

Year 8 Subject Overviews

Art

In Year 8, Art and Design students investigate three diverse themes which focus on artist research and different artistic styles. Year 8 students will continue to build on their experiences from Year 7 and they will be encouraged to be confident in their creative process. Year 8 are exploring themes that relate to portraiture, wildlife and literature.

Design and Technology

In Year 8, Design & Technology students undertake approximate 12-week rotations across three key areas. In Food and Nutrition students learn about the eat well guide, completing a sensory analysis and how to make dishes such as crumbles and scones culminating in the design and making their own pizza. In Resistant Materials students use CAD/CAM to design and make a personalised puzzle. In Textiles students use a range of machinery and techniques to create a Puglie monster.

Drama

In Year 8, students build upon the skills and techniques that they have learnt throughout Year 7. Students also begin to focus on the development of characterization, exploring how to use voice and movement to portray specific characters. This is reinforced through the topics of 1920s Gangsters and Melodrama.

English

In Year 8, there is an increased emphasis on students' ability to work and think independently. Students will develop upon their analytical and evaluative abilities in response to a range of poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction. Students will also start to compare texts as an additional skill.

Creative written tasks are taught both as separate units and attached to reading in class. We continue with the Accelerated Reader programme throughout the year to monitor and encourage independent reading. Assessments occur each half-term to monitor each student's progress.

Geography

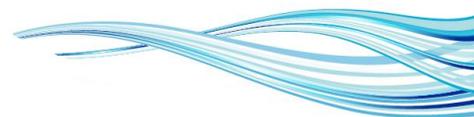
In Year 8, pupils build on the skills they have gained in year 7 and study a range of topics including looking at the wide range of issues facing different countries in Africa. They also study Brazil, one of the world's fastest growing economies and most diverse countries. They study issues affecting people and the environment in this interesting country. Students have an opportunity to study the links between different countries around the world and are introduced to the term globalisation, looking at its impacts on different places.

History

In Year 8, all pupils study the changes that occurred from 1485 to 1945. They analyse the religious and political transformation of Britain from the Tudors to the English Civil war and then through the Industrial revolution. They then explore how migration has impacted our world today through an in-depth study of the British Empire.

Maths

In Year 8, students study a range of topics that build on and extend the knowledge, understanding and skills that they developed in Year 7. There are 3 schemes of work designed to support students at an appropriate level and challenge them accordingly. Topics studied include Number, Algebra, Probability, Geometry, Ratio and Statistics. There is a focus on developing reasoning and problem-solving skills, which form a key part of the new GCSE Mathematics examination in Key Stage 4.



Music

In Year 8, students build upon the skills and techniques that they have learnt throughout Year 7. More detailed performance skills are developed such as timing, diction, projection, fluency. In addition, listening and evaluating skills are much more heavily imbedded. Students also extend their knowledge of musical genres. A detailed look at such topics as Music notation, African Drumming, Reggae, Film Music and Festivals really help to provide the students with a wide understanding of music from around the world. Solo and group work is encouraged throughout the year.

PE

In Year 8, students cover a range of different invasion games such as football, rugby, and netball, along with creative activities, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Students also cover health related exercise (HRE), this includes understanding how their bodies respond to exercise. Within all activity's students are assessed on their abilities to perform skills in an isolated practice, in a conditioned practice, and in performance. Students are also given opportunities to take on the role as an official or coach where appropriate.

Philosophy and Ethics

In Year 8, students develop skills of comparative knowledge and understanding of the major world religions. Students will learn about Judaism, the New Testament, Church History, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. This will enable students to learn about the origins and divergent practices of the major eastern and western religions; and to reflect upon what we can we learn from them through extending and applying the skills of analysis and evaluation.

Science

In Year 8, students will develop their knowledge in Biology, Chemistry and Physics following the AQA Activate Science syllabus. They will cover topics that include; genetics, forces, elements, compounds, mixtures, chemical reactions, electromagnets and the atom. In these topics' students will develop their practical skills further from what was covered in year 7. This is a bridging year ready for GCSE, so the content covered, and the practical investigations completed, help students prepare for the new GCSE specification starting in year 9.

Spanish

In Year 8, students cover the topics of a past holiday, TV and types of music they like, technology, food and mealtimes, arranging to go out, clothes, describing holiday activities and asking for directions. The cultural projects Year 8 pupils will be working on are producing a tourist brochure on a Spanish town, learning about Hispanic singers, presenting a fashion show and making a cookery video. Grammatically the focus is on revision of the present tense, using comparatives, demonstrative adjectives, direct object pronouns, using three tenses together, the Immediate Future, regular and irregular verbs in the Preterite Tense and the Imperative. Equal emphasis is based on the four skill areas Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These are all assessed at the end of each unit.