



YEAR 7 PARENT LESSON EXPERIENCE

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the Year 7 Parent Lesson Experience! It is very brave of you to join us tonight as for many of you it will have been a long time since you have studied formally in a school environment.

The aim of the evening is to give you a chance to see how your child is taught at John Colet. Tonight we will be focussing on the core lessons of English, Maths and Science. The lessons that you will be experiencing are designed and delivered a similar way to how your child will be learning these subjects.

There have been extensive changes in the curriculum, particularly in the last couple of years, leading to a more content and skills heavy emphasis. Therefore, the support you are able to give at home can be invaluable to your child's learning and progress.

We hope that your experience tonight, will act as a springboard to discuss their learning and achievement in the classroom on a daily basis and keep you in touch with their progress.

So, don't sit back and relax, get involved and ask questions and make the most of your chance to be a child again!

We value your support and comments regarding the evening and evaluation forms will be available in reception on exit to complete.

Kind regards,

Mrs P. Norris
Assistant Headteacher

Supporting your child in English

For many parents it will have been a long time since you have studied English, and the changes in curriculum mean that the emphasis on learning has changed. Throughout the five years at John Colet, your child will learn a range of topics which will cover: poetry, Shakespeare's plays, novels and non-fiction texts.

Over the course of the five years different topics will go into more depth and create more links between the concepts to allow for a solid learning base. This will help those students who wish to continue their English learning in sixth form and further education, while also giving the necessary skills for many jobs and further education opportunities.

In Years 7 and 8 the main focus of the English teaching will be upon motivating and engaging the students to understand the foundations of English which will cover reading, writing, spoken language, grammar and vocabulary. In these two years we give the students the foundations that they will need for the GCSE course, for which we follow the AQA exam board for both English Language and English Literature.

During these school years the best way in which you can support your child would be to encourage them to engage them in English in everyday life through reading widely and often (books, articles, newspapers), practising spellings and handwriting. Their school work will be based on the current KS3 curriculum which can be found on the link below and will also be covered on BBC Bitesize. If there are any issues with completing homework then going through the topic on BBC Bitesize is the best place to start, however, there are some good revision guides available (see links below).

All of the teachers within the department are available during break and lunch if students would like clarification on anything they do not understand. We run an after school support club for Year 7 students on a Monday from 3-4pm and there is also homework club run by Learning Support where students can get extra help if needed. If there is a specific question or issue that you have please do contact the class teacher via email or the head of Year 7 English, Miss Miller, on the email below:

kmiller@johncolet.co.uk

KS3 curriculum:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study>

BBC Bitesize:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv>

Revision guides:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-English-Study-Guide-Books/dp/B00HEE3OGC>

Supporting your child in Science

For many parents it will have been a long time since they have studied any science, and the changes in curriculum mean that the emphasis on learning is completely different. Throughout the five years your child will learn a range of topics which all apply to a few key concepts – cells; interdependence; energy; forces; particles; reactions; ecology.

Over the course of the five years different topics will go into more depth and create more links between the concepts to allow for a solid learning base in order for students to continue their science learning in sixth form and further education.

In year 7 and 8 the main focus of the science teaching will be upon motivating and engaging the students to understand the true wonder and nature of science. During these school years the best way in which you can support your child would be to encourage them to read scientific news articles, on the BBC for example, or to engage them in science in everyday life, such as visits to the National Science Museum in London. Their school work will be based on the current KS3 curriculum which can be found on the link below and will also be covered on BBC Bitesize. If there are any issues with completing homework then going through the topic on BBC Bitesize is the best place to start, however there are some good revision guides available (see links below).

All of the teachers within the department are available during break and lunch if students would like clarification on anything they do not understand. There is also homework club run by Learner Support where they can get extra help if needed. If there is a specific question or issue that you have please do contact the class teacher via email or the Assistant Subject Team Leader for Science, on the email below.

kbetts@johncolet.co.uk

KS3 Curriculum:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study>

BBC bitesize:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p>

Revision guides:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-Science-Complete-Study-Practice/dp/184146385X>

Supporting your child in Maths

For many parents it is a long time since you have studied Maths, and the changes in the curriculum means that the emphasis on learning has changed. At the Colet, we believe that we all have a starting point, ready to be developed and enhanced with the right support, dedication and work ethic. Rather than emphasising 'brains' or 'natural talent', we focus on progress and continual improvement, giving children the motivation and resilience needed to do well.

Throughout the five years at John Colet, your child will focus on a range of different topics, which are grouped into five categories: Number, Ratio & Proportion & Rates of Change; Statistics & Probability; Geometry & Measures, and Algebra. During this time we develop and create links between the concepts to allow for a solid learning base. This will help those students who wish to continue with Maths into the Sixth form, whilst also providing the necessary skills for various jobs.

The best way you can support your child is to encourage them to engage in real life Maths. Maths is all around us and problem solving is at the heart of the Maths department. Help your child to make the connections between what is being learnt at school and the world around them. Demonstrating these connections and representing them in multiple ways, not only supports your child's understanding and cements their knowledge but also reinforces the relevance of Maths in our lives and makes it fun. **Follow a recipe:** work together to find out the quantities needed, ask your child to weigh the ingredients, discuss how you would halve or double the recipe and discuss the ratio of ingredients. **Talk about the weather forecast:** is today's temperature higher or lower than yesterday's temperature? What do the numbers mean? **Going shopping:** talk about the cost of items and how to select the best value for money. Let your child count out the coins when paying and discuss the change you get back. Use coins to explore addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. **Plan an outing:** discuss how long it takes to get to the park, and so work out what time you need to leave the house. Encourage your child to work out the best solution based on the time and distances. Discuss how to read bus/train timetables.

To support your child's understanding of mathematical words, ask them to explain the words they've been using and what they mean. Find out what new maths vocabulary your child's teacher is introducing so you can use it at home to complement their learning.

All the teachers within the department are available during Lunch if students need help with a topic. The school runs an after school Homework support club for Year 7 students on a Thursday from 3-4pm. If there is a specific question or issue that you have please contact the class teacher via email.

Support materials

- Students all have a login for MYMATHS which is extremely helpful with lessons for each topic.
- Every student has a PIXL maths login which allows them to access the PIXL Maths and Times Table app. Students can earn points whilst they revise and these are celebrated at the end of each half term.
- Corbett Maths is useful for topic revision. It has Primary, KS3 and KS4 worksheets with solutions as well as short video clips to support methods. <https://corbettmaths.com/>
- BBC bitesize has some excellent resources to support with revision.