



# Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed



## Year 7 Curriculum Information Booklet 2017/18



**Pleckgate High School**  
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**Wellbeing**  
AT PLECKGATE

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## Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Pleckgate High School, a thriving multi-cultural community that places the best interests of young people at the heart of everything we do. All students are challenged and supported to Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed.

We are a large secondary school situated on the northern outskirts of Blackburn with Darwen, comprising 1100 students and 170 staff with state of the art facilities that benefit both the school and local community.

At Pleckgate everyone is committed to providing the best educational experiences and opportunities for our students. At the heart of the school's work is a commitment to high quality teaching and learning and achievement for all: for our students to be safe, happy and successful developing as individuals into caring, responsible citizens who participate fully in school life and are proud of their achievements. Every student at Pleckgate is encouraged to have ambitious goals and everybody is responsible for creating a culture of high expectations and academic excellence.

We are proud of our achievements – our examination success, our extra-curricular programme, our charity work and our community involvement. We are committed to the pursuit of outstanding teaching and learning alongside the highest possible academic, personal and moral standards. This commitment is built upon a shared belief in hard work, self-reflection and a culture of respect and support for others.

This booklet has been produced to provide you with information about your child's learning at Pleckgate High School. This booklet is intended to share with parents the main aims of the curriculum and learning opportunities at school. I hope that you will find it useful and informative. I would welcome feedback and suggestions as to how it may be developed in future years.

Mark Cocker

Headteacher





## Aims of the Year 7 curriculum

### **Successful Transition**

The Year 7 curriculum at Pleckgate High School is designed to ensure a successful transition from primary to secondary school. We pride ourselves on the success of our Pastoral Team in ensuring our year 7 students are challenged and supported to “Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed” from the very start of their journey at Pleckgate.

### **Confidence building and independent learning**

We aim to support your child in becoming a confident learner through a well-rounded educational experience that extends well beyond the classroom). We encourage parents to support their children in home study. Homework is a key part of students’ learning, encouraging them to be independent and contributing to the quality of learning in school.

We encourage students at Pleckgate to be involved in our extensive charity work, participate in educational visits and work in partnership with local schools and colleges. Student leadership is a key aspect of life at Pleckgate through the Student Council, PE and the Youth Sports Trust, school librarians, reading mentors and students leading assemblies. There are many opportunities for your child to be involved in extracurricular activities which will help them to gain in confidence and work with others.

### **Specific development of numeracy and literacy**

There is a strong focus for Year 7 students on reading skills through the accelerated reader programme. The huge success of our mathematics department has established a culture of high expectations and excellent pupil attainment and progress.

### **Academic Transition from Key stage 2 to key stage 3**

There is a clear focus on academic transition from key stage two to key stage three.

### **Wellbeing**

Year 7 have one lesson a fortnight on PSHE which is further supplemented by three super learning days during the school year which provide opportunities for students to develop an awareness of and respect for themselves and others.



## Homework

We are very grateful to parents and carers who check and monitor the home learning of students. We provide each child with an academic planner in which they can record homework, targets and attendance. Parents can check this each day so that they are aware of homework that has been set in school. Please see the guidance on homework below.

It is important that, as parents, you encourage your child to complete any homework set in school. Homework teaches your child to work independently whilst allowing them to review and practice work that has been covered in class. It helps your child develop positive study skills that will serve him or her well throughout life.

At Pleckgate we recommend that year 7 students are given up to 30 minutes of homework per subject, per week.

## Homework Timetable for year 7

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	English Maths	Maths	English		

Subject	Year Group(s)	Homework Information
Science	Y7/8	Once per week
Humanities	Y7/8	Once per week
Technology	Y7/8	Once per fortnight (dependent upon practical work)
Drama	Y7/8	Once per week
Music	Y7/8	Once per fortnight
Art	Y7/8	Two projects per half term
MFL	Y7/8	Once per week

## Subjects Studied

Students are organised into two academic bands. P and Q are then taught within these sets. Codes are used for class sets, for example 7p/En1 is the top set in P band for English, 7q/Ma4 is the bottom set in Q band for maths. All lessons are taught for 60 minutes.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Lessons per fortnight</b>	<b>Number of Groups</b>
Mathematics	8 x 1 hour lessons	10
English	8 x 1 hour lessons	10
Science	7 x 1 hour lesson	10
Art	2 x 1 hour lesson	12
Creative Arts	2 x 1 hour lesson	12
Religious Studies	2 x 1 hour lessons	10
History	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
PE	4 x 1 hour lessons	12
Geography	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
Technology	2 x 1 hour lessons	12
MFL	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
ICT	2 x 1 hour lessons	10
PSHE	1 x 1 hour lesson	10

## Target Setting

Target setting for students is based on knowledge about expected rates of progress and data for each individual child. Teachers monitor progress carefully against these targets and plan lessons accordingly to ensure sufficient progress for all students regardless of their starting points in school.

Written and verbal feedback should usually include comments about what a student has done well and what they need to consider in order to make good progress. Parents are informed of progress against their child's targets in our termly school reports. It is important to remember that children will progress at different rates and a huge range of factors influence this rate of progress.

Subject teachers review student targets regularly. If a student is making excellent progress, the target will be revised upwards. When pupils do not meet their target in a number of subjects we need to explore the reasons why. There are a range of support strategies that we will employ to try to ensure individual pupils make good progress, and it is in these circumstances that the partnership between parents and school is most important.

At Pleckgate High School we work hard with all students and set challenging targets that will motivate etc. In 2018 the proportion of students achieving the threshold 4+ in English and mathematics last academic year was above last year's national average (71% vs 62% national average) and 66% for disadvantaged students, this shows that students at Pleckgate make excellent progress.

Every student at Pleckgate is encouraged to have ambitious goals and we remain committed to the pursuit of outstanding teaching and learning alongside the highest possible academic standards.





## Curriculum Overview 2017/18: Year 7

Subject	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<b>English</b>	Personal Writing & Autobiographies	Fantasy Literature	Shakespeare's Life & Times	Drama: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'	School In Crisis: Creative Writing	Science Fiction
<b>Mathematics</b>	Understanding Angles Understanding Algebra	Fractions Decimals Percentages Calculating Space	Construction and Visualisation Proportional Reasoning	Sequences Data and Charts Problem Solving Week	Transformations Calculation addition and subtraction in context	Equations and Inequalities Calculation Multiplication and Division problems in context Problem Solving
<b>Science</b>	Working Scientifically Particles	Atoms/Elements/Compounds Chemical Reactions Acids and Alkalis	Forces Sound	Light Space	Cells Tissues Organs and Organisms	Reproduction
<b>History</b>	The Roman Empire, including Britain	Medieval Britain: 1066 - 1170	Medieval Britain 1215 - 1509		World History	Islamic Realms
<b>Geography</b>	What is Geography? Am I British? Fantastic Places, including Svalbard and Death Valley	Africa: Sudan and Ghana	Map Reading Skills	Weather and Changing Climates	The Geography of My Stuff	Local Area Studies, including Transport
<b>RE</b>	Inspirational People: Jesus, Prince Siddartha, Muhammad, Guru Nanak and Ghandi		Religious Artifacts: Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism		Special Places: Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism	
<b>Music</b>	<b>Music</b> Theory of Music The Works of Great Composers and Musicians What makes a Good Song? Different Styles of Music: Latin American and Folk Listening and Performing Skills Use of Technologies			<b>Music</b> Elements of Music The Works of Great Composers and Musicians Medieval Music Use of Technologies Listening and Performing Skills		



<b>Drama</b>	<b>Semiotics:</b> Exploring signs and symbols of the stage Working with a stimulus Blocking and audience awareness Stage directions Drama skills Improvisation and Group Work		<b>Script work: 'Two weeks with the Queen':</b> Thinking and literacy skills Performance and direction Dramatic Techniques Monologues Mime and Physical Skills Improvisation Script Writing		<b>Slapstick and Physical Comedy:</b> History of Slapstick Exploring Mime Non-verbal Drama Performance Skills Dramatic Techniques Working from a Stimulus Improvisation	
<b>Art</b>	<b>Two of the following schemes of work:</b> Colour Theory – Colour mixing and application with paint Islamic Art – Drawing, pattern, painting and printing Objects and viewpoints – Drawing and painting Still Life – Drawing and painting Landscapes – Drawing and painting			Skills Development Grid-scaling Still Life Project: based on the work of Michael Craig Martin		
<b>Technology (on Carousel)</b>	<b>Product Design: Spatula Project</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety Rules</li> <li>Design Ideas</li> <li>Use of Saws</li> <li>Finishing (sandpaper, wire wool, etc.)</li> <li>Manufacturing Designs</li> </ol> <b>Product Design: Systems and Control</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gears, Pulleys and Levers</li> <li>Bridge Building</li> </ol>		<b>Food Technology</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Hygiene</li> <li>Knife Skills</li> <li>Chopping and Frying</li> <li>Fruit Smoothie</li> <li>Snack on Toast</li> <li>Chocolate Oat Cake</li> <li>Healthy Eating</li> <li>Cous Cous Salad</li> <li>Fruit Crumble</li> </ol>		<b>Textiles: Juggling Bags and Cushions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety Rules</li> <li>Sewing Machines</li> <li>Pinning and Tacking Material</li> <li>Stitching</li> <li>Embroidery</li> </ol>	
<b>Modern Languages (French and German)</b>	<b>Topics</b> introduction to the country <b>Grammar</b> conjugation of verbs in the present tense	<b>Topics</b> countries and nationalities <b>Grammar</b> use of intensifiers connectives	<b>Topics</b> self, family and friends <b>Grammar</b> extending sentences	<b>Topics</b> school <b>Grammar</b> adding opinions	<b>Topics</b> hobbies and interests <b>Grammar</b> use of different pronouns	<b>Topics</b> where you live <b>Grammar</b> gender/adjectival endings
<b>Computing/ICT</b>	<b>E Safety</b> Keeping personal information safe	<b>What Are Computers?</b> Input and output devices	<b>Graphics</b> Use a full range of drawing tools to	<b>Animation</b> Create basic animations using	<b>Programming</b> Use flow diagrams to help	<b>Renegade Heroes</b> A Project which combines the skills

	<p>Social media  Cyber-bullying  Dangers of online gaming  Offering advice to others on how to stay safe online</p>	<p>Sensors  Key components in a computer system  Laws affecting the use of computers  Binary  Computer networks</p>	<p>create a superhero's mask for young children to play with</p>	<p>Adobe Flash</p>	<p>plan programmes  Use Scratch to create repeating patterns  Use variables in a simple programme  Create a simple computer game to help teach children about healthy eating</p>	<p>covered in the previous units.</p>
<p><b>PE</b></p>	<p>Outwitting Opponents (Invasion Games)</p>	<p>Accurate Replication (Trampolining and Gymnastics)  Identifying and Problem Solving</p>	<p>Outwitting Opponents (Invasion, Net and Wall Games)  Exercising Safely and Effectively  Identifying and Problem Solving</p>	<p>Exercising Safely and Effectively  Exploring and Communication (Dance)</p>	<p>Outwitting Opponents (Invasion Games , Striking and Fielding)</p>	<p>Performing at Maximum Levels (Athletics)</p>



## Extra-Curricular Activities

Your child spends more time at school than anywhere else except home. Schools can have a major effect on children’s health. Schools can teach children about health and promote healthy behaviours.

Physical education classes give children a chance to get exercise. At Pleckgate we take this further through our bespoke Youth Sports Trust programme and our extensive extra-curricular offers.

### PE Extra-Curricular Activities

Lunch 1.10pm – 1.45pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Sports Hall</b>	Girls Badminton	GCSE Table Tennis	GCSE Team Only Badminton	Table Tennis KS3	Year 11 Netball
<b>Activity Studio</b>	N/A	Girls Badminton	Dance All Years	N/A	N/A
<b>Fitness Suite</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	KS4	KS4
<b>Field</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



## PE Extra-Curricular Activities

After School 3.20pm – 4.20pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Sports Hall</b>	Yr 10 Netball	Girls Football Years 7,8,9	Netball Years 8,9	Netball Year 7	Girls Football Years 10,11
<b>Activity Studio</b>	N/A	N/A	Table Tennis	N/A	N/A
<b>Fitness Suite</b>	N/A	Closed Staff Only from 3.10pm or 4.45pm	N/A	KS4 Staff from 4.10pm	Closed – Staff Only from 3.10pm
<b>Astro, Fields</b>	Yr 7,9 Football	Boys Football KS4	N/A	Football Year 8	Girls Football

## Youth Sports Trust

Pleckgate High School is working closely with the Youth Sports Trust to develop the wellbeing of our students. As a school we are heavily involved with the trusts 'My Personal Best' programme. This allows students to develop not only physically through physical education, but also socially and emotionally. The aim of the programme is to develop life skills such as confidence, teamwork, communication, motivation, self-management and resilience to name a few.

Our school's belief is that developing the life skills and increasing the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of our students, results in increased achievement and attainment. Our overall involvement with the Youth Sports Trust has great benefits for our students' health and wellbeing and we are excited to be working closely with them.





## Super Learning Days

At Pleckgate High School, all year 7 students will take part in Super Learning Days. These are whole days when students are taken off their traditional timetable and given deep learning opportunities.

### **Aims of Enrichment and Super Learning Days at Pleckgate High School**

The aim of Enrichment and SLDs are to provide opportunities for students to develop in line with the values of Pleckgate High School: Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed. In practice this means:

- There are opportunities for students to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others throughout our Super Learning Day. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help pupils to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables students to be aware of the personal choices they can make and prepares them to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and enjoying confidence in one's own ability.
- We provide chances for students to explore and question their own thoughts and feelings. This is enhanced further through our PREVENT days which are in line with the 2015 revised Prevent non-statutory policy. As a school we work in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority who deliver sessions not only to pupils but to staff.
- We give students the opportunity to engage with employers and further education providers to ensure future generations will benefit from quality, meaningful interactions that help them understand the links between courses, skills and the pathways they open up.





## Support for parents

At Pleckgate High School we understand how important it is to ensure that Parents and Carers can be provided with all the information they need to help their children with their learning and development. To improve our understanding of this, we are currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership to help us to develop an outstanding and sustainable programme for parental engagement.

We run a range of support programmes for parents throughout the school year, including additional maths support sessions to help parents to get to grips with key skills within the maths curriculum in order to support their child's learning. Other events such as coffee mornings and parent feedback sessions also take place throughout the year and we would welcome and encourage parents to be involved in these events.

## Feedback

We hope that you have found this booklet informative.

We are always open to new suggestions so if you do have any further ideas for information to be included within the booklet please don't hesitate to get in touch by e-mailing the school via [info@pleckgate.com](mailto:info@pleckgate.com)

