.Project based on a novel 2.The tempest						1.Project based on a play 2.History of English research project							
	pathways	1.Spelling 2.Private reading project						1.Island project 2.Writing a play						1.Activities on a poem 2.Witches research project							
Maths		N1	A1	G1	S1	R	N2	A2	G2	A3	R	N3	G3	A4	S2	N4	R	A5	G4	S3	SOLVE
Maths Key A= Algebra, S= Statistics, N= Number, G= Geometry, R= Revision																					
DT		These subjects will set a short 20 minute homework every week according to the Homework timetable for each Y8 form the homework timetable will be set by subject staff and shared with Y8 students in the first week of the school year September 2009																			
MFL		Extended Learning opportunities will be 30 minute French activity weekly and 30 minute Spanish fortnightly. Extended Learning activities will include learning vocabulary, this will be supported in class to find the best strategy to do this e.g. cover and remember, pair work, mini flash cards, card games, association activities, word cards																			
ICT		Computer Basics	Internet Usage	Professional Documents	Spreadsheets			Database		E mail		Presentation		Computer Basics	Sequencing						
Science		Food Glorious Food		Going for Gold	Doctors and Diseases	The way of the Dodo	In the drink	Materials and Recycling	All that Glitters	Exploring Earth	Heat Transfers	On the Move	Light Fantastic	Sound and Hearing							
Humanities	Geography	Tourism My holiday evaluation			Water issues Home usage of water			Migration Research report on migration issue		Climate change Make you weather recording instruments		Green Olympics What event should be introduced into the Olympics									
	History	Autobiography/Family History						Laying Siege to a castle - building assault weapons				'Freedom' campaign (Suffragettes or Civil Rights)									
	RE	Religion and Animal Rights			Christianity			Random Religious People Project		Islam		Eastern Religions Buddhism/ Hinduism		Dinnington and Religion Project							
Creative	Music	Rondo			Indian			Song		Keyboards		Film		Creative Project							
	Drama	Extended Learning activities will include learning lines of a script for a performance, researching ideas or concepts to be explored in the lesson, developing characters for use in role play, thinking through improvisation in preparation for lessons, creating character sheets, thinking of questions for hot seating exercises, watching drama on television to use as examples														Creative Project					
	Art	Skill build and knowledge base in different creative areas														Creative Project Colour					
PE		PE will set very short homework as and when is necessary and relevant to the Y8 PE course																			
Learning for Life		Building Relationships						How can I keep healthy?						What's happening in my community?							
		Building Positive and Social Relationships						What's in my local community?						Healthy Eating							

Y9 Extended Learning Opportunities 2009-2010

2 Extended learning activities per night of 40 minutes duration

Subject/faculty		September-October				November - December				January - February		February-March		April-May		June - July	
Maths	Foundation	3.1 & 3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	Revision	Past papers	Revision & past papers	Module 3	Module 1			
	3.1= Methods of calculation; 3.2= Place value, ordering & rounding; 3.3=Integers; 3.4=Numbers and operations; 3.5= Powers and roots; 3.6=Fractions, decimals &percentages; 3.7=Ratio & proportion; 3.8=Compound measures (& algebra); 3.9=Calculator methods																
	Higher	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	Revision	Past papers	Revision & past papers	Module 3	Module 1			
3.1=Rounding; 3.2=Integers, powers & roots; 3.4=Number operations; 3.5=Fractions, decimals & percentages; 3.6=Ratio & proportion; 3.7 Algebra; 3.8=Compound measures; 3.9=Using a calculator																	
English	wx	1.Project based on a novel 2.Writing to argue							1.Media scrapbook and 'Signs' leaflet 2.Short Stories				1.Media moving image 2.poems from different cultures				
	yz	1.Media scrapbook and 'Signs' leaflet 2.Short Stories							1.Project based on a novel 2.Writing to argue				1.Media moving image 2.poems from different cultures				
	pathways	1.Spelling 2.Private reading project							1.Writing to review computer games 2.Interview project-tell me a spooky story				1.Creating a comic about a Shakespeare play 2.Research project - other cultures				
Science	Science and Fiction	A Model Career	On the Farm	Crime Scene Investigations	Building for the Future	Sculpture Park	Cleaning Up	Flying Materials	Buying Energy	Satellites and Space	Record Breakers	Dam it					
MFL	Extended Learning opportunities will be 2 X 40 minute Language French/Spanish activity weekly for set 1 and 40 minute French/Spanish activity for all other groups. Extended Learning activities will include learning vocabulary, this will be supported in class to find the best strategy to do this e.g. cover and remember, pair work, mini flash cards, card games, association activities, word cards																
DT	Extended Learning activities will be set dependent upon the project being undertaken, design will be a feature at the start of a project including research this will take place every 2 weeks; at the end of a project Extended Learning will involve testing and evaluating the project.																
ICT	Computer Basics	Internet Usage	Professional Documents	Spreadsheets	Database			Computer Basics	Writing Skills	Computer Graphics And Research	Research Computer Graphics	Research Websites					
Humanities	Geography	Natural hazards Research report on chosen natural hazard		Geographical issues Poster explaining current issue of interest		Crime Map survey of local crime			Equal world Comparison presentation of two contrasting places		Threatened ecosystems My rainforest survival diary		Globalisation Sustainable issue poster				
	History	Slavery booklet/diary of a slave						World War One Project				Historical dictionary					
	RE	Religion and Animal Rights						Religion and the Environment				Religion and Prejudice		Religion and Early Life			
Creative	Music	Blues		Rap				L. A. M.		Experimental		Syncro		Creative project			
	Drama	Extended Learning activities will include learning lines of a script for a performance, researching ideas or concepts to be explored in the lesson, developing characters for use in role play, thinking through improvisation in preparation for lessons, creating character sheets, thinking of questions for hot seating exercises, watching drama on television to use as examples														Creative Project	
	Art	Skill build and knowledge base in different creative areas														Creative Project Cubism	
PE	PE will set very short Extended Learning activities as and when is necessary and relevant to the Y9 PE course																
Learning for Life	Learning for Life will set a very short extended learning every week																
	Building Relationships								How can I keep healthy?				Getting Ready for work experience				