

Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 2

English



What are we studying? Myths, Legends and Folk Tales from other cultures. This unit explores how story telling first began. Students will look at Greek mythology as well as mythology and creation stories from other cultures.

Assessment: End of year exam

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete the revision booklet that they have been given.

Science



What are we doing this half term? (1) Biology – Evolution and inheritance (2) Chemistry – Earth resources (3) Physics – The universe

Assessments: Low stake quizzes and summative assessment. The summative assessment will test students on their knowledge of all topics covered in Year 8 and some areas covered in year 7. Revision topic list was emailed to all parents in w/b 13th May.

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/zng4d2p>. 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>

History



What are we studying? We will be finishing off our British Empire topic, continuing to look at the impact of the British Empire on the colonies and people it ruled over and coming to our own judgements about whether the Empire was a force for good or evil.

Assessment: End of year exam (British Empire - overview, slave trade and India)

How can parents help? Encourage revision for end of year exam. Visit the London Museum Docklands.

Maths



What are we studying? Probability: We will continue to look at calculating probabilities, using relative frequencies, looking at probability experiments, using Venn diagrams & tree diagrams. Scale drawings & measures: We will be looking at using scales in maps and plans, bearings, scale drawings, congruency & similarity in 2D shapes. Graphs: Such as plotting straight line graphs, finding the equation of a straight line, parallel & perpendicular lines.

Assessment: Year 8 will be doing an assessment once each unit of work has been completed. There will also be an 'end of year' exam based on all of the content covered since September, which consist of two papers (calculator and non-calculator). A topic list with the relevant SPARX codes will be given to the students to aid with their revision.

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 which has recently been added.

Spanish



What are we studying? Clothes and fashion

Assessment: End of year tests - Listening, Reading and Translation

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

French



What are we studying? Clothes and fashion

Assessment: End of year tests - Listening, Reading and Translation

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

Art



What are we studying? Year 8 students are continuing their 'Amazing Architecture' project. This includes responding to the work of a variety of artists and designers inspired by architecture.

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 activities for this project, they are welcome to take sketchbooks home or attend Art club on a Wednesday after school to ensure their work is finished to the best of their ability. 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.

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.

Geography



What are we doing this half term? Y8 are learning about Glaciers and will then learn about Coasts

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.

Drama



What are we studying this half term? We will explore what life was like in WW2 through the eyes of evacuees. Students will develop their skills in building character, developing a monologue in role, and will be challenged by techniques such as being 'hot seated' in character.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on how they create and perform a selected scene, alongside the written KS3 test.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their revision for the test.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we studying? Do animals have the same rights as humans?

Assessment: All assessments are the same. Students have 5 questions with a total of 24

How can parents help? Encourage your son/daughter to have debates with you at home, play devils advocate and ask lots of questions.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Students will revise all topics covered this year in preparation for our end of year exam. After the exam students will learn about spreadsheets, including conditional formatting, validation and formulae.

Assessment: The end of year assessment will contain a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise. Please visit Microsoft Teams for revision lists and helpful websites.

Music



What are we studying? Year 8 students will be looking at the use of music in Adverts.

Assessment: End of year exam.

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.

Food and Nutrition



The focus this year is on developing and refining the basic skills taught in year 7, developing accuracy and control across a range of equipment. More complex dishes featuring meat, chicken and alternative proteins are introduced this year. These intermediate skills build on the foundations of the basic skills learned in year 7 and prepare students for year 9. Our students come from a variety of different cultures so a focus in year 8 is International and British cuisines. This year also introduces the concept of different nutritional needs based on lifestage, and food choice based on ethics. Students are exposed to a variety of food related messages from different sources so in year 8 we focus on how different factors affect food choice such as religion, celebration, dietary needs, peer pressure and the media.

Practical lessons include: Burritos, Sausage Pasta Bake, Goujons, Margarita Pizzetta, Superveg Burger and Rainbow slaw, Irish Soda Bread

How will they be assessed?

Students will be given regular verbal feedback within their practical lessons 'in the moment'. This allows students to act upon this feedback immediately for the maximum impact on progress. Students will be assessed via written and practical assessments.

Home Learning

Students are set practical evaluations to reflect upon their practical outcome and own personal performance in practicals. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practicals they will continue to develop their weighing and measuring skills at home when preparing their ingredients for lessons. Students are encouraged to practice their practical skills out of lessons by helping to prepare and cook meals at home.

To be successful in this subject, students will need to be good at and enjoy:

- ◆ Learning how to cook independently
- ◆ Developing organisational and time management skills
- ◆ Developing problem solving skills and the ability to overcome challenges
- ◆ Teamwork when carrying out practical investigations
- ◆ Learning through practical activities

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 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.

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.