

Happy New Year one and all! It's been great to see everyone back and enjoying learning again!

Curriculum News: We hope that the following gives a flavour of some of this week's studying:

Art & DT: Students have worked on 'A Model Home' as well as used different mediums this week.

Drama: Year 8 Drama have started a new Scheme of Learning: Silent Movie and Slapstick Comedy. Year 9 Drama have started a new Scheme of Learning - looking at different types of comedy; this week is Black Comedy.

Computing: Yr7 embark on a new project – Binary and Control where they will learning about binary numbers and the method of converting binary to denary numbers. Yr 8 are learning about hardware and software terminology, the history of computers, the internet and cloud computing. Yr 9 are working on a short TV commercial to persuade families to visit a particular tourist destination.

English: Year 7 English have been learning about imperative (bossy) verbs and having a go at writing a set of instructions themselves. Year 8 English have been looking at persuasive language by annotating adverts. Year 9 English are studying a short story by Roald Dahl which they will later compare and contrast with another short story. Additionally, all KS3 students have been analysing what makes a good short story. They have all been set a task: to write a short story – as part of a We Are Writers project. Stories should be between 500 and 1,000 words and inspired by either a piece of art or an artefact. Please, ask to see their draft!!

Geography: students have been looking at the big picture of the rest of their course for the year and been sharing ideas about Field Trips and projects to enrich the curriculum.

History: Yr 7 have examining the Peasant's Revolt in the Middle Ages. Yr 8 continue to study the Slave Triangle, the Middle Passage and the lives of slaves in the Americas. Yr 9 are analysing the changes to society in the USA during the 'Roaring Twenties'.

Islamic: Yr 7 are learning a lesson on morals and things that must be considered during a visit somewhere. Yr 8 are learning about one kind of Islamic prayer that must be offered in the drought and lack of rain times. Yr 9 Islamic pupils are learning about Surah (Yassin) where the students have to memorise some of the verses from this Surah, with knowledge of its meaning and explanation.

Maths: 7 Aloe are exploring the methods needed to construct triangles, angle bisectors and perpendicular bisectors. 7 Cinnamon have studied averages and frequency tables. 8 Jasmine are working on probability, while 8 Orchid have studied fractional and negative indices. Yr 9 started working on Statistics since this will be an option for them in Year 10. The department and students continue to enjoy the friendly competitiveness of the Manga High programme!

Music: Yr 7 have been learning about Musical Instruments and categorising instruments according to what they are made of and how they are played. Yr 8 are working on Theme and Variations, comparing different versions of Pachelbel's Canon and experimented on the Keyboards with their own ideas for a variation for this piece. Yr 9 were introduced to Music Technology through the use of Sibelius software. They experimented with different instrumental sounds and some started their own compositions.

PE students are practicing Athletics events in preparation for Sports Day towards the end of February. This week they have covered Sprints and Throwing events. In Swimming this term students are practicing Cold Water Survival, Synchro Swimming and Water Polo.

Science: Yr 7 studied renewable and non-renewable energy sources, comparing and contrasting the pros and cons of each energy source. Yr 8 are learning about thermal transfer, looking at the basics functions of thermodynamics and studying the different means by which heat is transferred through matter. Yr 9 are currently studying physics, specifically - energy transfer, considering how energy changes state in a number of every day scenarios and how products can be designed to be more environmentally friendly.

Social Studies Year have studied 7 the people in the Islamic world. Yr 8 have studied factors affecting the distribution of the population. Yr 9 focus on natural resources in the United Arab Emirates and the weakness of the Ottoman Empire. Non Native Yr 9 are focusing on oil as a non-renewable resource and it's impact on life in the UAE and the region as a whole. They will study the current state of the oil industry, OPEC and the ripple effects caused by the price of a barrel of oil.

Yr 9 PARENTS PLEASE REMEMBER: Options Meeting next Monday - 19th January, 2015 beginning at 6 pm in the Meeting Room.

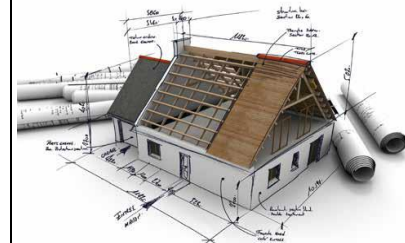


Key Stage 3 Challenge: A Model Home

In partnership with Mubadalla, Aldar have set a challenge to us! Next week is Sustainability Week in our schools – which links with several of our curriculum topics for the term. Aldar Academies' school children have been set a task to help develop their learning around sustainability.

The Task: each student or teams of 3-5 students will:

- build a model of a sustainable home,
- present a 2 minute verbal presentation,
- and have to create a poster board to support and highlight their reasoning and decision-making process.



Key Issues/Concepts

- Sustainability
- An overview of various biomes
- Renewable energy
- Importance of conservation
- Features of a sustainable house

Objectives

Students will: • Understand the concept of sustainability; • Develop vocabulary on sustainability issues; • Understand energy; • Learn about local environment (Abu Dhabi); • Learn about other biomes around the world and • Compare and contrast sustainability issues.

We look forward to seeing the results of their labours!