

**Y7**

- **Skills:** Team work, collaboration, practical skills, safety – responsibility (understand and deal with risk), investigative (i.e. observe, evaluate, analyse, explain, describe, discuss, predict, research), maths (formulae, calculations, graphs), ICT (Excel, datalogging, spreadsheets), conceptual modelling, presentational, individual learning, factual recall, application of knowledge, data interpretation, communication, mark scheme interpretation, revision.
- **Knowledge:** Safety, S.I. units, Biology (cells, human reproduction, plant reproduction, food chains), Chemistry (changing state, separation, chemical reaction, acids and alkalis), Physics (forces, energy, electricity, space). All of these topics provide a basis on which GCSE content can be built.

- **Assessment:**

**Peer marking:** This informs pupils of their own progress and helps pupils to learn how to follow mark schemes and how to award marks in questions. This is an important skill for GCSE when so many past paper questions and mark schemes are provided on Moodle for consolidation.

**Teacher marked homework:** This gives teachers greater insight into pupil progress but also allows assessment of organisation and presentation of work.

**End of topic tests:** This gives pupils a chance to consolidate their knowledge and learn good revision techniques. It allows the strengths and weaknesses of pupils to be assessed, giving teachers more information to better support pupils. It provides feedback to teachers and gives parents information on progress. It allows practice for GCSE exams. It provides challenge for pupils and will aid identification of learning issues, which can be further investigated. It gives another avenue for interaction between pupil and teacher.

- **Links (to other curriculum areas or other key stages in your subject)** Human Reproduction links to, and supports, the teaching of puberty in beyond the curriculum. Electronics in technology covers circuits, but uses a different program. Lesson observations in year 7 science investigated overlap and found that students who had studied electronics had no further knowledge of electricity compared to those who had not.

**One off day** – visit to Spaceport to support the teaching of space.

**Y8**

- **Skills:** as above.
- **Knowledge:** S.I. units, Biology (respiration, photosynthesis, digestion, variation, skeletons), Chemistry (earth science, elements and compounds, reactivity series, the air), Physics (sound, light, pressure and moments, magnets and electromagnets, thermal). All of these topics provide a basis on which GCSE content can be built.
- **Assessment:** as above

In some cases two topics from the same discipline are being taught and examined together. This is preparing pupils for the GCSE which is now a terminal exam, so pupils need to become familiar with revising and retaining larger amounts of information.

- **Links (to other curriculum areas or other key stages in your subject)**

A link between Earth science and geography has been made and most of this topic is now being covered by geography.

We will need to decide how this extra time can be used.

A link between skeletons and P.E. has been discovered. The teaching of this in science supports the teaching in P.E.

This course promotes – enthusiastic, well-prepared pupils who are ready to embark on their GCSE education with a sound foundation in terms of knowledge, practical skills, revision and exam technique.