

Year 8 Curriculum

Below gives an overview of each subject in Year 8.

Art

The visual art curriculum aims to involve pupils in a journey of discovery. They will build their creative and technical skills to enable them to realise ideas, enhance their potential and develop confidence to explore and interpret images in an original manner. The curriculum aims to encourage critical appreciation and evaluate their own and others' Art work, and to explore the historical and cultural influences of Art and other artists.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. In year 8 they will acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on other subject areas such as Mathematics, Science, ICT and Art.

Drama

The Drama course offers opportunities for pupils to participate in a range of activities that focus on developing, devising and performance skills. Drama also aims to enhance pupil's confidence and develop group collaboration skills. In Year 8, we look at establishing character and plot in detail.

English

In Year 8, pupils continue to study skills of analysis and interpretation through the study of a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Pupils are taught the specific techniques that should be used for different purposes of writing, whilst also focusing on improving the technical accuracy of their work. By the end of the year, most pupils are expected to be fluent readers and writers who can express themselves thoughtfully and appropriately.

French

Pupils continue to develop and extend the core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a wider variety of topics. These topics include sports, food and drink, planning a trip to Paris and describing events in the past and future.

Pupils learn to communicate in a number of tenses which leads to greater fluency and more natural communication. Pupils are also given regular opportunities to discuss progress and to set targets for future improvement. Pupils are encouraged to use French to communicate both with their teacher and each other.

Geography

In this middle year of Key Stage 3, we aim to build on acquired knowledge and skills. We study a balanced curriculum where Physical, Human and Environmental geography are

integrated. Pupils are also expected to develop independent learning strategies, enquiry and decision making skills, and to undertake local fieldwork.

Geographical knowledge and understanding are developed through the following units:

- When the Earth shakes
- Settling down
- And now for the weather

History

The aim of the History course in Year 8 is to build on the progress made over the previous year and to further develop skills in terms of evaluating cause, effect, and how societies change over time. The study units are:

- Britain 1500-1750: The Making of the U.K.
- Black Peoples of America
- Britain 1750 -1900: Expansion, Trade and Industry

A good understanding of people and events is developed, and pupils acquire knowledge and skills in a number of ways: paired and group work, ICT tasks and the use of visual materials and artefacts.

ICT

During Year 8, pupils will extend the knowledge gained during their first year of Key Stage 3 and primary school. This work will be based on a set of projects where pupils use different software to solve more real-life scenarios, focusing on developing pupils ICT capability. Pupils have developed games using Gamemaker, built an automated spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel and are beginning to develop their web design skills. Capability focuses upon efficient, appropriate and considered use of ICT, helping pupils to make decisions about when and whether ICT is the best tool for a task.

It is anticipated that most pupils will be working at National Curriculum level 5.

Mathematics

We aim to continue through the National Curriculum Attainment targets via a combination of individual, small group and whole class teaching, employing a variety of methods and materials, including a core text and investigational tasks. Whilst encouraging and developing a questioning and explorative approach to the subject, we aim to give pupils an insight into the intrigue and delight that mathematics offers as well as its role as an essential life skill.

Music

The Music course aims to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of music. Listening, appraising performance and composition skills are developed throughout all parts of the course using instruments, voices and ICT software.

In Year 8, the following areas are covered:

- Rock n' Roll Music – listening, written and performance work
- 12 Bar Blues
- African Music
- Composition Skills – phrases, melodies and chords
- Brass Instruments

Physical Education

During Year 8 pupils will cover the following areas within PE:

1) Outwitting opponents, as in games activities. 2) Accurate replication of actions, phrases and sequences, as in gymnastic activities. 3) Exploring and communicating ideas, concepts and emotions, as in dance activities. 4) Performing at maximum levels in relation to speed, height, distance, strength or accuracy, as in athletic activities. 5) Identifying and solving problems to overcome challenges of an adventurous nature, as in outdoor and adventurous activities. 6) Exercising safely and effectively to improve health and well-being as in fitness and health activities.

All of the above areas will be delivered through a variety of different sports and activities.

PHSCE

PSHCE lessons aim to promote pupils' person and social development, including their health and well being. We hope to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills, and understanding to become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights.

Pupils study 5 topics. The topics of study are;

- Bullying
- Homelessness/Refugees
- Sex and Relationships Education
- First Aid
- High Risk Behaviour

RE

The course will enable pupils to become more aware of and sensitive to religious and spiritual elements of life. This will be achieved through a study of basic Christian beliefs, major world religions and contemporary moral issues. At the heart of the syllabus is the twofold aim of equipping the students to think about religion and to learn from religion. They will also have the chance to personalise their learning by recounting and applying their own experiences and opinions.

The three unit titles are:

- Pilgrimage and Journey
- Rites of passage

- Christian Beliefs and the Life of Jesus

Science

Pupils study the three main disciplines of Science — Biology, Chemistry and Physics in a modular course based on the National Curriculum. The course aims to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of the scientific world around them. During the year pupils further develop their thinking, understanding, practical and investigative skills.