

Curriculum at Catshill Middle School

Year 8

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Ready

Autumn Term 2023

Subject	Curriculum Overview
English	<i>Learners study gothic literature and explore what makes an effective gothic text before creating their own piece of writing. They study the devices of poetry and focus on conflict poetry, undertaking a comparison of two pieces. Opportunities to develop learners' reading as well as their understanding and use of grammar, punctuation and spelling are planned in each learning sequence.</i>
Maths	<i>Learners study Number: prime numbers, significant figures and calculations, applying the four operations to integers, decimals and fractions. In Geometry, they focus on the properties of shapes and construction, interpreting plans and using scale. In Algebra, they simplify and manipulate algebraic expressions and rearrange formulae.</i>
Science	<i>Pupils study heat transfers, Particle Theory and the Periodic Table. They learn about different types of chemical reactions and use their understanding of the particle model to explain these.</i>
Art	<i>Artists will explore the topic of Portraiture, they will learn about accurate scale and proportion of facial features whilst developing their use of tone and drawing skills. They will look at the work of Frieda Kahlo and symbolism in art works to refine their painting skills to produce a portrait.</i>
Computing	<i>Learners develop their knowledge of Python Programming and create a project that responds to user input. Pupils will also look at binary coding and how computers use this as their language. Pupils will look at different graphics types and how creating graphics in a vector format provides for a better quality of image.</i>
Design & Technology	<i>Pupils undertake research and learn to use a variety of workshop tools in order to design and make a shadow box frame with a LED light up circuit. They will learn how to construct and attach wood to create a frame with a variety of joints as well as understanding how to assemble a copper tape circuit to light up their design.</i>
Spanish	<i>Learners revisit all key Spanish phonetic sounds. They are introduced to the topic 'Cinema, TV and Music' and use old and new expressions to discuss likes/dislikes. Pupils consolidate their learning of the present tense and learn how to form the conditional tense to discuss what films and programmes they would recommend. Pupils learn about music styles originating from the Spanish speaking world.</i>
Geography	<i>Pupils develop physical, human and environmental geography through the study of India. Learners explore the history of partition, rural-urban migration and the monsoon season and its effects on the population of India.</i>
History	<i>Learners explore the history of the sugar trade through six different periods, including the human cost involved in supplying the demand for sweetness through the labour of the transatlantic slave trade. Learners go on to focus on the impact of the industrial revolution on people's working lives.</i>
Life Skills	<i>Pupils study age appropriate materials to study the topic 'Being me in my World' and further consider 'Who am I and how do I fit?' They then study the topic 'Celebrating Difference'.</i>
VIEW	<i>Pupils will explore a wide range of topics including: human rights, ethics, study skills and community matters. Pupils will prepare for their next step of education in our Future Ready topic and complete a Year 8 Legacy Project.</i>
Music	<i>Pupils revisit keyboard skills, notation and composition, revising the interrelated dimensions of music whilst exploring hooks and riffs. Pupils will examine repeated musical patterns through western classical and popular music. Pupils will then move onto exploring the basics of melodic writing using the major pentatonic scale. They will learn how to write a catchy jingle to a given stimulus and explore music as a tool in advertisements.</i>
PE	<i>Pupils use a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition whilst playing games (e.g. football, netball, rugby and basketball). They apply the basic principles of attacking and defending and learn to analyse and evaluate performance.</i>
RE	<i>Pupils have an opportunity to look at the beliefs of Hindus in the world today. They then study the subject of death and the afterlife from a variety of viewpoints. Space is given for all viewpoints to be respected.</i>

Spring Term 2024

Subject	Curriculum Overview
English	<i>Learners study a range of fiction novels. They explore the author's craft - plot, structure, characterisation and themes - before closely analysing an extract and producing their own piece. Learners move on to Shakespeare, such as Romeo & Juliet or Macbeth, and study characterisation & themes before producing a written analysis on one of these. Opportunities to develop learners' reading as well as their understanding and use of grammar, punctuation and spelling are planned in each learning sequence.</i>
Maths	<i>Learners investigate probability and ratio, applying these to real contexts. They solve problems using % change and calculate exactly with fractions. In Algebra, they study algebraic rules and learn to calculate the nth term of linear sequences, before solving linear equations using graphs. In geometry, they derive and use the sum of angles in a triangle.</i>
Science	<i>Pupils study the significant processes of living organisms: digestion, breathing, respiration and photosynthesis. They investigate magnetic materials, learn how electromagnets work and are used and study static electricity.</i>
Art	<i>Artists explore a contrasting style of portraiture to their previous term, exploring the Fauvist art movement. Here they will explore a new painting medium and expressive style of painting, this enables them to refine their colour mixing, and learn about how to use cool and warm colours creating their own Fauvist portrait.</i>
Computing	<i>Pupils will develop their knowledge and skills with Python by creating a mobile app using code.org. Learners will be provided with a range of design briefs to pick from and will design an app based on the given success criteria and audience.</i>
Design & Technology	<i>They develop a range of sewing techniques to be able to recreate a food package in felt. Using the sewing machine and hand sewing to learn how to make templates, embroidery stitches and applique.</i>
Spanish	<i>Learners are introduced to the topic 'Holidays'. They develop their knowledge of hobbies, sports and food to use pre-learnt language in a new context. They consolidate the use of the present tense by discussing a normal holiday and learn to form the preterite tense to develop their language to discuss what they did on holiday last year. Learners will plan a holiday to Spain within a certain budget.</i>
Geography	<i>Pupils look at climate change and assess the historic changes to the earth's climate and compare these to the current enhanced climate changes. Learners use historic evidence and compare data trends to establish climate change and how we can best adapt to the changes that will occur. After Climate Change, learners will study their links to others around the world as they look at Globalisation and how the world has grown smaller. Pupils will debate the benefits and negatives of globalisation, who are the winners and losers and what part they play in globalisation.</i>
History	<i>Learners explore industry, democracy and empire in Britain between 1800 and 1920 and learn about the impact on local areas such as Dodford and Birmingham. Pupils will understand the development of colonialism through depth studies of empire building in Australia and India.</i>
Life Skills VIEW	<i>Pupils study age appropriate materials to study the topics 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me' Pupils will explore a wide range of topics including: human rights, ethics, study skills and community matters. Pupils will prepare for their next step of education in our Future Ready topic and complete a Year 8 Legacy Project.</i>
Music	<i>Learners explore the music of the southern states of America covering slave trade, plantation workers, blues and jazz artists, musical conventions and theory. They learn to improvise, arrange, compose and perform using primary chords, the blues scale and syncopation, on keyboard, voice and ukulele.</i>
PE	<i>Pupils learn about the components of health and fitness and how this relates to their performance. They evaluate their performance in a range of games. Pupils take part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team, specifically developing their orienteering skills.</i>
RE	<i>Pupils will be studying different forms of art that have been influenced by spiritual beliefs. Pupils will produce a piece of art based on their own beliefs. Pupils will be encouraged to respect other viewpoints and also reflect on their own beliefs. Pupils will look at agnostic and atheist belief structures.</i>

Summer Term 2024

Subject	Curriculum Overview
English	<i>Learners study a range of pre-19th century and contemporary non-fiction texts and their features. Their studies focus on making critical comparisons and commenting analytically to ensure students are preparing for their high school transfer. Opportunities to develop learners' reading as well as their understanding and use of grammar, punctuation and spelling are planned in each learning sequence.</i>
Maths	<i>Pupils calculate and problem solve using fractions, percentages and ratios. They calculate perimeters and areas of 2D shapes, including circles, and calculate volumes of prisms. They plot graphs of equations and interpret these. In Statistics, they interpret, analyse and compare data sets, use scatter graphs and recognise correlations.</i>
Science	<i>Learners consider human impact on climate and natural resources. They study forces and learn to calculate speed and pressure, whilst developing skills in data presentation and interpretation.</i>
Art	<i>Artists will explore how shoes have played a role of representing the individual throughout art; looking at artists such as Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh. Artists will consider what their own shoes communicate about themselves, drawing, designing and creating an artwork of shoes that portray themselves.</i>
Computing	<i>In the final unit pupils are asked to use a range of the skills learnt during their time at CMS. The overriding theme is of using ICT for good and the pupils are set a range of tasks designed to use their skills with word processing, presentations, web design and more.</i>
Design & Technology	<i>Learners study World Food. They become competent in a range of cooking techniques, selecting and preparing ingredients; using utensils and equipment safely and are able to use their awareness of taste, texture and smell to adapt and create their own individual recipes.</i>
Spanish	<i>Pupils learn the future tense through the 'What next? My future' topic. Pupils will learn different past 18 options, as well as jobs in Spanish.. They will link tasks and skills to different jobs and look at how languages can help in the World of Work.</i>
Geography	<i>Pupils explore the geography of the UK's coastline. Learners study the different coastal protection management schemes and assess the pros and cons of each method. Pupils consider the challenges facing communities affected by coastal erosion by researching and debating the best methods to protect these communities.</i>
History	<i>Learners consider the impact of migration upon Britain over the last 1500 years, alongside the challenges they faced. Pupils will also learn of the stories that lie behind photographs of the Holocaust, selecting and explaining the images that can be used to examine these terrible events.</i>
Life Skills	<i>Pupils study age appropriate materials to study the topics 'Changing Me' and 'Relationships'</i>
VIEW	<i>Pupils will explore a wide range of topics including: human rights, ethics, study skills and community matters. Pupils will prepare for their next step of education in our Future Ready topic and complete a Year 8 Legacy Project.</i>
Music	<i>Pupils consider what makes a good song. They study song-form, common features and composition techniques before writing, performing and recording their own composition.</i>
PE	<i>Pupils participate in a range of athletics activities including sprinting, long distance running, hurdles, jumping and throwing. Through cricket and rounders, they use a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition.</i>
RE	<i>Pupils will explore whether happiness is the most important thing in life. Finally, pupils will explore the idea of Christian environmental protection. This will compare biblical accounts with human actions today.</i>