



Year 7 Curriculum Update

October 2022

The current Year 7 curriculum has been designed so that pupils experience a broad and balanced curriculum which builds on their learning from Key Stage 2. To support the transition from Primary school, pupils are taught in mixed ability groupings, based on their tutor groups for the first half term. After the October half term, pupils are then taught in sets. These are based on their cognitive ability, Key Stage 2 scores and the knowledge and skills they have developed during the first half term.

Year 7 Key Dates 2022/23

Date	Event
Thursday 6 th October 2022	Year 7 'Settling In' Evening – a chance to discuss how your child has settled into Venerable Bede
Monday 31 st October 2022	You will receive notification, via ParentMail, of your child's new curriculum groupings (see below for further information)
Wednesday 2 nd November	Pupils will be given their new timetables, according to their new curriculum groups, which will start from period 2.
Monday 19 th June 2023 – Wednesday 28 th June 2023	Year 7 assessment window – progress checks will be completed in classrooms as a review of learning for the academic year
Thursday 13 th July	Year 7 Parents Evening – an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with subject teachers and also catch up with your child's tutor
July 2023 (Exact date TBC)	Year 7 subject reports sent home
Termly	Year 7 progress reports sent home – these will include details of your child's attitude to learning and a snapshot of progress

Year 7 Cognitive Ability Tests

A big thank you to all pupils in Year 7 for the mature and positive way in which they tackled the recent Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs). The information we receive gives us an indication as to each pupils' preferred learning profile and their overall cognitive ability – unfortunately, this information is provided in the form of spreadsheets of standardised scores and not in a way that can be meaningfully communicated to parents/carers. CATs scores are just one of the tools we use to help inform groupings. For any pupil who has missed any/all of the three assessment sessions, we will be running a catch-up assessment session after half term – should this provide us with any information that would indicate that they would benefit from being in a different set, we will of course be in touch to discuss any changes needed.

Year 7 New Groupings

On Monday 31st October, we will send you, via Parentmail, details of the curriculum group that your child will be moving to, from Wednesday 2nd November. Curriculum groupings have been determined using Key Stage 2 scores, the knowledge and skills they have developed during the first half term and your child's cognitive ability. **It is important to note that class groupings are always fluid and regularly reviewed so that we can ensure the best provision for all pupils.** Your child will receive a copy of their new timetable during their Period 1, Personal development lesson on Wednesday 2nd November. From Period 2 that day, pupils will follow their new timetable.

Year 7 Curriculum Plans & Progress

Our website has lots of curriculum information, including copies of 'Long Term Plans' for all subjects [\[LINK\]](#) so that you and your child can see key aspects of each course.

We will be sending home a summary of your child's progress and attitude to learning for each subject they study via a termly 'Progress Report'. We have a dedicated email address should you have any queries about the curriculum or your child's progress [\[Y7Progress@venerablebede.co.uk\]](mailto:Y7Progress@venerablebede.co.uk). In your email, please clearly state the name of your child, give a brief outline of your query and the subject it relates to – this will help us to forward your email to the most appropriate member(s) of staff.

Year 7 Parents Evening & Reports

The Year 7 Parent's Evening will take place towards the end of the Summer term. In addition to the 'Progress reports' described above, you will also receive a detailed subject report, for each subject, at the end of the academic year. This will indicate your child's understanding of the key concepts covered across the year and also offer some areas for further development, so that your child can make the very best progress possible.

Year 7 Recommended Websites: Core Subjects

To support learning and revision at home, we have collated some useful websites for the core subjects your child is studying this year:

Subject	Recommended websites to support home learning and revision
English	English Bitesize A wealth of information to support the analysing of fiction/non-fiction, comparing texts, writing skills, understanding poetry and spoken language.
Maths	Corbett Maths A website, organised by topic, with lots of tutorial videos, questions (and answers!) and practice assessments.
Science	Cognito A website filled with YouTube video lessons, practice questions, flashcards to help memorise information and lots more. The website covers all three sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics – and even some Maths too!
Religious Studies	Religious Studies Bitesize Specific links to topics covered in Year 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Christianity [LINK]▪ Buddhism [LINK]▪ Morals, ethics and philosophy [LINK]
Geography	Cool Geography A website full of useful resources to help study Geography - the world around us, our environment and the way that humans interact with their surroundings.
History	History Bitesize Specific links to some topics covered in Year 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Romans [LINK]▪ The Tudors [LINK]▪ The British Empire [LINK]▪ The Great Plague [LINK]
Spanish	Spanish Bitesize Covering key topics, phonics, games to enable practise, vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation support.