Year 7 Curriculum Booklet

2024-25



We offer a rich and inspiring curriculum enabling each individual to explore their potential, build on their strengths and discover their passion.

We do this by embedding a culture of respect, responsibility, resourcefulness and resilience.

Our curriculum journey empowers students to make successful life choices and meaningful contributions to society.



Year 7 Curriculum

Welcome to Year 7. This booklet outlines what you should expect to learn during Year 7.

For more information about what you should know at the end of each topic, please refer to our website: <u>https://www.newcollege.leicester.sch.uk/</u>

The following table shows the subjects that you will take in Year 7 and the number of lessons a fortnight you have for each subject:

Subject	
English	5
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Art	1
Computer Science	1
Performing Arts (Drama and Dance)	2
Design & Technology	2
French	2
Geography	2
History	2
Music	1
PE (practical and theory)	3
Religious Education	1

*Citizenship is taught through Humanities and Personal Development *Personal development is taught during tutor time



Year 7 Tutor Team

The Year 7 tutor team is here to support you throughout your time at New College Leicester.

Our email addresses are here, so that your parents can contact us if they need to:

7AMI	Mr Mistry	amistry@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7ECL	Mrs Clark	eclark@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7EPO	Mrs Poxon	epoxon@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7GBL	Mr Bliss	gbliss@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7KAH	Mrs Holyman	kholyman@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7MSC	Mr Scoutas	mscoutas@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7RMR	Mrs McPherson-Richards	rmcpherson@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
7RMR 7ZSF	Mrs McPherson-Richards Miss Scholefield	rmcpherson@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk zscholefield@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
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Year 7 Homework

<u> 2024 – 2025</u>

Homework develops positive study habits and independent learning.

Research shows that homework has a positive impact on progress. Homework has an impact by enabling pupils to undertake independent learning to practice and consolidate skills, conduct in depth inquiry, prepare for lessons or revise for exams. In addition, homework gives your parents a chance to see what is being studied in school and teaches you how to take responsibility for your part in the educational process.

- You should expect to receive homework weekly for Mathematics, English and Science
- You should expect to receive homework fortnightly for Computer Science, History, Geography, French and DT.
- Other subjects may set homework as appropriate
- You are also expected to read for 20 minutes each day
- You would usually be given a full week to complete your homework.
- Each homework should take you between 30 minutes and 45 minutes

Oracy at New College Leicester

'Oracy is to speaking what numeracy is to mathematics or literacy to reading and writing'

In Partnership with Voice 21, we are passionate about embedding a culture where students and staff feel empowered to use their voices through building a culture that celebrates linguistic diversity. Our vision is to develop students verbal and non-verbal communication skills to ensure all students are able to formally articulate themselves correctly in different contexts. Using their voice as a powerful tool to ensure they strive and have the best life chances.

Throughout the curriculum, at New college Leicester, oracy is used to drive progress by advancing students' knowledge and understanding. Oracy throughout the curriculum is used as a pillar to enable students to learn through talk, ensuring opportunities for students to develop their vocabulary parallel to their knowledge and understanding.

Alongside the curriculum, students have opportunities to develop their communication and linguistic diversity. Examples include: Poetry slam, Aspire programme, Presentational talks, Quote of the day, key words and Diana award.

Follow our social media accounts to see the variety of opportunities for talk happening across New College Leicester.



English

In year 7, we begin the year with inference training. This is to equip students with the knowledge and skills to decode texts and read for meaning. We also use this opportunity to develop students' writing for inference. Throughout the year, students study a range of texts from across the literary canon with a particular focus on racism and prejudice. Students are encouraged to reflect upon current issues, as well as those presented historically, all of which culminates in the end of year synoptic unit- enabling students to pool together their learning from across the year, as well as conducting further reading as guided by their class teacher. Poetry is integrated throughout the year, enabling students to develop their confidence and application of poetry that explores a range of themes within a range of contexts. This is used to support the core knowledge of our curriculum.

To assist students on their journey to becoming an expert reader, we use the reading programme 'Accelerated Reader'. Throughout year 7 students will read a variety of books that are linked to their reading ages which enables students to develop their explicit reading skills, inference and comprehension.

Term	Unit	Threshold Concepts:
۶	Inference Training:	Context informs interpretation
Autum n 1	Detective Fiction	Writers use language and structure to convey meanings
Aut n 1		Standard English is vital in conveying confidence.
	The Modern Novel:	Writers use language and structure to convey meanings.
2 (Noughts & Crosses	Texts and content are selected and sequenced for specific
Ē		meaning.
Autumn 2		Etymology, morphology and phonology is vital in
A		decoding new material.
-	The Art of Rhetoric:	Standard English is vital in conveying confidence.
പല	Making a Change	Writers use language and structure to convey meanings.
Spring		Texts and content are selected and sequenced for specific
S		meaning.
5	The American	Context informs interpretation
ы С	Dream: A View from	Writers use language and structure to convey meanings
Spring 2	the Bridge/ West	Texts and content are selected and sequenced for specific
5	Side Story	meaning.
	An Introduction to	Context informs interpretation
	Shakespeare:	Writers use language and structure to convey meanings
11	Shakespeare's Best	Texts and content are selected and sequenced for specific
ne	Villains	meaning.
Summer 1		Etymology, morphology and phonology is vital in
SI		decoding new material.
	Synoptic Unit:	Context informs interpretation
r 2	Prejudice and	Writers use language and structure to convey meanings
Summer 2	Discrimination	Texts and content are selected and sequenced for specific
E E		meaning.
SL		Standard English is vital in conveying confidence.

For further information, please contact Mrs Geraghty ageraghty@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Mathematics

At New College Leicester, we believe that all students can achieve in mathematics. However, it is important to recognise that some students take longer than others to acquire new skills. We allow some flexibility in the curriculum for students to progress at an appropriate pace. Therefore, the key content outlined here should be treated as a guidance only and is unlikely to be the same for all students and all classes throughout each year.

In Year 7, we aim to develop students sense of number and introduce them to a variety of tools and methods, concrete, pictorial and abstract, which will help them to develop mathematical thinking.

Торіс	Key content	
	Understanding place value	
General Number Sense	Working in different bases	
	Negative numbers	
	 Factors, multiples, primes, squares and roots 	
	Working with decimals and fractions	
	Rounding and Estimation	
	• Median	
Number Sense Addition	 Standard algorithms for addition and subtraction 	
	The Commutative and Associative Law	
	Negative numbers	
	Addition and subtraction of fractions and decimals	
	Perimeter	
	Algebraic representation	
	Multi-base addition	
	Standard algorithms for multiplication and division	
Number Sense	The Distributive Law	
Multiplication	Negative numbers	
	Multiplication and division of fractions and decimals	
	Estimation	
	Area of rectilinear shapes	
	Algebraic representation	
Number Sense Indices	 Powers and roots 	
	Prime factor decomposition	
	Hierarchies of operation	
	Rational and irrational numbers	
	Surds	
	Laws of indices	
	Standard form	

For further information, please contact Mr Anyon at manyon@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Science

In Y7 students are exposed to the fundamental science that ensures they have secured the key knowledge from KS2 and underpins the ambitious knowledge taught in subsequent years of the curriculum. Students become familiar with the idea of a scientific model and will build their practical ability in what will be their first experience of a lab setting to develop the skills to build successful budding scientists.

	Learning Cycle	Key Concepts
	Cells	Cell structure
		Microscopes
н	Skeletal and muscular	Organ systems
u		Skeletal and muscular systems
Autumn 1		
Au		
۲	Nutrition & digestion	Healthy lifestyles & balanced diet
Autumn 2		Food tests
utu 2		 Digestive system and enzymes
A		
1	Safety in Science	Rules and using lab equipment
Spring 1		Risk assessments
pri	Nature of matter	 Particle theory and changes of state
S		Diffusion and gas pressure
	Pure substances	Pure substances and mixtures
2		Solutions and solubility
ng		Separation techniques
Spring 2	Elements and	Periodic table
0)	compounds	 Mixtures, compounds and formulae
		Physical and chemical reactions
_	Molecules and matter	States of matter & Brownian motion
er 1		Density
ũ	Energy	Conductors and insulators
Summer 1		Conduction, convection, radiation
•/		Energy and temperature
	Energy	Energy stores and transfers
		Efficiency and power
Summer 2		Energy resources
Ĩ,		Fuels and combustion
Sun		Pathogens and transmission
,	Healthy holidays	Disease symptoms and treatments
		Body defences

For further information, please contact Mrs Bradley at sbradley@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Art

In Year 7 students are exposed to the fundamentals of Art and design that ensures they have secured the key skills and knowledge ready to be progressively build upon in the subsequent years of the curriculum. Students become familiar with the Visual Elements, and process of constructing a piece of art. They will learn how to identify and reflect on these elements within their work and the work of others.

Term	Торіс	Key Content	What you will know at the end of this term
Autumn	Introduction to Art & Design Mark making Visual Elements introduction Composition Rules	 Line, Point, Tone, Colour and Texture Rule of thirds, triangles, balance and symmetry 	That particular kinds of marks can be made with different materials or controlled using suitable tools. Identify, discuss and apply the key features that are used in creating art
Spring	Artist Analysis Tone	 Understanding of content and context behind an artist and their work Reasons behind tonal shading – Atmosphere, realism and depth 	How to research the work of artists, craftspeople and designers, selecting important visual and text based information to help them in their own creative work. Apply shading techniques to develop the work
Summer	Line	How different styles of	How to apply a range of
	Sea Life	line can impact on an	mark-making techniques
	Media techniques	image	for different visual impacts

For further information, please contact Mr Thomas at jthomas@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk

Citizenship

In Year 7 Citizenship is taught through the Personal Development Curriculum. Other departments are also building citizenship knowledge through their curriculums.

The National Curriculum requirements for citizenship can be found here: <u>http://https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-</u> <u>citizenship-programmes-of-study</u>

Торіс	Key content	What you will know at the end of this term
Rights and equalities: The precious	• The 5 British Values	 What the 5 British Values are and how they relate to our core values.
liberties enjoyed by the citizens of the United Kingdom	What is Citizenship?What are Human Rights?	 The type of knowledge and action you might see in a citizenship lesson.
	 How have human Rights developed? 	 What Human Rights are and how they developed.
	 How can we be human rights defenders? 	 The importance of the rights to education and how they have been affected during COVID

Through Citizenship at New College Leicester, you have many opportunities to get involved with active projects and campaigns that benefit others. Our students have made a real difference to the lives of others, we support national charities, actively engage with calendared events such as Parliament Week and Human Rights Day. We have built strong relationships with our MP and local councillors who visit the school and we organise visits to learn more about our democracy and place in the world.

We have a strong Student Parliament leadership team that anyone may join. The Student Parliament represents student voice at our school and works for positive change. They have taken part in Select Committee sessions, gathering evidence with members of the House of Lords. They have appeared on BBC East Midlands, worked with Universities of Leicester and Middlesex to help to drive forward issues that concern our community. Our Student Parliament is recognised and members have consistently been short listed for the Lord Lieutenant Leicestershire Award.

For further information, please contact Mrs Shortland at sshortland@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Computer Science

From the outset of their academic journey, Year 7 students are introduced to the school's classroom practices and digital learning platforms such as Microsoft Office 365. The curriculum transitions to address E-Safety education, equipping students with the knowledge to navigate online resources responsibly while understanding the potential risks associated with internet usage. Throughout the remainder of the term, students engage in acquiring essential life skills through the use of industry-standard software applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Email, and Teams. The autumn term concludes with the students learning the basic online searching tools, empowering students to effectively search and utilize the resources available on the World Wide Web.

During the Spring term, emphasis is placed on enhancing students' digital literacy skills. The term begins with an introduction to Microsoft Excel, where students delve into the realms of spreadsheets, formulas, and formatting techniques. Learners then undertake a research project aimed at cultivating further life skills, where they select a topic of interest, conduct research, and craft a persuasive poster advocating support for their chosen cause. Following this, Students are then introduced to different types of computer, before exploring the key computer hardware components and finishing the term up by investigating different types of computer.

The Summer term focuses on Computational Thinking, the final strand of the NCL curriculum. Students will be introduced to the Computational Thinking methods of Abstraction, Decomposition, Pattern Recognition and Algorithmic Thinking. These are four problem solving techniques which apply a logical thinking approach to tackling solutions. Students then conclude their first year at NCL by designing, refining and debugging programs in their games development topic.

Term	Торіс	Key content	
Autumn	<u>ICT</u>	 Introduction to the school network (logging in) Office365 (Teams, Outlook, OneDrive) E-Safety (Logging in the Educake) Microsoft Office Microsoft PowerPoint Internet & Web Browsers Searching the World Wide Web 	
Spring	Digital Literacy	 Spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel Part I Spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel Part II Gaining Support for a Cause – Research Skills Types of Computer Computer Hardware Software & Applications 	
Summer	<u>Computational</u> <u>Thinking</u>	 Introduction to Algorithms - Flowcharts Computational Thinking – Decomposition Abstraction & Pattern Recognition Games Design Games Development Refining & Debugging 	

For further information, please contact Mr. Immins at mimmins@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Design and Technology

The teaching of Design and Technology at Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) allows students to gain vital skills in all aspects of Design and Technology. Each year students rotate around all three Design and Technology subject areas: Textiles, Hospitality and Design Technology. Students spend 12 weeks in each area.

During this time, students design and make a number of different products including a desk tidy, decorative cushions and lots of different food products.

During practical lessons students are taught a wide range of both traditional craft skills and use of specialist equipment and machinery. As well as practical lessons students will take part in theory lessons giving them the opportunity to develop their knowledge of materials and design processes.

Below are the projects students will complete in Year 7:

	Торіс	Key content
Food	Basic Cookery Skills	 Health and safety in the kitchen Basic Knife skills What is a balanced diet? Functions of ingredients Weighing and measuring
Textiles	Street Art Cushion	 Health and safety in a textiles room Using a sewing machine Using Pins and Needles Decorative Techniques
Product Design	Desk Tidy	 Health and safety in the workshop Timber Using different machinery in the workshop safety Exploring wood joints

For further information, please contact Mrs Bryce at <u>dbryce@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk</u>



French

Students will arrive at New College Leicester with a range of experience in French, depending on the time spent on MFL in their primary schools. The Year 7 French curriculum is designed around Extensive Processing Instruction methods. The language is heavily modelled and students develop their awareness and understanding of the language before they move on to producing spontaneous language.

Term	Торіс	Key content
Autumn	About Me	 Name, Age & Where you live Describing yourself Describing Others By the end of this term, students will be able to: confidently introduce themselves as well as describing themselves and others using a range of adjectives.
Spring	School	 Subjects & Opinions Uniform By the end of this term, students will be able to: give justified opinions on school life and describe their school uniform accurately using colours and adjectives.
Summer	Hobbies & Sports	 Sports & Hobbies 1 (jouer à) Sports & Hobbies 2 (faire de) Future Sports & Hobbies By the end of this term, students will be able to: use regular and irregular verbs to talk about their free time activities and communicate confidently in two tenses.

For further information,

please contact Mrs Mary Foreman at mforeman@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk

Geography



Term	Торіс	Key content
Autumn 1	Interconnected world	 What is Geography and why does it affect you? Annotation of UK, Europe and World Map. Create the nutrient, water cycle, food chains and food webs Interpretation of data Discussion of ways to be sustainable.
Autumn 2	Our Dynamic planet	 Why is place and location knowledge useful? Use of compass direction to describe the location of the UK at different scales Interpreting OS maps Grid references Hazards and physical vulnerability.
Spring 1	Local Study – Leicester's development	 How dynamic is Leicester? Site and situation. The Roman legacy Victorian Challenges Industry – economic sectors Migration Land use
Spring 2	What Lies beneath? – Geology	 Why are there different types of landscapes? Rock groups - formation and characteristics UK geology. Types of weathering Continental drift Soil and us. Desertification Sustainable land use.
Summer 1	Devastating Disasters	 What is a disaster and how can countries respond? Natural disasters Icelandic eruption Chilean Earthquake Mississippi floods vs Drought Hurricane Wilma
Summer 2	Watery World	 How important is the hydrological cycle to sustaining life? The water cycle and rivers River processes – TED River landforms Rivers and us Flooding in Wales



History

Upon joining us at New College, we understand that students will be joining is with wide-ranging experiences of History and historical knowledge from KS2. Our goal for our Year 7 students is to learn basic historical skills and key knowledge about our city and key themes in History so that this acts as a foundation for their History lessons as they progress further up the school.

Term	Торіс	Key content
Autumn	The Story of Leicester The Norman Conquest	 Baseline test on Historical Skills The History of Leicester from the Romans, through to the English Civil War, WW1 and the creation of New Parks The Succession Crisis and Battles of 1066. How does William change England and keep control until his death?
Spring	Religion and Monarchy Democracy and Monarchy	 How and why did Henry VIII break with the Catholic Church? How did this affect England through the reigns of his children? Magna Carta and Peasants' Revolt. How did the English Civil War impact the power of the Monarchy?
Summer	The Industrial Revolution	 What was Britain like before the Industrial Revolution, and how did it change? What was it like living and working in Industrial Cities, and how did this impact public health?

For further information, please contact Mr Creissen at lcreissen@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Music

In Year 7 students understand how to read and write music using a variety of different forms such as graphic scores, rhythm grids and turntable notation. Students then go on to explore and appraise the elements of music and explore the building blocks of a composition.

Instruments and contexts are introduced from around the world allowing a wide breadth of music to be performed and composed. Students also develop instrumental techniques through studying in a pop band.

	Торіс	Key content	
Autumn	Rhythm: samba	 Develop ensemble performance skills such as timing, rhythm and listening Understand how to play and compose music on different samba instruments using rhythm, tempo and texture Use written notation to compose rhythms 	
	Pitch: keyboard	 Play keyboard pieces to learn the basics of the instrument Explore note reading and pitch 	
Spring	Timbre: orchestras in film	 Learn composition skills such as notation and pitch through film music Understand how film composers use different timbres and techniques 	
Summer	Band project: pop	 Explore chord progressions, rhythm, melody and pop structure Learn techniques on different instruments such as the guitar, keyboard, vocals and drum kit 	

In addition to their school Music lessons, students are also able to sign up for instrumental lessons. These lessons are free of charge. We are offering instrumental lessons in: Violin, viola, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Clarinet, Flute, Percussion and vocals.

For further information, please contact Miss Robinson at irobinson@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Performing Arts (Dance and Drama)

Performing Arts lessons in year 7 are divided equally between Dance and Drama. Students have one lesson a fortnight. Students rotate between subjects at three points during the year: (approximately) after the first month of the autumn term, Christmas and Easter.

	Торіс	Key content	
	Dance Graffiti Dance	 Exploring actions, dynamics and spatial designs 	
Autumn Term	Drama Physical skills	 Exploring physical skills: facial expressions, body language and gestures 	
Autu	Dance & Drama Performing Arts Performance Project	 Being an effective audience member Working as a team Learning and developing content that communicates meaning 	
5	Dance Bollywood Dance	 Appreciating and exploring hasta mudras Performing and appreciating the Bollywood dance style Exploring simple dance relationships 	
pring / Summer Term	Drama Silent Movies	 Exploring audience awareness and stage positioning Performing and appreciating the style of silent movies Developing physical skills to show reactions of a character 	
Spring / S	Dance Billy Elliot The Musical	 Learn repertoire based on Billy Elliot The Musical Explore key themes from the musical to create original material 	
	Drama Physical Theatre	 Explore using body as a prop and movement to create objects. Perform and appreciate the style of physical theatre 	

For further information please contact Mrs Poxon at epoxon@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk or Ms Brown at kbrown@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk

Personal Development



In Year 7 Personal Development is taught during tutor time

	Key content		
	Relationships, sex and health education		
Autumn	 Manage the physical and mental changes that are a typical part of growing up, including puberty and menstrual cycle The difference between biological sex, gender identity and sexual orientation To recognise that sexual attraction and sexuality are diverse Marriage is a legal, social and emotional commitment that should be entered into freely and never forced 		
	Drugs, alcohol and associated risks		
Spring	 Evaluate misconceptions, social norms and cultural values relating to drugs, alcohol and tobacco use Strategies to manage a range of influences on drug, alcohol and tobacco use, including peers The short- and long-term health risks linked to alcohol, nicotine, legal and illegal substances Media Literacy and Digital resilience Strategies to safely manage personal information online and on social media The benefits and positive use of the internet and social media Understand the way people present themselves online can have a positive and negative effect on them 		
Summer	Relationships • Different types of relationships and factors that affect them • Indicators of healthy and unhealthy relationships • Trust in relationships and behaviour that undermines or builds trust • Media and relationships • Identifying risk from people online Citizenship • Rights and equalities • What is Citizenship? • What are Human Rights?		

For Further information, please contact Miss Kopicki at skopicki@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk

Physical Education



Practical PE

In Year 7 students will develop their knowledge, understanding and application of the core skills in a variety of sports. Students will spend 4 lessons on each activity.

In year 7 students will have the opportunity to participate in swimming, handball, football, netball, rugby, gymnastics, athletics, OAA, badminton and rounders.

Theory / BTEC Sport

In Year 7 students will also have 1 theory lesson a fortnight. Across the year students will learn about how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle, the body systems and injuries. Students will also be able to make links between practical and theory lessons such as when learning about rules and regulations in sport.

Please see the table below of the KS3 BTEC Sport curriculum

Term	Торіс	Key content	
Autumn	Healthy and Active Lifestyles	 5 rules of a healthy and active lifestyle Short term effects of exercise Hydration and Sugar Calories 	
	Rules and Regulations	 Facilities and Equipment Officials (and technology) Rules and regulations 	
Spring	Musculoskeletal System	 Skeletal system Muscular system Functions of the musculoskeletal system 	
Summer	Sporting Injuries	 Basic injuries and PRICE Complex injuries and SMART targets Basic first aid 	
	Celebrating Leicester	Sport in LeicesterRacial equality in Sport	

For further information, please contact Miss Clark at eclark@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Religious Education

Our curriculum is taught with a mixture of linear and thematic learning, giving students the chance to learn, use and compare new concepts as well as enhance their understanding and skills in the wider worlds. These transferable skills will support at Key Stage 4.

	Year 7	
Autumn Term	Introduction to RE	 How are different types of literature used? What are the different types of worship? How do believers show their faith (ceremonies)?
Spring Term	Exploring Christianity	 Is Christianity increasing or decreasing? Can one thing also be three? What is the most important book you have read? What is the most important part of a person's life? Why is the life of Jesus important? What is the most important principle to live by? Should only Christians celebrate Christmas or Easter?
Summer Term	Exploring Sikhism	 Introduction to Sikhism What are the 5Ks and why was the Khalsa formed? What is the history behind the Golden Temple? How have Sikhs contributed to Britain?

For further information, please contact Mr Mistry at amistry@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk



Wider Curriculum

We also have lots of exciting additional activities that students can get involved with this year.

Year 7 are activities are as follows:

- Archery
- Art Club
- Badminton
- Band
- Choir
- Cooking
- Curve Young Company
- DIY
- Dodgeball
- Drama
- Football
- Freestyle Gymnastics
- Just Dance
- Moving Together Dance
- Netball
- Production
- Rounders
- Rugby
- School Show
- Textiles
- Trampolining

For further information, including days and times, please refer to our website

https://www.newcollege.leicester.sch.uk/wider-curriculum/609.html