

Cromwell
Community



Course Guide 2011



Years 7, 8 and 9
(11-14)

Welcome to Key Stage 3 at Cromwell Community College.

We hope that the first couple of weeks at Cromwell have gone well. This guide is designed to answer many of the questions you may have as to what the coming years hold in store. In July you left your primary schools at the end of Key Stage 2. Now, you have begun Key Stage 3, which is complete by the end of Year 9.

You will face many new challenges as you move through College, but it might be useful to think about what College is aiming to do for you.

College is aiming to:

- prepare you for the adult world
- teach you skills and knowledge that you need for lifelong learning
- give you a wide range of subject knowledge and skills
- help you become more independent
- show you how to think and learn for yourself
- give you the confidence to join in, ask questions and help others
- lay the foundations for success at Key Stage 4

The Curriculum

For the first three years in College, you will follow a range of courses which are designed to give you a broad and balanced curriculum. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is organised into the following subject areas:

Art and Design	Citizenship
Design and Technology	Drama
English	Geography
History	Information and Communications Technology
Mathematics	Modern Foreign Languages - French
Music	Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PSHEE)
Physical Education	Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Education)
Science	

All of these subjects are equally important as you begin your steps towards gaining qualifications and becoming an adult.

As part of our policy to personalise the curriculum, in certain subjects and where pupils are able, we begin the teaching of GCSE in Year 9. We believe this staged transfer helps to prepare pupils for Key Stage 4 and increases their chances of success.

Personal Learning Thinking Skills (PLTS)

These are important transferable skills which equip you with the necessary skills for the 21st Century. You will develop these skills in your lessons but also in collapsed theme days, when you will focus on some of these.

Creative Thinking is all about encouraging you to think creatively, explore new ideas and find different ways to tackle problems and reach solutions.

Team Working is about working confidently with others, adapting to different contexts and taking responsibility for your own role. It's about listening to others and valuing different viewpoints.

Reflective Learning is all about evaluating what you do, looking at your strengths and weaknesses and setting yourself goals for success.

Effective Participation is about actively engaging in issues and taking a full part in the life of lessons, your tutor group, the whole school and the wider community. It's about taking responsible action to change things for the better.

Pupils who are effective **Self Managers** organise themselves, showing responsibility, initiative and creativity. It's about showing a commitment to learning and self improvement.

Independent Enquiry is all about being able to process and evaluate information. It's about finding out things and deciding which information is important or relevant.

You will also follow a programme of SEAL (Social Emotional Aspects of Learning) activities with your Form Tutor. These are designed to encourage you to think about and discuss how you feel about issues and how you handle different situations.

All of the work you will do at Cromwell both in and out of lessons will help you to become:

- A confident individual.
- An effective learner.
- A responsible citizen.

We hope you will find this guide useful, but if you have any other questions please do not hesitate to ask.



Miss H. Roberts
Assistant Principal (Director of Learning 11-14)



Dr. R. Peryer
Assistant Principal (Curriculum)

How Can Mums, Dads and Carers Help?

Mums, Dads and Carers are very important in helping you to learn and make progress.

Mums, Dads and Carers can:

- Make sure you eat breakfast every day.
- Make sure late nights are usually kept for the holidays!
- Show an interest in your work
- Look through your books and talk about your day
- Keep pencils, pens, etc and a dictionary always handy
- Ensure you have a quiet place to study
- Talk and help with Independent Study tasks, but do not do it for you!
It is good if you explain your work to them
- Help you to organise your work, your time and to use your College Planner
- Praise you when you do well
- Encourage you to read something every day
- Watch out for TV programmes which will support your learning
- Look out for educational games, books or tasks on the internet which make learning fun
- Find activities to do or places to go out where you can extend your learning together
- Make sure you attend school regularly, arriving on time and that you copy up missed work if you are occasionally absent.

You should be trying your very best with your work, gaining as many i-Behave points and other awards as possible, so that your parents are proud of you and you are proud of yourself.

Art and Design

What Will I Study?

The Art and design course is exciting, innovative and fun.

You will study drawing, painting and sculpture in practical lessons that explore:-

- Artists such as Julian Opie, Keith Haring, N.C. Escher, Debra Hurd, Vincent Scarpace and Jennifer Vrannes
- Techniques for using oil pastels, charcoal, wire, clay, modroc, paint and many other media.



How Will I Learn?

You will work on an individual and group basis to create a portfolio, which shows how you have experimented with and developed different themes and topic areas. You will develop and record first hand observations, investigate, combine and manipulate materials. The Art Department offers visits to museums, galleries and other relevant venues to help you with your studies. You will be taught knowledge, skills and understanding through exploring natural and synthetic objects.

How will I be Assessed?

At the end of each half term you will sit an assessment based piece on the topic you have been studying. Like all the rest of your work this will be marked in levels from 2-8.

Work that has taken a lot of effort or that is outstanding will be rewarded with i-Behave points, postcards and the most prestigious Art Awards for Excellence. Pieces of work are also displayed in the Studio.

Will there be any Independent Study?

All lessons allow for independent learning. You will be set tasks in lessons and tasks for completion at home where a greater degree of independence is required. Extension work may also be set in this way.

What will I need for Art and Design?

Materials are generally provided by the Art Department, but it would be a big help if you could buy a set of B pencils, a rubber, colouring pencils, sketch book and possibly an A3 folder. These can be provided by the Art Department at cost prices.

Citizenship



What Will I Study?

The Citizenship course is built around a number of different topics. You will

Year 7

- What is Citizenship about?
- Communities and Identities: Personal, Local and National.
- Rights and Responsibilities: The Island Game.

Year 8

- Rights and Responsibilities: Young people and the law.
- Government and Democracy: National Government and Identity.
- Local Government in Britain.

Year 9

- Global Citizenship: Human Rights, Refugees, The Role of Charities.

How Will I Learn?

We will explore these questions through a variety of media and varied activities which may include producing leaflets, mounting a campaign and writing a piece of drama.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Each topic unit will have an assessed piece of work to be done at sometime during that unit.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

No, there is no Independent Study in Citizenship. However, you will often work independently during the lessons.

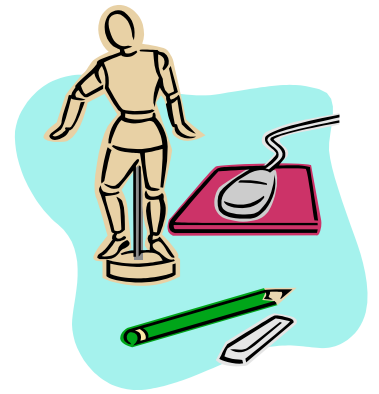
What Do I Need for Citizenship

Materials are provided by the Citizenship Department. However, you do need to provide yourself with the basic equipment as this is important for each and every lesson.

Design and Technology

What Will I Study?

In Design and Technology you will learn to work creatively to design and make products in a wide variety of contexts. You will learn how to use “high tech” machines, tools and processes and how to evaluate your work so that you can see how to improve. Everything you do will be related to the real world of designing, manufacturing or engineering so that you also become far more knowledgeable about the products you see and use every day.



How Will I Learn?

You will spend time in different areas of Design and Technology during the year – Resistant Materials, Systems and Control, Food and Textiles – undertaking a wide range of units to create exciting and innovative products. In Design and Technology, lots of your learning will come from having to solve problems yourself in the way you think is best.

How Will I Be Assessed?

At the start of the year you will be set a target level for Design and Technology. As you complete your work it will be continually assessed against the Design and Technology assessment levels. Teachers will give you lots of feedback to guide you and to help you improve. At the end of each unit of work, you will clearly be able to see what level you have reached for each aspect of Design and Technology and what you need to focus on for improvement. You will also reflect on your work. Each time you improve a level, your assessment record on “STARS” will update so that your parents can monitor your progress too.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

Independent Study tasks will be set each week. You may be asked to do some research, bring in ingredients, produce design ideas or practice skills you have learned. It will be important for your progress that your Independent Study tasks are completed to the best of your ability.

What Do I Need for Design and Technology?

Some units of work may involve bringing in items from home e.g. recycled items for a study into “Sustainability”. Although some ingredients will be supplied for some tasks in Food, it is expected that most ingredients are supplied from home along with an appropriate container for transporting the finished products. Lots of notice will always be given for these practical Food sessions.

After a photographic record has been made of your practical work, you will be free to take it home unless it is chosen to be on display as a “Design of the Month”.

Drama



What Will I Study?

First of all you will join in activities and tasks that are designed to introduce you to Drama, and the important skills involved, e.g. focus, co-operation and observation. After this, you will complete a range of topics (usually one per term), ranging from Silent Movies to Ancient Greek & Roman Theatre, and Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet". You will learn about different styles of theatre and performance; Commedia Dell 'Arte and Physical Theatre. Drama is also used to explore social issues such as gangs and youth crime. Alongside this, Drama will help you learn how to work well as part of a team, develop good research and organisation skills and help you gain confidence in your communication skills.

How will I Learn?

You will take part in tasks and exercises that teach you new skills and then you will use these skills to create your own piece of drama. You perform your work in class and then reflect on what worked well and what could be improved. There are clear National Curriculum level descriptors displayed in the studios, so you know what you need to be able to do at each level. There are also written tasks for you to complete to help you understand the topic you are studying.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be assessed at least once per term, at the end of a topic. While your acting skills are assessed by the quality of your performance, we take a lot of care to assess your team work skills and your ability to evaluate your own work, and that of other people. This is mainly done through discussions, teachers observing you in lessons and written evaluations. You will be given a level each term and this level will be recorded on file. The marks are based on KS3 National Curriculum levels.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

There will be various pieces of Independent Study for each scheme. These will be incorporated into our practical class work, so it is essential for work at home to be done to a good standard in order for you to do well overall in Drama.

What do I need for Drama?

You must be prepared to work with others, as well as working on your own. A positive attitude is important as it will help you to build your self-confidence.

There is no equipment needed specifically for Drama. **However, since Drama is a practical class and can be very physical, girls are encouraged to wear trousers on the days they have Drama. If they choose to wear a skirt, school PE shorts must be worn underneath. Shoes are not allowed to be worn in the studios**

English

What Will I Study?

The English course aims to make you keen to use and study our language. Also we want you to enjoy reading, so we will read books from our own country and from around the world. You may read authors ranging from Michael Morpurgo to Beverly Naidoo to Charles Dickens.

The English department is passionate about reading and promotes the positive aspects reading can have on your ability to write well.

How Will I Learn?

Reading, writing, speaking and listening – this is English, so you will do all of these. You must make sure that you have a private reading book with you at all times, so that you can read whenever you have a spare few moments. You should use the Library Resource Centre to borrow books, or you can bring them in from home. If you want a really good read, ask your English teacher.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will complete a half termly Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) task at the end of each unit of work. This is not a test but a piece of work that allows you and your teacher to measure your progress. This will be returned to you so that you can read your teacher's advice, reflect and comment upon the work and set yourself targets for the next piece.

Excellence in English is our aim, so we reward effort and achievement with i-behave points, certificates, post-cards home, prizes and trips.

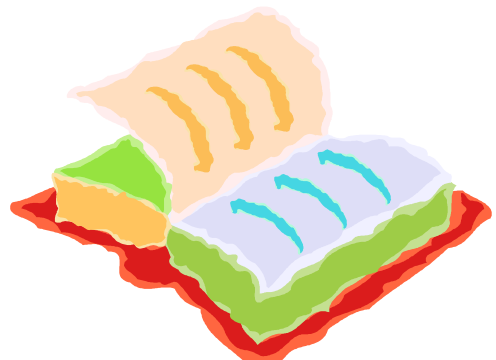
At the end of Year 9 pupils will start their preparation for GCSE English, which will include mock controlled assessments.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

Independent Study will be set once a fortnight. This may be written work, research work, spellings to learn or private reading. At the start this should take you about half an hour to complete, but you will do more Independent Study as you get older and move up through the school.

What Do I Need for English?

A pen, pencil and ruler are essential and a dictionary is very useful. You must make sure that you always have your private reading book.



Geography

What Will I Study?

Geography can provide the answers to all of your questions about the world around you!

In Geography lessons we will first establish the different types of Geography and how we can use them to make sense of the world. We will then travel to discover the challenges and opportunities that cold environments present to us, specifically the Antarctic and Arctic regions.



There will also be an opportunity to visit places closer to home such as Ely to investigate shopping patterns and also the Natural History Museum in London as part of our cold environment studies.

Finally we will round the year off by learning how to read the weather and you will have the opportunity to produce and present your own weather forecast.

In Year 8 you will move on to look at rivers and coasts and how they affect the people who live nearby. Other topics include Tourism, Brazil and the Olympics.

In Year 9 you will look at the amazing world of volcanoes and earthquakes. You will also examine world development issues, ecosystems and the aspects of global warming

How Will I Learn?

You will be encouraged to acquire knowledge through an enquiry approach to learning, where you will be guided to discover the complexities of the real world for yourself rather than just being taught simple facts. You will be encouraged to be an independent learner forming your own opinions and challenging yourself and others to achieve the very best from your studies.

How Will I Be Assessed?

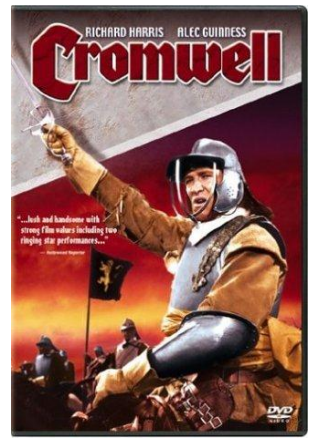
You will be assessed regularly. Each unit of work will have an associated Key Assessed Task and your progress will be monitored and is marked according to National Curriculum levels. There is also an important end of year examination which will draw upon the work you have completed throughout the year. You will also be expected to set yourself targets to aim to achieve and fulfil your potential.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

Independent study will be set regularly and require you to either complete class work or research specific topics; but do not worry; you will be given plenty of guidance.

What Do I Need for Geography?

A pen, pencil and ruler are essential for all lessons, and an enquiring mind!



History

What Will I Study?

The History course is built round some very important questions... questions that you must investigate carefully. Here are some of them –

Year 7: What can our region teach us about our History?

- What can a walk round Chatteris reveal about our past?
- Was William's victory in the Battle of Hastings inevitable?
- Why don't we use castles anymore?
- Why did Henry's divorce lead to a break with Rome?

Year 8: Renaissance, Revolution or Repression: What should we call 1500-1900?

- Was Charles I the architect of his own downfall?
- Was Cromwell a hero or villain?
- What was a typical slave experience?
- A Tale of Two Cities: Who was London good for 1750-1900?

Year 9: A new kind of horror? What was unique about the twentieth century?

- Did Britain change the world or did the world change Britain?
- What stories lie behind our Chatteris War Memorial?
- The Russian Revolution: A People's Tragedy?
- Did the Sixties Really Swing?
- What is the story of the Twentieth Century?

How Will I Learn?

We will explore these questions through a variety of media and varied activities. Experiences outside the classroom are very helpful when learning History and so you will have the opportunity to undertake fieldwork to places like Norwich Castle, Ely Cathedral, Hampton Court Palace, International Museum of Slavery and the First World War Battlefields.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Your assessments could be written, spoken or even visual, so you might write, speak, make a video, a living graph, a booklet for the primary schools or a talking story throughout Key Stage 3. We always give a mark out of ten, national curriculum level and specific targets; we even make you reflect on how well you worked on a particular topic. This means you will always know what you have to do to improve in History.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

We set projects on a half termly basis linked to the study units. These are often creative pieces.

What Do I Need for History?

Materials are provided by the History Department. However, you do need to provide yourself with the basic equipment as this is important for each and every lesson.

Information and Communications Technology

What Will I Study?

You will build up a range of skills, both practical and theoretical, as you use ICT in a variety of ways. First you will learn how to save your work using sensible file names, and to store it in the correct location so that you can easily find it again. You will then be introduced to a



range of new skills under headings such as Databases, Spread Sheets, Web Design, Desktop Publishing and PowerPoint. Once mastered, you will be encouraged to develop your ability to apply these new skills in a range of “real life scenarios”.

Many of these topics also require you to find information on the Internet and to make effective use of the data gathered. Throughout your Key Stage 3 work in ICT you will be encouraged to always consider audience and purpose, the reliability of your information, the consistency of your work and the quality and fitness-for-purpose of your final product.

How Will I Learn?

You will be taught these skills as a whole class, in small groups and individually. With each project you will become more independent and confident in your use of ICT skills. Subjects become more advanced as you move through College, and increasingly become more “work” focused as skills linked to future employment become more important.

How Will I Be Assessed?

For each topic there is an end-of-topic assessment.

In Year 9 students begin their GCSE ICT studies early through study of the OCR National Qualification. Year 9 pupils will begin the compulsory unit, Unit 1; ICT Skills for Business which utilises and builds on many of the skills which pupils have already acquired in Years 7 and 8.

You may also sit an external exam in Functional Skills in ICT.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

As you progress through the College you will be expected to reinforce the work done in lesson time, by practicing and applying your new skills across a range of subjects and at home.

What Do I Need for ICT?

Materials are provided by the ICT Department.

Mathematics

What Will I Study?

Mathematics has connections with other subjects and is used every day in real life situations.

You will study a range of topics like:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics



How Will I Learn?

You will use Mathematics in real life tasks, making use of ICT throughout the Key Stage. You will use drawings and practical work and statistics to analyse information. Through Years 7 and 8 the schemes and text books you follow are differentiated according to ability with a foundation (green), middle (blue), and high (red) schemes. There will be regular mental Mathematics practice and use of the Mymaths website (www.mymaths.co.uk). In Year 9 you will start your GCSE studies when you will follow a modular course.

How Will I Be Assessed?

As you work through the scheme there are assessments at regular intervals. These are useful because they show your strengths and your weaknesses. All test marks are recorded in National Curriculum levels, like those at your primary school. Summer examinations also give you a level for Years 7 and 8. You will sit one of the GCSE module exams at the end of Year 9.

You will be set in ability groups and will be moved if the assessment tests or end of year tests indicate you may be better suited to a different group.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

You will be set Mathematics Independent Study projects throughout KS3. These will be assessed against National Curriculum standards to help find your strengths and weaknesses.

What Do I Need for Mathematics?

Pens, pencils and rulers are essential for every lesson. A calculator is a requirement of Key Stage 3, scientific if possible. Some materials are provided by the Mathematics Faculty but a geometry set that includes a compass and protractor would prove very useful.

Modern Foreign Languages



What will I study?

You will start by building on the French learnt at your previous school and move on quickly to learn to talk about all the main areas of your life, including personal information, life at school, your family and your interests. You will also learn a lot about life in French-speaking countries. If you have not studied French before, do not worry; many other pupils will be in the same position. We will start by making sure that you know the basics such as “bonjour” and “je m’appelle” and then move on to cover other topics.

In Years 8 and 9 you will deepen your knowledge of the French language and you should be aiming to produce some GCSE level work by the end of Year 9.

How will I learn?

You will learn with teacher input, group and pair work and with Independent Study. Reading, writing, speaking and listening – you will practice all of these skills. As you progress through the year, you will learn the grammar and structures needed to put together your own sentences and conversations in French. You will start off in a set which reflects your previous experience with French before joining the College, and you will then be put into a set which reflects how well you have progressed.

How will I be assessed?

You will be tested at regular intervals in the keys skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. You will be able to use these tests to think how to improve your work further and reflect on your progress. If you do well, you will tackle some GCSE style assessments in Year 9.

Will there be any independent study?

You will be given regular tasks to complete and Independent Study will often involve learning vocabulary for the next lesson. In addition, the College subscribes to two websites: www.linguascope.com and www.atantot.com. Pupils will be given up to date user names and passwords. These sites, and many others, offer a wealth of material to support languages learning.

What do I need for modern foreign languages?

Pupils should have a French dictionary – a small pocket dictionary is absolutely fine.

Music

What Will I Study?

You will follow a course that is divided into a series of six projects per year which focus on a variety of musical genres and styles. This includes: Film Music, Vocal Music, Fanfares, Gamelan, Musical Theatre and Rock 'n' Roll. You will learn about the elements of music as well as the characteristics of these particular styles, staff notation and also instrument specific skills. You will gain knowledge and understanding about music through performing, composing and listening.



How Will I Learn?

You will learn through a variety of activities including performing, composing and listening. You will be provided with numerous opportunities to perform as individuals, small groups and as a whole class. During listening activities you will have the chance to respond to different musical examples through written work and class discussion.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment and feedback is an ongoing process in Music. You will be given comments about your work and progress in order to help you improve and reflect on your progress. A formal assessment takes place at the end of each term from which you will be given a National Curriculum level.

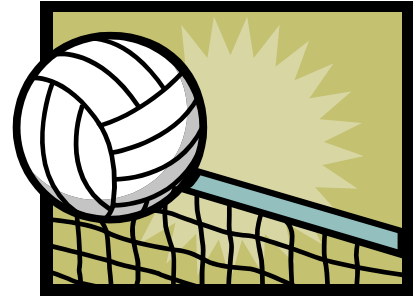
Will There Be Any Independent Study?

All lessons allow for independent learning. You may be given tasks that need to be completed at home where a greater degree of independent study is needed. Independent Study often allows you to research a particular topic in more detail.

What Do I Need For Music?

You will need to bring basic equipment to music lessons including a pen and pencil! If you have a musical instrument at home you can use this to practice and develop music learnt in school.

Physical Education



What Will I Study?

You will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities. College has a big sports field, two Sports Halls, a gymnasium, netball, Astro Turf and tennis courts.

Top set girls will pursue the following curriculum: Hockey, Gymnastics, Netball, Trampolining, Basketball, Athletics and Rounders.

Top set boys will pursue the following curriculum: Rugby, Basketball, Trampolining, Football, Gymnastics, Athletics and Cricket.

Other set groups will complete similar units.

Lessons take place during the working day but there are also extra-curricular opportunities available before school, at lunchtime and after school. College also has House Matches and matches against other schools, so you will have plenty of opportunity to become a member of a team. We also offer the opportunity to apply for the PE Academy to support those with a further interest in the field of sport.

How Will I Learn?

P.E. is a practical subject and you will be doing practical activities in all of your lessons.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is designed to prepare pupils to accurately replicate skills, develop physically and mentally, and to improve their performance and skills level. You will be able to make and apply decisions and make healthy informed choices about a healthy and active lifestyle. You will also learn how to evaluate and improve performances.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

Involvement in extra-curricular activities will help improve performance.

What Do I Need for Physical Education?

Equipment is provided but you must remember to wear your PE kit!

Personal, Social Health and Economic Education



What Will I Study?

You will cover a wide variety of topics like: relationships, team work, healthy and safe lifestyles, road safety, puberty, sex education, Post 16 options and career information, advice and guidance.

How Will I Learn?

You will spend one lesson per fortnight working through these topics with your Form Tutor. Sometimes you may be taken off your usual timetable so that you can hear visiting speakers or watch theatre performances in College. Some of your subjects will also help with topics from PSHEE.

How Will I Be Assessed?

An assessment will be given in the full reports at the end of the school year by your Form Tutor and there will be some self assessment as well.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

You will not be set Independent Study for PSHEE.

What Do I Need for PSHEE?

Materials will be provided by the College.

Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Education)



What Will I Study?

Each year you will study a number of topics:

- Year 7 Is Football a Religion?
 The Christian Church
 Where do we look for God?
 Islam, Festivals
 Was Jesus a Hero?

- Year 8 Spirituality, Judaism, Buddhism, Sacred
 Space, Hinduism, Humanism.

In Year 9 you will start to study the GCSE course and the topics covered will be:

- Matters of Life
- The Elderly and Death
- Crime and Punishment

You will study the moral and ethical dilemmas of other people and the impact of religion on these. You do not need to be religious to study the course. You simply need to be interested in thinking about and discussing different moral and ethical questions, so that you are able to think about your own views and opinions.

How Will I Learn?

All of these topics will involve discussion, role-play, reflection, research, written work and art work. You will work as an individual, in pairs and in groups, as well as a whole class.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will complete an assessment task for each completed topic and a level will be given for your attainment.

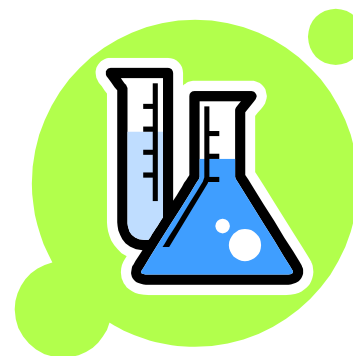
Will There Be Any Independent Study?

Independent study tasks will be set for each unit.

What Do I Need for Philosophy and Ethics?

You will need to fully equip yourself with pens, pencils, rulers, coloured pencils, etc. Other materials will be provided by the Philosophy and Ethics Department.

Science



The Key Stage 3 programme of study has until recently taken three years to complete for all. For the last three years at Cromwell, as at many other schools, we have introduced a two year Key Stage 3 for the highest attaining pupils. In this “accelerated” programme of study, those pupils who show themselves to be capable of continuous high attainment will finish the Key Stage at the end of Year 8 rather than Year 9. They will then begin GCSE work in Year 9 with the aim to complete three science GCSE’s by the end of Year 11. We anticipate that 2 groups will pursue this accelerated programme though this may change according to needs.

What Will I Study?

In Science you will study Biology, Chemistry, Physics and practical skills on a modular basis rather than in specific subject areas. The course is designed to be interesting and enjoyable with a large element of practical work.

How Will I Learn?

You will do practical work in the laboratory. You will also do research work on computers, as well as written work and discussion. You will investigate the way in which science affects society and is affected by society. You will also learn about safety in the laboratories.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be assessed in each of 3 topics per term; this may be by a written terminal test or by some other form of recorded assessment during the topic. We will be using APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) criteria as well as the more traditional end of topic tests. Your results will be recorded on your Science Record sheet kept in your exercise book. You will be kept up to date on a regular basis as to how you are performing against your own personal target.

Will There Be Any Independent Study?

Independent Study will be set regularly throughout Years 7, 8 and 9.

What Do I Need for Science?

Pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator and glue stick. You must always be aware of safety in Science laboratories.

Useful Websites for Parents and Carers

LA Websites

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/>

Most local education authority websites include an area for parents. Topics covered include advice on special educational needs, contact numbers in the LA, advice on helping your child to learn and activities for school holiday.

Other Useful Websites

OFSTED

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>

The Office for Standards in Education holds the most recent inspection reports on all maintained schools and local education authorities in England.

BBC Schools

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>

Pages for parents as well as KS3 Bitesize, useful revision and practice for the national Year 9 tests.

Advisory Centre for Education

<http://www.ace-ed.org.uk>

An independent national advice centre for parents.

Direct Gov

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/ExamsTestsAndTheCurriculum/DG_4016665

This is a resource for parents to understand the National Curriculum.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA)

<http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/>

Website of the authority that determines the National Curriculum, the national tests and all examinations.