



Year 8

Course Outlines

Art and Design

Students build on skills explored in Year 7. In addition to this, students investigate symbolism, narrative, abstraction, simplification and proportion. Through themed projects students develop capabilities in a further range of media and processes, specifically clay construction, painting, collage and dry drawing media. Students continue to work with a clear methodical approach, undertaking; contextual research, experimenting with media, drawing and resolving a final outcome. Students are encouraged to complete each piece of work with imagination and creativity.

Computer Science

- Computational Thinking - theory behind how to solve computational problems & UK Beaver test. Algorithms sorting and searching (September - October).
- Cryptography - understanding encryption of data and how this is used in every day society and Computer Science (November).
- Computer Hardware - Inside the Computer - how a computer works, the blood and guts of the computer (January - February).
- Website Design - HTML Programming and Dreamweaver.

Design and Technology

Students develop their understanding of a range of materials and use this information to design and make a number of products.

Food Technology: Students investigate ingredients and design and make a new, Italian inspired main course product.

Textiles: Students investigate decorative techniques and design and make a storage holder.

Product Design/Graphics: Learn to use ICT to create original art work. Students investigate resistant materials and design and make an iPad or book stand.

Product Design and Engineering: Students design and make a wooden amplifier and stand suitable for a smart phone. Or use CAD and CAM to make a Money Box.

Drama

The syllabus has no specific subject content as it is entirely skills based. The social skills concentrated on in Year 7 continue to form the basis of the syllabus, but more personal skills are used.

Characterisation and role-play: To think more deeply about character being portrayed and how they would behave and react.

Problem solving: Through discussion and experiment discover the most effective way of solving a fictional or practical problem.

Exploration of techniques and subject matter.

Observation.

Effective communication through spoken language, body language, facial expression and gesture.

The subject matter is the individual tutor's choice, although during Year 8 rather more complex themes are selected.

English

The Year 8 English Curriculum develops the language skills that are essential to full, productive and confident communication. An appreciation of our rich and varied literary heritage and a lifelong love of literature and language are encouraged through engagement with the spoken and written word.

Spoken language is integral to classroom practice, reflecting its importance to cognitive, social and linguistic development. Students are provided with multiple opportunities to develop their confidence and competence through both informal discussions and more formal study of presentation, debate and drama skills.

Reading: Engaging with a breadth of challenging texts of different forms, genres and origins, students learn comprehension skills linked to content, purpose, audience and context. Additional skills learning is related to: vocabulary and etymology; inference and deduction skills; critical analysis skills linked to writers' choices of: vocabulary, figurative language, grammar, structure, organisation and form. In Year 8, Great Big Read lessons also encourage and embed independent reading habits for challenge, interest and enjoyment.

Writing: Students learn to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in a range of contexts, purposes and audiences, including formal academic essay writing and imaginative writing. They also refine their drafting and writing skills, developing resilience to write at length and with an increasing sophistication of expression, grammatical command and application of linguistic and figurative devices.

Broader Literacy Skills: Students' grasp of the structure, intricacy and nuances of English language and literature is further developed through the learning and application of grammatical, linguistic and literary terminology related to areas of study. Fortnightly Literacy Challenges further consolidate learning related to vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, grammar and the effective application of the English language.

French

Listening: Students show that they can understand short passages of familiar language and can identify and note main points and personal responses.

Speaking: Students show that they can take part in brief prepared tasks and simple structured conversations.

Reading: Students show that they can understand longer texts and dialogues and are beginning to read independently using a dictionary or glossary.

Writing: Students show that they can write sentences on familiar topics and can use their knowledge of grammar to improve and vary their language.

Topics covered:

- Lifestyle
- Holidays
- Sport and leisure
- Daily life and issues in francophone countries
- France and other countries.

Geography

- **Is Poverty History?:** The study of poverty, wealth, international trade, debt and aid.
- **Wet, Wild and Windy:** The study of weather systems, including depressions and anticyclones and other factors which affect climate.
- **Under the Sea:** The study of oceanography whereby all aspects of the ocean are covered in a wide range of topics, from marine life and ecosystems, to currents and waves.
- **Watery Architecture:** The study of river processes and landforms and the causes, effects and management of rivers.
- **Wish you Were Here:** The study of changes in global tourism and management of its effects.

German

In Year 8, students follow a course using the textbook Zoom 1, which is topic based, integrating speaking, listening, reading and writing and incorporating grammatical structures. The course is an excellent foundation for a GCSE course.

Topics covered:

- personal information
- classroom language
- school
- family and friends
- freetime
- home life
- city and countryside
- weather.

History

Core topics will cover:

- Henry VIII
- Tudors & Stuarts
- The Civil War
- Industrial Revolution

Special Study Modules on:

- China
- Revolutions
- Suffrage and Feminism

Life Skills

The Life Skills course comprises elements of Citizenship, Careers Education and Personal, Social and Health Education. Students study topics such as healthy lifestyles, in particular the use of alcohol, drugs and contraception, as well as further aspects about the world of work. Finance, emotional wellbeing, online safety and tackling age and disability discrimination. The course provides opportunities for students to participate in school-based activities and enables them to demonstrate personal and group responsibility.

This work will be developed further in Year 9.

Mathematics

Number and Algebra: Further arithmetic with and without a calculator. Fractions and decimals. Powers and roots. Further percentages and ratio. Indices and standard form. Formulae, brackets, equations and inequalities.

Shape and Space: Reflections, translations, rotations and enlargements. Parallel lines and angles. Mensuration of 2D and 3D shapes. Pythagoras' Theorem. Graphs of lines and curves.

Handling Data: Working with grouped data.

Music

Students continue to develop the interrelated skills of composing, performing, listening and appraising. They learn to refine their ideas by regularly listening to and reviewing their own and others' work and are encouraged to develop and increase their use of musical terminology.

Knowledge of conventional notation is extended and there is a detailed study of brass and percussion instruments. Students explore a variety of styles, including Minimalism, Baroque music, Jazz and Indian music. The concept of harmony is introduced through the exploration of intervals and chords.

Physical Education

Students experience the following activities:

Boys - Athletics, Badminton, Cricket, Football, Health Related Fitness, Hockey, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Rugby, Softball, Table Tennis, Tennis and Volleyball.

Girls - Athletics, Badminton, Dance, Football, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Netball, Rounders and Tennis, Rugby, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities.

Students have the opportunity to:

- Develop skills in physical activities
- Make and apply decisions
- Develop physical and mental capacity
- Evaluate and improve
- Make informed choices about healthy, active lifestyles.

Religious Studies

Autumn Term: The journey of life. Rites of Passage, Birth ceremonies, initiation ceremonies such as Adult Baptism (Christianity), Bar/Batmitzvah (Judaism), Amrit Ceremony (Sikhism).

Spring Term: The life and teachings of Jesus. Principles of aspects of Easter and how it affects Christians today.

Summer Term: The Christian response to slavery.

Science

Students are introduced to the following areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics:

- Photosynthesis and Ecosystems
- Gas Exchange and Respiration
- Nutrition, Digestion and Health
- Chemical Analysis
- Energy Changes
- Metals and Reactivity
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Forces
- Waves

Spanish

In Year 8, students follow a course using the textbook **Viva 1**, which is topic based integrating speaking, listening, reading and writing and also incorporating a range of grammatical structures.

The topics and structures are:

- Personal information/describing personality traits/articles/present tense regular and some irregular verbs/gender of adjectives
- Free time/weather phrases/infinitive verbs and its uses/stem changing verbs/present tense irregular verbs
- School life/expressing likes and dislikes/consolidation of articles/adjective agreement.
- Family and friends/description of physical appearance/description of house/possessive adjectives/irregular verbs.
- Description of town and facilities/saying what you do in your town/telling the time/ordering drinks and snacks/expressing future plans using the immediate future.