

Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 1

English



What are we studying? Media Study - Rabbit Proof Fence. Students will understand the context behind the 'Stolen generation', the unfairness of discrimination and the history of Aboriginals. They will also learn camera angles, lighting skills and the techniques used to craft a piece of cinematic media.

Assessment: End of unit assessment - knowledge, grammar, reading and writing skills

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their Lexia minutes, learns their spellings and completes their reading logs. If you can listen to your child read, that is even better!

Science



What are we doing this half term? (1) Biology – Photosynthesis (2) Chemistry – Structure of the atom (3) Physics – Wave effects and properties.

Assessments: Low stake quizzes and summative assessment.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. The BBC KS3 bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/znq4d2p>.

It would be useful to have a KS3 Science revision guide to aid students in preparation for summative assessments - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-SCIENCE-REVISION-LEVELS-GUIDES/dp/B008MWXGFO>

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we studying? The Problem of Evil

Assessment: The same style of assessment is used throughout the year. 5 questions that add up to 24

How can parents help? Discuss RPE lessons with your son/daughter. Play devils advocate and encourage healthy debate about important topics.

Maths



What are we studying? Fractions, decimals and percentages: We will be looking at recurring decimals and how they can be converted to fractions. We will also be finding percentage increase & decrease using multipliers as well as working with reverse percentages. Construction & Loci: We will continue to look at accurately constructing triangles, nets of 3D shapes, line bisectors, angle bisectors, drawing loci and using loci to solve problems. Probability: We will be calculating probabilities, using relative frequencies, looking at probability experiments, using Venn diagrams & tree diagrams.

Assessment: Students will be doing an assessment once each unit of work has been completed - a topic list will be provided.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler, protractor, compass and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX spending at least 1 hour per week doing their home learning and the times tables practise.

Art



What are we studying? Year 8 students are continuing their 'Amazing Architecture' project. This includes studying a variety of local and international buildings and Architects. Students will be studying one and two point perspective.

Assessment: Students are graded holistically throughout the project based on the 4 assessment objectives detailed in their sketchbooks.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. Visiting local and national landmarks and discussing works of art and architecture at home can enable students to gain confidence in sharing their thoughts and ideas.

French



What are we studying? My town/my region

Assessment: End of year assessments.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

Spanish



What are we studying? My town/my region

Assessment: End of year assessments.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y8 students will be learning about India.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has a glue and scissors. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed. Revision notes for assessments need to follow the guidance on the revision help sheet.

Music



What are we studying? Year 8 students will be continuing their project on the Blues. After half term they will start working in groups to produce a 12-bar blues piece.

Assessment: Performance of a 12-bar blues piece in groups.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child has their Music book, a pen, and a pencil every lesson. Support your child with learning keywords, developing their musical literacy and encourage them to listen to music at home.

History



What are we studying? We continue our studies of the British Empire, looking at the good and the bad and making our own minds up about the legacy of the British Empire for the modern world.

Assessment: End of year assessment.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to read or watch programmes related to the British Empire and its legacy such as David Olosuga's 'Black and British.' Visit the Museum of London Docklands.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Web design in HTML

Assessment: On the topic above students will answer a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise using: <https://www.w3schools.com/>

Drama



What are we studying this half term? Students will explore culture and focus on a range of cultures from around the world.

Assessment: Devised Performance.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes any home learning on time, encourage them to express themselves in lesson and complete wider reading around the topic. Encourage them to discuss what they have learned about theatre in other cultures in the lesson.

PE



Skills, techniques and strategies are continuing to be built on by experiencing a different set of sports and activities with a focus on striking and fielding games and athletics.

Assessments : Students will be assessed throughout the practical blocks of work.

How can parents help?: Please ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on PE days.

DT Graphics (Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be using analysis, enterprise and teamwork skills in order to design and make a prototype of a flat-pack product. In completing the project, students will look at sustainability and material management, developing an awareness of intellectual property, and will look at how products are assembled. They will also look at the importance of prototyping within the design process. The project aims to develop students' awareness of designing for a target audience, managing materials, prototyping and working with others.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing flat-pack products and analysing their appropriateness for the fair), Designing (designing different products that could be sold) and Evaluating (evaluating the final product).

How can parents help? Students will be designing a product for a realworld situation, so discussing what customers might want from the products they buy would be useful.



Design Technology (Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? We will be looking into forces that act upon materials when we use the in products and polymer-based materials. We will manufacture a pen holder from acrylic and crate a small night light. We will be trained how to use the pillar drill, polishing machine, plastic heating equipment, the vacuum former and soldering irons. We will focus on finishing skills to create high quality products. We will also cover the concept of quality assurance, quality control and tolerance within manufacturing.

Assessments: Students will be assessed on the Acrylic pen stand practical work which they have the opportunity to focus on quality. Students will be assessed on their small night light, in which their soldering skills and ability to construct a vacuum formed case will be the focus.

How can parents help? Take an interest in the project work and skills they are learning and discuss them. Help them look at products made from polymer materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed.

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term?: Students will use recycled fabrics or clothing to design a Puggly Mascot. Throughout the project, students will look at quality control, fabric construction, hand-sewing, machine stitching, embroidery, applique, seam allowance and templates. The Puggly mascot project will allow students to develop independence whilst using the sewing machine, as they will have to ensure that they have sewn in the correct places to construct the product accurately. This particular Textiles project will challenge their problem-solving skills and ability to work to a high quality.

Assessments: Design sketches will be assessed as well as the practical outcome of the mascot itself.

How can parents help?: Discuss the project, look at existing mascots for a variety of events or teams. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

Food and Nutrition



What are we doing this half term? Students will gain a good understanding of pathogenic bacteria, cross contamination and food poisoning, how to prevent the spread of bacteria when preparing, storing and cooking food. They will build on their knowledge of nutrition and the healthy eating guidelines by completing a nutritional analysis. Students will be introduced to food science terms which will allow them to understand the function of ingredients within food products and the science behind the ingredient, why it can change the texture and appearance of food. Practical lessons will include Pasta tomato, chicken fajitas, bread rolls, shortcrust pastry and planning a healthy snack.

Assessment will include, Nutritional analysis, Sensory evaluation, Making of their own healthy snack.

What parents can do to help: encourage independence and ownership by getting your child to weigh and measure their ingredients themselves for practical lessons. Try making the dishes again at home and adapting and improving on them.