



Year 8 Autumn 1

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

MATHS

To start the term, learners will develop and deepen their understanding of ratio where they will explore the different representations and notations to express this. Using this knowledge they will then look at dividing and sharing ratios, simplifying answers deepening their understanding of equivalence. Further links to fractions will be made throughout the topic as they also develop an understanding of π as the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Later in the term, learners will build on their prior knowledge of coordinates from KS2, looking at algebraic rules to form straight lines moving on to more general forms. They will explore notations for gradients and intercepts with a focus of using the equations to produce straight lines. Within this topic they will also represent, describe and interpret discrete and continuous data through graphical representation.

SCIENCE

This half term, pupils will learn about how materials heat up and cool down. They will be able to explain three main methods of heat transfer: conduction, convection and radiation; understand how insulation works and sketch diagrams to show convection currents. Finally, they will investigate how heat can be lost from a building and what can be done about the issue.

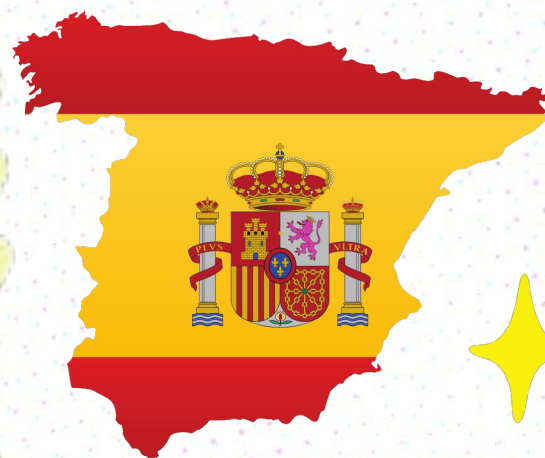
ENGLISH

This term, Year Eight will delve into the world of classic detective fiction. They will begin by stepping into the shoes of Sherlock Holmes to solve *The Mystery of the Speckled Band*, outlining their theories in a formal letter to Scotland Yard. After exploring more examples of detective stories, pupils will put their own twist on the genre by crafting an original and engaging short story.



MFL - SPANISH

This term we will move onto the topic "las vacaciones" - a topic all about holidays. Pupils will learn how to describe their normal holidays, saying where they go and who they go with. They will then learn to describe the activities they do on holiday, developing their understanding of the present tense. In reading and listening, pupils will focus on identifying the actions of other people through investigating verb endings.



HISTORY

This half term, pupils will explore the rise and fall of West African Kingdoms, examining Ghana's power, the spread of Islam, Mansa Musa's wealth, and the flourishing of the Songhai Empire. They will also study Benin Bronzes and historians' views on African history, developing skills in historical enquiry and analysis.

GEOGRAPHY

Pupils will study India in their first module of Year 8. They will investigate how Britain and India have a shared history before looking at how modern day India is thriving and why it has the world's largest population. Pupils will analyse the impacts of globalisation on India and the benefits and negative impacts making arguments for and against - a crucial GCSE skill.



P.E

During this half term, pupils will develop their existing skills in netball and rugby union with an increased focus on how pupils can use tactics and strategies effectively during game play. Our cross-country house competition will also take place during this half term.



RE

In KS3, the way RE is taught has changed. The children will be studying four topics across the year as opposed to half termly questions. Year 8's first topic is Racism & Social Justice.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

During this term, year 8 will be working on their resistant materials project to build a light up picture frame. They will be in the workshop sawing mitre joints and learning how to solder LED circuits together.

ART

Students will explore Portraiture, developing their tonal drawing skills while learning to use a grid to draw with accurate shape and proportion. They will study how to draw different facial features using a full tonal range and learn about different drawing techniques, these will be key skills they will be implementing in Autumn 2.



PSHE

In PSHE this half term, we will focus on diversity and understanding how our history impacts our self identity. We will also look at stereotypes and the power of first impressions.

COMPUTING

In computing, year 8 pupils will be studying the internal workings of computers. Pupils will look at the different layers of a computer system and they work together to provide us with the devices and services we use everyday.



MUSIC

Year 8 will kick off the year exploring the parts of pop songs that hook the listener in. They will learn to play, compose and perform hooks and riffs and consider ways to develop musical ideas to make them more appealing. They will continue to develop their ensemble skills as well as use musical DAW technology.



HOMEWORK

In Year 8, pupils will be set weekly homework. This will include:

- A piece of Maths homework
- A piece of English homework
- Spellings

We also expect pupils to read for a minimum of three times per week at home.

Other subjects will set additional homework to aid learning outside of the classroom when needed. This will be added onto epraise.

CAREERS

We are excited to welcome lots of visitors into school this year to discuss their careers and inspirations.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

This term we are very excited to be preparing for our Young Voices choir trip in January, as well as our December carol service.

Performing Arts clubs:
Choir - 8am Wednesdays
Drama Club - 3.20pm Wednesdays
Ukulele Club - 12.35pm Thursdays
Keyboard Club - 12.35pm Fridays