

English, Maths & Science

at

Ribblesdale High School



Ribblesdale
High School

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This booklet is aimed at providing you with information which may answer some of the questions you have about English, maths and science, when your son/daughter starts at Ribblesdale High School.

What will your child study in English during their first year at Ribblesdale?

Become an inventor and create your own monster. Become a detective and try your hand at solving a murder. Become a soldier in the trenches during World War One. Become a journalist reporting on a crime. Become part of the English department at Ribblesdale!

Within the English department, we aim to capture your child's imagination and showcase their creativity through a range of reading, writing and speaking and listening activities. In order to teach your child these key skills, we use different topics and complete learning based on them. This is done in order to equip your child with the necessary skills required to be successful in their futures, whatever path they choose to take. An outline of the year is as follows:

Term one: Gothic Fiction and War Poetry

Term two: The Lamb to the Slaughter and Shakespeare

Term three: Class novel

Although exercise books are sometimes still used in English, our department uses innovative and exciting EdTech platforms such as 'One Note' and 'LBQ', which means that lots of work will be completed on your child's device. Whether in their book or on their device, you will be able to see all of the preparatory learning; formative and summative assessments and evaluation tasks being completed, which will help you if you want to do any extra study with them at home. Homework will also be set regularly on 'Doddle'. We often ask for parental signatures and welcome any parental feedback on set work and assessments.

The English Department

Teachers within the English department are constantly looking at ways to teach the curriculum in fun and innovative ways, ensuring independent work is encouraged, alongside teamwork and creativity. As a department, we strive to ensure that your child is supported and well catered for in order to enable them to make the progress they are expected to make in their first year at Ribblesdale. Staff and pupils also take part in the annual World Book Day celebrations; pupils are encouraged to compete against their peers in the 'Big Read' and we hold a 'Lit Fest' each year where famous authors join the English department and teach creative writing sessions, story-telling, poetry slams and riddles!

Your child might also like to do some reading over the summer holidays, so we have provided you with a suitable book list which you may find useful. Some of the books are most relevant to the gothic literature which we will study at the start of the year.

Ways in which you, as parents or guardians, can help improve your child's interest in reading are by:

1. Checking that your child has a library book to read at night
2. Setting aside ten minutes every night to read with your child. Even excellent readers enjoy being read to and for those pupils who find it difficult to read, it helps in improving their reading ability, in addition to bringing the enjoyment of reading to them.
3. Choosing a quiet area in which to share the enjoyment of reading, with no distractions.
4. Always stopping at an exciting part of the story.
5. Taking an active interest in the book, discussing the plot and the characters.
6. Not criticising their choice of book.
7. Not making the mistake of thinking that your child is too old to benefit from listening to a book being read to them.

KS3 – Ribblesdale's Recommended Reads

Our aim is for our pupils to become engaged, motivated and independent readers who enjoy reading and are able to:

- Orchestrate a range of strategies and skills to gain meaning from texts;
- Reflect critically upon and respond to a wide range of printed and visual texts.

Your child should find some of these recommended reads enjoyable. This list is based on pupils' own choices and titles which are borrowed from the library regularly.

Victory – King of Shadows (Shakespeare Link)

Susan Cooper

Terribly True Series -

Terry Deary

Shadow of the Minotaur -

Alan Gibbons

Young Blood -

Charlie Higson

Power of Five Series (Alex Rider Series) -

Anthony Horowitz

Vampirates Series -

Justin Stomper

Warhorse -

Michael Morpurgo

Cherub Series -

Robert Muchamore

Wildfire - C

Chris Ryan

The Hunger Games -

Suzanne Collins

I hope all the information provided in this booklet regarding English at Ribblesdale is helpful to you. Should you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact the English Department and we will be happy to help.

The Mathematics Department

What will happen in September?

- Along with their timetabled mathematics lessons, your son/daughter will also receive a weekly discrete numeracy lesson to allow us to track progress in key number skills throughout the year. Classes for numeracy lessons will correspond to the mathematics groups.

What learning will your son/daughter be completing in year 7?

- Your son/daughter will be building upon their skills and knowledge acquired at primary school and the learning will support your child's development through progressively challenging mathematical skills and problems.
- Your son/daughter will be formally assessed at regular intervals throughout the year. Following each assessment, your child will receive detailed feedback, outlining their strengths and areas for future development.
- Your son/daughter will use his or her device to access Learning by Questions and Doodle which allows pupils to work at the own pace towards mastery of each topic.
- Your son/daughter will also have the opportunity to take part in the UK mathematics challenge

Topics to be studied in Year 7:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Fractions Powers & BIDMAS Negative Numbers Rounding Displaying Data	Analysing Data Algebra Introduction Using Formulae Linear Graphs Measures	Perimeter Area Volume Percentages Solving Equations

What equipment will your son/daughter require for September?

- The following equipment is required for all lessons:
 - Pen, pencil, rubber
 - 30cm ruler
 - Geometry set, including protractor and compass
 - A scientific calculator (this can be purchased from school or a recommended one would be Casio FX-83GTX)

What can you be doing between now and September?

- Basic Numeracy skills can be practised before coming to us in September.

Multiplication tables up to 12 x 12

The four rules of number (add, subtract, multiply and divide)

Telling the time – reading timetables and working out elapsed time.

Long multiplication and division using the “bus stop” method.

Identifying factors and multiples of given numbers.

The Science Department

We hope that after reading this short introduction about **science** at Ribblesdale High School you'll have a better understanding of what your son/daughter can expect when they join us in year 7.

In year 7, our pupils have a science lesson 3 times a week. The learning they engage in follows the national curriculum and is appropriately scaffolded to support your child's current attainment levels. There will be opportunities to get 'hands on' and complete experiments throughout each topic whilst still building the fundamental skills that pupils need as they progress through Ribblesdale.

As an EdTech demonstrator school, we are utilising the use of electronic devices within science lessons to enhance experimental procedures and assessments for robust tracking and support. We use programmes such as, Doodle and Learning by Questions to help develop knowledge and skills in science in order to aid progress for all. Furthermore, in September 2020 your child will be introduced to working on OneNote which allows pupils to organise their classwork on their device which will be visible for parents to see.

Whilst academic achievements are important in science, we recognise the need to develop the whole child and as such offer many enhancement activities during enrichment time, extra-curricular time and during science lessons, with 'The Great Science Bake-Off' being an event that year 7's enjoy every year in October. In addition, every year in March we dedicate a whole week that celebrates British Science Week which focuses on the development of ideas and enthusiasm of students for science, with outside speakers and agencies coming into your child's science class to deliver a lesson which they may not ordinarily experience in their day-to-day science lesson. Furthermore, we aim to develop ethical ideas and debate any topics that develop during the course of study in order to help develop the whole child as a reasoned and developmental scientist.

Topics

During Year 7 your child will cover eight units of work which are split equally between the three main disciplines of science: biology, chemistry and physics. These units are covered at the following times during the year:

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
A - Cells B – Separating mixtures C - Elements & Compounds D - Reproduction	E – Electricity & Magnetism F - Forces	G - Space H - Acids & Bases

Assessments & Progress

Over the course of a half term your child will complete levelled assessments which will test his or her science knowledge and investigation skills. The results of these assessments will be compared to his or her target level for year 7. At the end of each topic, there will be a test that will be completed in class in exam conditions.

Homework

Your child can expect to receive a variety of homework tasks over the period of a half term. These will include levelled practice questions, mini investigations that can be carried out at home using everyday objects, mini tests, Doodle activities and research projects which are intended to be completed over a number of weeks. All homework will be submitted on Doodle so parents can monitor and support the learning being set.