



SEATON HOUSE SCHOOL

FORM IV

WELCOME TO FORM IV

Next term your daughter will be moving into Form IV and by now should be well adjusted to life in Senior House. The daily routine will follow much the same pattern as last year. One new subject appears on the timetable in Form IV – Reasoning. This year, the girls will be introduced to the skills and techniques needed to solve problems using Verbal Reasoning. These lessons form the early stages in the preparations for facing the independent school 11+ selection tests in Form VI – it may still seem to be a long way off but time passes very quickly!

Her interim Form Teacher will be Mrs Shella Hossenbux

Upon arrival in the Form room each morning, your daughter will be expected to remove from her bag her lunch box, breaktime ‘snack’, homework diary, homework books, pencil case and any letters for staff or the School Office. She should put her lunchbox on the shelf by the hall. Mrs Hossenbux will devise a daily routine for dealing with homework diaries and homework. Personal belongings (e.g. pencil case) should be placed tidily in her own desk. School bags should be stored in the correct place in the Form room.

After consulting her timetable, she should ensure that she has ready any books etc. which will be needed for the first lesson of the morning.

Once everything is properly organised and homework is handed in, girls should read quietly or complete any other tasks set by Mrs Wilson for this period.

Registration will begin at 8.40am and all girls should be seated in their Form room, totally organised, by this time. It is of the utmost importance that your daughter arrives at school with sufficient time to sort out her belongings before Registration. Ideally, this should be at 8.30am. It can be very unsettling and upsetting for girls who rush into school at the last moment and have no time for routine matters before Registration. Reprimands at the beginning of the day cause undue stress and are to be avoided at all costs.

On some mornings, lessons will begin immediately after Registration.

EQUIPMENT

Essential items are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 30cm ruler | rigid <u>not</u> bendy or folding, marked with both cm and mm |
| 15cm ruler | rigid, marked with both cm and mm |
| HB pencils | 2 or 3 should be sufficient |
| 4B & 6B Pencils | one of each, for drawing |
| coloured pencils | a reasonable but not excessive range of colours |
| green coloured pencil/- | essential for marking own work on occasions |
| fine liner/biro | – available from the school office |
| small pair of sharp scissors | - not too pointed |
| Pritt stick or similar | |
| Pencil eraser | |
| Pencil sharpener | - with a container for sharpenings |
| Simple calculator | |
| Fountain pen | with spare BLUE ink cartridges |
| Berol handwriting pen | - BLUE INK -as spare backup |
| Semi-circular | |
| Protractor | available from the School Office (50p) |

All personal items should be named – this means every individual item. All the listed equipment should be carried in ONE PENCIL CASE (NOT a tin).

There is no need for an inordinate number of pencil cases containing vast quantities of felt tip pens and / or gel pens. Girls *may* have a second pencil case containing a few such items, for use during wet breaks. This second pencil case should remain in the school bag until needed. It cannot be kept in her desk as the space will be needed for text and exercise books.

The school will provide compasses, circular protractors and set squares when needed.

LACK OF EQUIPMENT

It can be counter productive when girls arrive at a lesson ill-equipped – in some instances it will mean that a girl will be totally unable to participate in the lesson. Should a girl in Form IV arrive in a lesson without all the necessary equipment / resources (including PE kit, recorder etc), then a Forgetful Mark may be given and recorded in her Homework Diary. For reasons of hygiene, **PE kit may never be borrowed or lent**. If the forgetfulness is repeated **four times**, the girl concerned will be sent to Mrs Wilson, Deputy Head, who will issue a Lethe Mark (see below).

Lethe Mark (named after the River Lethe, the River of Forgetfulness in Hades – Greek mythology). Lethe Marks will be recorded by Mrs Wilson, Deputy Head, in the Homework Diary. If 3 Lethe Marks are issued in one term, your daughter will be sent to the Headmistress at which point a formal letter will be sent home.

Other misdemeanors may result in a yellow or red card being given. The cards are turned back to green at the end of each week.

Parents are asked to sign their daughter's Homework Diary to indicate that they are aware that a yellow/red card or Lethe Mark has been issued.

MATHEMATICS

The main priority of this year is to advance your daughter's skill in numeracy. The *National Primary Strategy* defines numeracy as being 'a proficiency which involves confidence and competence with numbers and measures'. It requires an understanding of the number system, a repertoire of computational skills and an inclination and ability to solve number problems in a variety of contexts. Numeracy also demands practical understanding of the ways in which information is gathered by counting and measuring, and is presented in graphs, diagrams, charts and tables.



An ability to calculate mentally lies at the heart of numeracy and oral and mental work will feature strongly in each lesson. Each girl works at a different pace and individual needs will be met as and when appropriate. This may require additional practice, further explanation or a more challenging task. Mathematics

should be **enjoyable** and we aim to give your daughter sufficient confidence to tackle any challenge which she may be set.

In order to prepare the girls adequately for 11+ selection procedures in Year 6, it is essential that concepts such as decimals and area be introduced in Year 4 so that there is plenty of time for further consolidation.

Each term the girls have the chance to regain their times tables badge. In Form IV they have to complete 50 questions in 4 minutes.

ENGLISH

In Form IV, the *New National Curriculum Programme of Study* provides the framework for much of the English teaching. It offers a

challenging mix of vocabulary, grammar, comprehension and creative work for each girl based around particular literary texts, both fiction and non-fiction. We shall develop paragraphing skills, writing fiction and non-fiction, learning to write news reports, explanation texts, play scripts, a variety of forms of poetry and build on research and reference skills. We also encourage Form IV to check for correct use of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation and write substantially each week according to the principles of the Ros Wilson Big Write scheme. The syllabus aims to be lively, varied and enjoyable.

Reading: It is very important for all girls to develop a love for reading by reading for pleasure. The expectation is that all girls record new vocabulary and note down the pages that they have read each day. This should be a minimum of fifteen minutes reading at home. Parents should monitor this and sign off their reading record book each day. Parent monitoring of this activity is extremely valuable and will boost their performance in English.

Spelling: The girls will continue to bring home spellings to be learned. These spellings are taken from 'Get Spelling', a sister scheme to 'Read, Write, Inc' with additional spellings to support this. Girls in Form IV are encouraged to use a dictionary and thesaurus whenever necessary.

DICTIONARY and THESAURUS

It is extremely important that every girl has access, **at home**, to a good dictionary and thesaurus which can be referred to when doing homework.

We strongly recommend that you purchase the following, or similar, for your daughter's use AT HOME:

OXFORD CONCISE SCHOOL DICTIONARY

and



OXFORD CONCISE SCHOOL THESAURUS

These are the versions also used in school.

Reading: It is essential that pupils in Form IV read daily for pleasure at home and note down the new vocabulary that they encounter.

They should record the pages that they have read in their Reading Record Book and this will be checked weekly by Mrs Wilson. Some pupils who require individual help with reading will receive support each week in school and will continue on the Reading scheme. Other pupils are expected to choose suitable books from the Book List for Forms III and IV using the school and class libraries as well as visiting their local library to broaden their reading horizons.

SCIENCE

The study of science will continue to cover the syllabus for Key Stage Two. There now follows a brief outline of this year's topics:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Content</u>
Animals including Humans	This unit includes food groups, the digestive system, teeth and food chains.
States of Matter	Looking at solids, liquids and gases, the differences between them and changing states.
Electricity	This unit builds on earlier work on electricity and includes series and parallel circuits.
Habitats	This is based around the study of animals, their classification, the places in which they live and how they are adapted for survival.

Sound

This unit looks at how sound is produced and measured.



Practical work will continue to form a large part of the Science curriculum. This will include investigative tasks where the girls will gradually develop their skills in experimental design, learning to appreciate when a fair test has been carried out, by controlling the relevant variables (factors). They will begin to present their results in a variety of formats and to interpret them in the light of their scientific knowledge.

They will be expected to work towards using a set format to record their work and begin to identify the variable which they have changed and the variable they are measuring:

1. Question/Hypothesis
2. Apparatus
3. Method
4. Results
5. Conclusion

The girls will not need to use the passive tense.

HISTORY

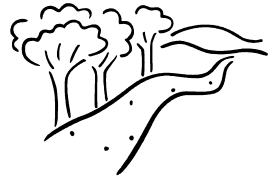
History is taught in 1 hour sessions throughout the year. Topics include British history of the Celts; Celtic culture and opposition to the Romans; the Romans in Britain and a study of an early civilisation – the Ancient Egyptians or the Ancient Greeks. Other concepts, such as time and chronology, the concept of opinion and

point of view and primary and secondary sources of evidence will also be covered.

GEOGRAPHY



There will be a weekly Geography lesson throughout the year. The girls will continue to develop their awareness of continents, oceans and countries. They will study weather and climate, their local area and different map projections. They will also undertake a study of Catalonia. Within Form IV there is a strong emphasis on environmental awareness and concern.



FRENCH

The aim, at this stage, is for the girls to continue to build on their knowledge of French learnt in previous years. They will be taught following Eurostars Stage 2 from the Rising Stars Primary French series. It is designed to be used as an interactive course, expanding conversational French whilst developing vocabulary and grammatical knowledge. The girls will be given vocabulary to learn and exercises to complete for homework. Any support in helping the girls learn their spellings would be appreciated and we are always happy to see French books or materials brought back from any French speaking country.

Computing

In the course of this year, the girls will be taught to use technology safely and will be introduced to new software, all within a

meaningful context. They will begin to learn how to write their own code to animate a sprite (character). They will be encouraged to use computing to support their work in other areas of the curriculum.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In Form IV, the themes of Daily Life, Festivals, Community, Places and Stories will be examined through the study of a range of Faiths and Religions.



MUSIC

Girls in Form IV have two lessons per week, one devoted to recorder playing and music theory and the other to developing knowledge of music, percussion, composition and listening skills. Pupils will also rehearse for musical events involving Forms III and IV singing together during these lessons.

Instrumental tuition is available in a variety of instruments as is group flute playing. Some instrumentalists may be invited to join the Orchestra.

Please contact the School Office if you would like any further information about instrumental lessons.

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

These lessons aim to:

- Stimulate girls' creativity and imagination by providing visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world



- Develop girls' understanding of colour, form, texture and pattern and their own ability to use different materials and processes to communicate ideas, feelings and meanings
- Explore with girls the ideas and meanings in the work of artists, craftspeople and designers and help them learn about their different roles and about the functions of art, craft and design in their own lives and in different times and cultures
- Encourage girls to develop critical thinking about their own work and the work of other artists and to learn how to edit and/or incorporate ideas in their art work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is concerned with the development of movement ability, allowing all girls the chance to participate actively and successfully. This is achieved through a continuous process of:

- Planning - decision making, problem solving
- Performing - carrying out skills and tasks
- Evaluation - comparing performance with others and how to improve
- Developing positive attitudes - appreciation, leadership, co-operation, sportsmanship
- Promoting physical activity and a healthy lifestyle
- Ensuring safe practice in all activities
- Having fun.

Swimming:

Through the weekly lessons, the girls will learn:

- To swim unaided, competently and safely
- To develop confidence in the water and how to rest, float and adopt support positions
- A variety of means of propulsion using either arms or legs or both, and how to develop effective and efficient swimming strokes on the front and on the back.



Games Lessons:

Form IV has a balanced games programme, initially building individual co-ordination and ball skills through a variety of games activities, leading on to small sided games with simplified rules.

Every girl in Form IV will need her own **GUM SHIELD** and **SHIN PADS** which may be purchased from a sports shop or, if necessary, a dentist.

PE Lessons:

Physical Education lessons will include sessions covering Gymnastics, Dance and Athletics. Gymnastics will follow 'Modern Educational Gymnastics' allowing open ended tasks to be answered by all pupils at their own level. Olympic Gymnastic skills will also be incorporated into the lesson structure (B.G.A. scheme).



Throw and Relay.

Through Dance, girls will learn to develop body management, to express and communicate ideas through a range of dance vocabulary using a variety of stimuli such as poetry, music, sounds, artefacts and celebrations; to choreograph dance sequences; to develop a good movement memory and acquire an appreciation of dance.

Athletics will incorporate High Jump, Long Jump, Distance and Sprint Running, Hurdles, Ball



Verbal Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning is taught for lesson a week for the Spring and Summer terms. This is to develop the skills they will need for certain 11+ entrance exams to Independent Secondary schools. VR is an excellent tool for developing lateral thinking skills and improves vocabulary. Very often, it is through simple repetition that pupils master these techniques.

Fixtures Against Other Schools:

Every term, girls will be given the opportunity to represent the school in competitive matches against other local schools. Matches against other schools may well finish after 5.00pm. **If your daughter is selected to represent the school in a match it is expected that she will play**, please check the dates of potential matches at the start of every term. The girls will be notified a week in advance of matches if they are expected to play via the PE notice board and



a letter will be sent home. A full fixture list will be emailed to parents at the beginning of each term and is available on the school website and on the PE Notice Board.

N.B. Transport to Away Fixtures

Please note that, if your daughter is selected to represent the school at an away fixture, Seaton House School will endeavour to arrange coach / minibus transport to and from the match for the team. Parents are welcome to attend matches and to take their child home from the venue if they wish. Girls who are not collected from the venue will return to school on the transport. Please be aware, matches finish at a variety of times and school transport may be later than advertised arriving back to school due to traffic. There may be occasions where it will be your responsibility to arrange transport to and from the venue.



RESIDENTIAL TRIP

A two night residential trip to Bowles Activity Centre, Tunbridge Wells, will take place in the Autumn Term this year. As it is part of Seaton House life, it is expected that all girls in Forms IV will



participate.

The two night stay will serve as preparation for the longer residential trips that take place in Form V and VI. It will encourage self-awareness, independence and self-confidence and will involve learning new skills and how to meet and often overcome personal challenges and working as a team.

The girls will take place in a variety of individual and team based activities and one session each day will be devoted to Skiing on one of the two dry ski slopes at the centre. Girls will participate in the UK Snowsport Award Scheme and sessions will be differentiated according to ability and previous experience. Other activities may include raft-building, using low or high ropes, Bushcraft Skills, Bouldering and Campfire experiences.

We shall be able to give you more detailed information early in the Autumn Term.

Have a great year in Form IV!

