

Holy Rood RC High School



S4

PARENT/CARER LEARNING INFORMATION

To support you in discussing aspects of your child's learning please find a summary of areas being covered and skills being developed, for each subject, during term 1.

We hope you find this helpful. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have further questions.

October 2020

S4 YEAR GROUP UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2020

Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers

We value being able to work in partnership with you and in this document you will find detailed information to assist your understanding of your child's learning and each SQA course.

We hope that this enables you to further support your child at home with his/her learning and homework as well as allowing you to enter into a deeper dialogue about his/her subjects. We very much appreciate all you are doing to encourage positive study habits and good routines at home.

We are currently working to finalise the date for the S4 Prelims/Gathering Evidence weeks and as soon as we have agreed this, it will be shared with pupils and parents/carers in a timely manner. It is likely that this will take place at the end of November/beginning of December. We are closely monitoring information from the SQA and Scottish Government regarding courses and qualifications for National 5 and will communicate any changes to you as soon as we have further information.

We are investigating options in order to ensure we continue to communicate effectively with you regarding your child's progress and will provide a further update in term 2.

In the event that your child has to self-isolate due to covid, your child will be able to access his/her learning via TEAMS.

Please contact your child's Year Head if you have any questions regarding your child's learning.

Best wishes

Mrs Daly
Head Teacher

Year Head update



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you find this document useful in the way of an update on your child's learning in school. Parental engagement is very important in school and we hope that this information will allow you to have meaningful conversations about the year ahead in S4.

Firstly, I would like to pass on my thanks for your support with your child's home learning activities during the school closures. I can understand that for many, this will have been a difficult task, but we greatly appreciate your efforts in ensuring learning and teaching could continue at home.

Work Experience

We are continuing to work our way through the Work Experience qualification in school during PSE lessons. Given the current restrictions in place, we are unsure at the moment whether or not a placement will be able to take place during our usual timescale of December. However, we remain hopeful that there might be some scope for our pupils to complete a work-placement later in the school year. A decision on this will be made at local authority level by the end of October and we will endeavour to provide an experience where pupils can achieve the work experience qualification. We understand the value that this opportunity provides our pupils with and are committed to exploring all possible options.

Interim Reports

You will receive an interim report home w/b 12 October which will provide an overview of your child's learning by subject teachers. This report will indicate the level of study teachers believe your child is currently working at, along with a working grade and next target grade. These levels are not fixed in any way and can change throughout the year depending on a child's progress. The final level of presentation will be agreed early in the new year.

Positive Destination Information

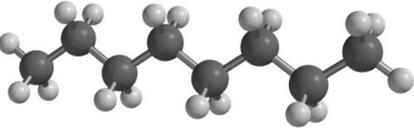
In the coming weeks, your child will be asked to complete a form in school where they will give an indication of what their plans are beyond S4. This task is completed annually by all S4 pupils and provides important data for us in school, allowing us to work closely with Skills Development Scotland and identify any potential S4 leavers so appropriate support and guidance can be provided on their next steps. If your child is planning to stay on for S5/6, then this should be stated on the form for our records.

If you have any questions or queries regarding your child's learning, please contact me at school.

Kind regards

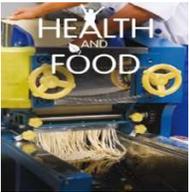
Mr Campbell
S4 Year Head

Subject	Learning focus by subject	At home, you can help by
<p>ADMINISTRATION & IT</p> 	<p>Pupils are currently developing and improving their skills using Microsoft Excel (Spreadsheet) software. Pupils are creating spreadsheets, editing spreadsheets, using basic and more advanced formulae (National 5) to complete calculations on spreadsheet files, and using spreadsheet data to create a range of charts/graphs. Pupils are also learning about the uses of spreadsheets in the workplace and the benefits of using this software package.</p>	<p>Reminding pupils about their homework tasks and encourage them to do regular study using their course notes. Asking them questions about the topic they are learning, using their course notes booklet and jotter, to help them revise.</p>
<p>ART & DESIGN</p>  <p>Art and Design</p>	<p>From June 2020, pupils have been working on Design. This comprises of three stages; Investigation & Research, Development and a Solution from a Design Brief they have created. The design units are either Graphic Design or Ceramics and within each unit, personalisation and choice is offered to allow pupils the opportunity to explore new creative techniques.</p> <p>Typically, the entire Design course is complete by December. The written element & Expressive is a course requirement and will be completed in term two.</p>	<p>Pupils should be regularly working at home, instructions are posted on Teams and it is expected that pupils refer to this.</p> <p>Pupils should be completing all research and development that follows on from class work. Pupils should take home any papers they need for these tasks.</p>
<p>BIOLOGY</p> 	<p>Pupils have been working their way through Unit 2 – Multicellular Organisms. It covers the following topics: Producing new cells, Control and communication, Reproduction, Variation and Inheritance, Transport systems in plants, Transport systems in animals and Absorption of materials. This unit will be assessed before the October Holidays.</p> <p>After this, the classes will go on to Unit 3 – Life on Earth. The classes will also be preparing for the prelim exam, which will assess all the Biology learned since the start of S3.</p>	<p>Encouraging pupils to complete any homework and revision for the Unit 2 assessment and upcoming prelim exams.</p> <p>Ensuring pupils are able to access the TEAMS page for their class and have accessed Scholar online learning resources – password available from their teacher.</p>
<p>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</p> 	<p>Pupils are currently working on the People Unit (Human Resource). They are learning about Recruitment and Selection procedures, training methods, financial and non-financial rewards for motivating employees, employee relations including the role of Trade Unions in the workplace, and workplace legislation. All pupils will complete 1 assessment on this unit of work before the October break.</p>	<p>Reminding pupils about homework tasks and encourage them to do regular study using their course notes.</p> <p>Using their course notes booklet, ask them to explain the meaning of different business terms from the unit of work they are studying. This will help with their understanding and revision.</p>

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<p>CHEMISTRY</p> 	<p>Pupils have been working their way through Unit 2 – Nature’s Chemistry. This Unit covers the following topics: Fuels, Hydrocarbons, Carbohydrates, Alcohols, Carboxylic acids, Plants to products and Energy from fuels. This Unit will be assessed before the October Holidays.</p> <p>Some classes have already finished this unit assessment and will be moving on to Unit 3 – Chemistry in Society. Classes will also be preparing for the prelim exam (National 5 only) which will cover all the Chemistry learned since the start of S3.</p>	<p>Encouraging the pupils to complete any homework and revision for the Unit 2 assessment and upcoming prelim exams.</p> <p>Ensuring the pupils are able to access the TEAMS page for their class and have accessed Scholar online learning resources – password available from their teacher.</p>
<p>COMPUTING SCIENCE</p> 	<p>Pupils have been developing and improving their computer programming skills using Python software. They have been using their programming skills and knowledge to complete a range of problem-solving tasks – Nat 4 and Nat 5 level.</p> <p>Pupils are able to access an online version of the Python software package allowing them to practice their skills at home. Details of the online version of the software has been issued to pupils.</p>	<p>Encouraging pupils to use the online version of Python software to further improve their computer programming skills along with their problem-solving skills.</p> <p>Reminding pupils about homework tasks and revising for course assessments.</p>
<p>Dance NPA/National 5</p> 	<p>Pupils have been developing and improving their knowledge of course work in the areas of Safe Dance Practice and Technical Skills. Both areas are being developed through written and practical work.</p> <p>Pupils are also working on component 3 of their course which is their solo performance. A Technical Jazz solo piece is currently being learned. Work in this area is linked with the exam work on Technical aspects of performance and being able to evaluate, analyse and improve their own performance.</p>	<p>Reminding pupils about their homework tasks and encourage them to do regular study using their course notes. Pupils can access course notes and homework tasks within their Microsoft Team.</p> <p>Encourage revision and ask questions about work pupils have completed. Ask to see the information and work they have on TEAMS.</p>
<p>DESIGN & MANUFACTURE</p> 	<p>The pupils are engaged in classes which are split into: 1. Theory lessons, and 2. Practical/Portfolio lessons every week.</p> <p>The pupils are currently working through their portfolios, using the Design Brief provided, to design, and then manufacture, an Added Value Unit “Store, Hold/Display an Item”.</p>	<p>Asking pupils to teach you the aspects of D&M (specifically Design Factors/ACCESS FM - Ergonomics, Aesthetics, Function etc.)</p> <p>Ensuring pupils check Microsoft TEAMS regularly for the Tasks and Assignments set (these are found in the “Assignment” section of their class Team, or in the “Files” section.)</p>

	<p>Once the portfolio is completed, learners will be designing a functional prototype of a product which can store, hold or display personal items. Their design must meet all the requirements of the specification.</p> <p>There will be a review of learning before the October holiday week.</p>	<p>Encouraging pupils to read over their notes in their class jotters and read their Learning Journals – where they can also find Past Paper Questions to complete. All of this can be found digitally on the class TEAM and a paper copy has also been provided to each pupil.</p>
<p>DRAMA</p> 	<p>Pupils are currently working on both written and practical elements of their course, working towards achieving National 4 and National 5 assessment standards. Pupils have one period a week dedicated to written theory and two towards practical presentations. Recently pupils have read a scripted professional play and have begun to discuss its dramatic features including themes, issues, and key messages. Pupils have then used this text as a stimulus to create their own dramas which explore social context and educate audiences about a theme/issue as part of their Drama Skills unit. After completing this unit, pupils will be allocated a performance text/group that they will work on for their National prelims.</p>	<p>Pupils should be keeping their homework tasks up to date and ensure these are completed to act as evidence of their progress and level within Drama.</p> <p>Pupils can also study their texts through internet research and can study dramatic terms/concepts by reading study materials which are shared on their class Team groups. This will help pupils gain knowledge that is required for the written element of their exams.</p>
<p>ENGLISH National 5</p>  <p>gg57326897 www.gograph.com</p> <p>National 4</p>	<p>We have started on our Set Texts – the poems of Norman MacCaig and learning how to analyse and evaluate literary techniques. Classes will be starting a second text in the next few weeks – either drama or prose.</p> <p>We have also begun developing Close Reading Skills, looking forward to the assessment of Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation. Folio preparation is well underway with classes either completing or about to begin drafting their reflective writing. Work on Persuasive essays should be underway – either note taking, research or planning for writing.</p> <p>Pupils are working on developing and extending literacy skills. Most of our N4 students are also being given an opportunity to try the N5 Literacy unit so the focus at the moment is preparing pupils for the reading, writing and listening elements of that by practicing and revising literacy skills. The classes are starting on their first unit – on the subject of Homelessness (along with a novel, Stone Cold) or a Travel Unit with a focus on functional writing. Classes have also been working on their first piece of extended writing – a reflective/personal essay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking about homework set by teachers. • Encouraging pupils to read, read, read! Either fiction or nonfiction. • Asking pupils to stay up to date with the writing tasks – reflective/personal writing <p>Pupils should stay up to date with classwork, especially annotating poems and notes given by teacher.</p>

Subject	Learning focus by subject	At home, you can help by
<p>FRENCH</p> 	<p>Pupils are currently working within the context of Culture and on the topic area of Holidays. Pupils are developing and improving their listening reading, talking and writing skills within the topic area and have also been revising key tenses to allow them to understand information about and to talk and write about previous holidays, future holidays and dream holidays.</p> <p>Pupils will soon undertake assessments in reading and listening to allow staff to gather evidence of knowledge and understanding gained this term. National 5 pupils have also been preparing their Performance Talk presentations on the same topic. The next sub topic area pupils will be working on involves learning about the importance of learning languages and then pupils will move onto to the context of employability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminding your child to complete homework tasks - Encouraging him/her to do regular study using their course notes/vocabulary jotters so that he/she is ready for upcoming assessments and to allow to consolidation of learning - Testing him/her on vocab – eg you read the English and they tell you the French - Encouraging him/her to use TEAMS to access school work during any absences from school
<p>GEOGRAPHY</p> 	<p>Pupils have recently completed an assessment on our Global Issues (rainforests and Arctic) topic.</p> <p>Pupils are currently working on our Farm Enquiry which will provide the foundation knowledge and skills to prepare them for our Geography Assignment. Pupils are also studying our Urban topic which explains how and why urban areas and associated land uses have developed (Edinburgh is our case study).</p>	<p>Reminding your son/daughter about their homework tasks and encourage them to do regular study using their course notes. This is important preparation for those who are considering sitting National 5 prelims at the end of this year.</p> <p>Asking him/her questions about the topic he/she is learning, using their course notes booklet and jotter, to help them revise. Please also ensure that your son/daughter is able to access our 'Geography Team' and advise should this be problematic.</p>
<p>GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION</p> 	<p>Learners are working on technical drawing unit which is looking at surface developments and true shape of surfaces. They are also evaluating their own progress with learning across the subject and will be using this to plan their home learning activities moving forward. Learners have had a recap of the key areas of Graphic Communication that were challenging to complete at home. This has allowed learners to continue to develop their Computer Aided Design (CAD) skills.</p> <p>There will be an October review of learning before the October holiday week.</p>	<p>Reminding and encouraging pupils to check Microsoft TEAMS for home learning tasks. Encouraging them to complete their own personal activities that they have planned with the teacher. Learners have been provided with both a paper and digital copy of their learning journal. The class has links to videos of examples of in school drawing activities to review. Reviewing learning and supporting learners with different activities to develop their skills.</p>

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<p>HEALTH & FOOD TECHNOLOGY</p> 	<p>The Food for Health unit has been completed, the pupils are now working on the Food Product Development unit, they have completed studying functional properties of ingredients and are now working through a product development project based on developing a new muffin recipe. This project introduces the skills required to complete the final assignment. In addition, some lessons are given over to developing exam technique.</p>	<p>Pupils have been issued a help booklet on exam technique and a homework booklet. Pupils can dip into this to do questions covered in the Food for Health unit, this will help them revise this knowledge and spot weak areas they can work on. These can be returned to school for the teacher to mark and feedback. Talking through these questions with pupils will help them learn.</p>
<p>HISTORY</p> 	<p>Pupils have recently completed the second unit of the History course, The Era of the Great War 1910-1928. Pupils have been taught the majority of skills required for National 3 and 4 assessments and the National 5 exam including, Evaluate the Usefulness, How Fully, Compare, Describe and Explain. All pupils have printed copies of Past Papers and a comprehensive guide with detailed instructions on how to answer each question type.</p> <p>Pupils are currently working on practising their skills in preparation for their end of unit assessment for the Era of the Great War unit. After this assessment pupils on the National 4 and 5 pathway will complete their Added Value unit which is a research task focused on a chosen topic, from any we have studied from S3. Pupils on the National 3 pathway will undertake this task as a research project.</p>	<p>Reminding your son/daughter about their homework tasks and encouraging him/her to do regular study using their course notes. Asking him/her questions about the topic he/she is learning, using their course notes booklet and jotter to help with revision.</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS National 5</p> 	<p>We are completing the Applications unit of the course by working on the topics of Statistics, Trigonometric Rules and Vectors. Pupils have been developing their problem solving, numeracy and logical thinking skills.</p> <p>All pupils will sit an extended Unit test on Relationships in early October to assess and build evidence of their understanding of Straight line, Simultaneous Equations, Pythagoras, Quadratics, Angles and Similarity. Pupils will also sit a progress test on all topics covered at the end of October.</p>	<p>Encouraging pupils to use MS TEAMS to check for nightly and formal homework. Parents should sign homework and look for teachers comments from previous work. Encouraging pupils to prepare for assessment and tests by creating a revision plan and allocating time for practice questions. All pupils have a Notes jotter which they should use to revise and learn content. Encouraging pupils to seek help from Maths staff if additional support is required. All pupils have access to SCHOLAR and www.national5maths.co.uk which have lots of examples and revision materials.</p>

National 3/4



We are working on completing the National 4 Numeracy Unit and will sit the assessment for this before the October holiday. Skills such as problem solving and logical thinking are being developed by studying Speed, Distance, Time and Ratio and Proportion. Pupils have also been practising Numeracy skills such as Finding a Percentage and Comparing Fractions and Percentages.

Checking MS TEAMS for nightly and formal homework tasks. Parents should sign homework and look for teachers comments on previous work. Please encourage pupils to plan their time well so they can revise for assessments to gain their Unit passes. Attendance at school to sit Unit tests is very important.

MEDIA



The Media course is broken into 2 sections of 60 marks. 60 for the exam and 60 for a practical assignment that pupils complete. Since June 2020, pupils have been working towards completing their assignment, which involves them planning, researching and adapting their own movie trailer that they will eventually make into a storyboard. Pupils complete a planning essay, usually completed by December, then complete the storyboard, then an evaluation essay completed by March.

Pupils should make sure that they have access to Microsoft Office, TEAMS and Onedrive at home. The assignment planning essay can be continued at home if needed, as well as the research that goes into their decision making.

Pupils have also been introduced to the first film we will be studying for the exam, and the prelim exam in November/January. The students will study three films in total, all of which will be completed by November.

Once we have completed the first film study text, pupils can complete past paper questions available on the SQA website or our TEAMS page. This will help pupils gain an understanding of the SQA exam and prepare them effectively.

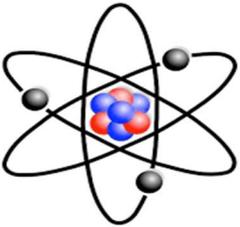
MODERN LANGUAGES FOR WORK



Pupils are currently working on the unit **“Building own employability skills”**, which is part of the course conducted in English. They have been considering the skills and qualities they have, what they are good at, what employability skills they need to improve/develop while also considering what job/career pathway they might be interested in. They will then use this information to reflect on a specific job advertised and to create a CV in English. In the unit **“Languages for Work”** Listening and Reading assessments will be testing pupils’ abilities to understand key information about jobs in French and the speaking assessments will be a roleplay where pupils take part in a mock interview.

- Reminding your child to complete homework tasks
- Encouraging him/her to do regular study using their course and vocabulary notes so that he/she is ready for upcoming assessments
- Encourage pupils to access the website www.myworldofwork.co.uk to update their cv, to research jobs advertised and to pay careful attention to the skills and qualities required to apply
- Encouraging him/her to use TEAMS to access school work during any absences from school

Subject	Learning focus by subject	At home, you can help by
<p>MODERN STUDIES</p> 	<p>Pupils have recently completed their Enquiry skills section of the course. The three Enquiry Skills that they have studied are Support and Oppose, Option Choice and Conclusions. They have previously completed both the Crime and the Law and the Terrorism units of work. Pupils are currently working on the final unit of work – Democracy in the UK. After this, National 4 and 5 pupils will complete an AVU or assignment.</p>	<p>Reminding your son/daughter about his/her homework tasks and encourage them to do regular study using their course notes. Ask him/her questions about the topic he/she is learning, using their course notes booklet and jotter to help with revision.</p>
<p>MUSIC</p> 	<p>Pupils work on the three elements of the Music course one period a week, Composing, Understanding Music and Performing.</p> <p><i>Performance</i> – Pupils should be working with level specific music, given to them by the classroom teacher or Music Instructor.</p> <p><i>Composition</i> - Pupils are working creating their own piece of original music. Currently we are looking at different genres of music and chord sequences.</p> <p><i>Understanding Music</i> – Pupils have completed a unit on Vocal Music and have started a unit on Instrumental music.</p>	<p>Pupils should be practising their instruments at home, where possible.</p> <p>Pupils should be providing audio recordings for their Music instructors. To do this they should record an audio, upload it to their school OneDrive and share it with the appropriate teacher. This should be completed weekly.</p> <p>Understanding music concepts can be consolidated using the following website www.mymusiconline.com</p>
<p>PE</p>  <p>gg78929576 www.gograph.com</p>	<p>Pupils are currently working on overtaking their Added Value unit from National 4 and are working towards gathering data for their Portfolio as part of National 5 Physical Education.</p> <p>Pupils are also undertaking a variety of fitness tests to ascertain their strengths and weaknesses within the Physical Factor, this will then provide the focus for their portfolio alongside their information on the Mental Factor.</p> <p>Once pupils have established their focus, they will then continue to develop their knowledge of developing a Training programme and the various approaches to i improving fitness within this.</p>	<p>Reminding pupils about homework tasks and encouraging them to do regular study using their course notes. Course notes are to be found within their TEAMS Group and from their One Note folder on Office 365.</p> <p>Ask them to look at and make notes on areas they are unsure of from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zctsr82 This will help with their understanding and revision.</p>

Subject	Learning focus by subject	At home, you can help by
<p>PEOPLE IN SOCIETY</p> 	<p>Pupils have recently completed one of their core units entitled Making a Decision. They researched different types of weapons that were used in World War One using various sources. They then were asked to make a decision on which was most effective and support it using the evidence they collected. Pupils then completed a fact-file on their chosen weapon.</p> <p>Their new unit focuses on Investigation Skills and pupils will be asked to research the sinking of the RMS Titanic. Using various sources including eyewitness accounts, pictures and documentary evidence they will investigate the causes and consequences of the sinking of the Titanic.</p>	<p>Reminding pupils that all resources are available online via TEAMS including links to videos, documentaries and their course booklet.</p> <p>Reminding your son/daughter about his/her homework tasks and encourage him/her to do regular study using their course notes.</p> <p>Ask questions about the topic he/she is learning, using their course notes booklet and jotter, to help them with revision.</p>
<p>PHYSICS</p> 	<p>Recently we have been learning about Nuclear Radiation. This unit covers: atomic structure, the nature of nuclear radiation, medical and industrial applications, dosimetry and the risks/benefits of using nuclear fission or fusion to generate electrical energy. Some classes have just completed the assessment for this unit and others will be assessed after half-term.</p> <p>Once pupils have completed their current unit, they will be reviewing all of the S3/S4 content prior to the National 5 prelim exam i.e. Waves, Dynamics, Electricity and Nuclear Radiation.</p>	<p>Checking that pupils are able to access the revision materials on the Teams page for their class and are aware of the extra resources on BBC Bitesize and Scholar.</p> <p>Encouraging pupils to complete the topic booklets that have been provided to allow them to review prior learning in advance of the Nat 5 assessments that will be happening over the next few weeks.</p>
<p>PRACTICAL COOKERY</p> 	<p>The pupils started the term by completing some assessment work for the Understanding and Using Ingredients unit which had been started during Lockdown, this work has been progressing and most pupils have now passed the whole unit. Some pupils will need to re-sit the practical assessment. The pupils will now move onto the Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes unit, this involves the pupils becoming competent in a wide range of practical skills with the aim of making a 2-course meal for their assessment.</p>	<p>In order to build practical experience, any opportunity to make meals and bake at home will help pupils to further develop their practical and organisational skills.</p> <p>They should be encouraged to plan a dish, carry it out and clean up afterwards.</p>

Subject	Learning focus by subject	At home, you can help by
<p>PRACTICAL WOODWORKING</p> 	<p>Pupils are developing their practical and psychomotor skills. Most are now working through their National 4 Added Value Unit. Pupils who complete and pass this will set their National 5 Final Project. This will be completed in class and run between October to March.</p> <p>There will be a review of learning before the October holiday week. The class will complete theory lessons to help support them with this in late October.</p>	<p>Reminding and encouraging pupils to check Microsoft Teams for set Assignments and read over notes and information in their Learning Journal. This can be found digitally on the class TEAM and a paper copy has also been provided to each pupil.</p> <p>Asking them questions about the topic they are learning, using their course notes booklet and jotter, to help them revise.</p>
<p>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</p> 	<p>The Scottish Catholic Education Service programme on Equality and Inclusion is currently being delivered to pupils in S4. The focus of this year's programme is the Protected Characteristics from the Equality Act 2010. This builds on previous work from last year. Within the classroom, pupils are encouraged to examine these Characteristics from the perspective of the Christian vision of the dignity of the human person. Pupils are facilitated in their reflection upon how this vision of the human person has contributed to shaping the person they are becoming. We ask the pupils to reflect on their own experiences and consider how, through their intelligence and compassion, they can be aware of the value of themselves and others.</p>	<p>Finding opportunities to discuss relationships such with family and friends. Discussing the importance of respecting themselves and others in all aspects of life.</p>
<p>SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY</p> 	<p>Pupils have recently finished the Chemistry unit, named Chemistry in Society. They were assessed on this with an experimental write-up and a written assessment. They have now started working on the Physics unit, name Energy and Electricity, which covers Electricity, Electronics, Electromagnetism and electricity generation and Gas laws.</p>	<p>Encouraging the pupils to complete any homework and revision for end of unit assessments.</p> <p>Ensuring the pupils are able to access the Teams page for their class, which contains focussed revision resources.</p>