

YEAR 8

English

In Year 8 pupils are prepared for the move to Upper School by focussing on the new secondary curriculum; pupils again look at fiction and non-fiction writing as well as studying a modern novel and Shakespeare in depth. Within these areas of study pupils will look at the themes and issues and practise the skills of inference and deduction. In addition Year 8 pupils study a unit on The Spoken Word which promotes talking about talk.

Maths

Pupils study in more depth: complex areas and volume, probability, fractions, decimals, percentages and algebra including graphing equations. There is also a statistics project that pupils will undertake in collaboration with Westley as well as a Year 8 and 10 Maths day at County Upper.

Science

Year 8 sees us continuing the work started in year 7, with a particular emphasis on practical skills and investigative work. We are using the same type of marking schemes as use by the County Upper School to begin preparation for a GCSE style approach. We expect our students to be able to tackle a wide range of "new" situations with confidence and use their results to analyse work done and if needed to correct errors.

Art

We offer an excellent, well balanced and current Art curriculum.

Pupils will develop their techniques, control and use of materials. Pupils are encouraged to be creative, experimental and original. Children will develop and increase awareness of different kinds of art. Pupils will use different techniques and materials, increasing skill development and acquisition in drawing, painting and sculpture. Pupils will be inspired by curriculum planning, historical and present day artists. Pupils will work on: Computer Game Illustration, Fashion, Chinese Shadow Puppets, Interior Design, Art History, Portraits, Animation, Illustration & Cartoons, Still Life, Lettering and Printing on a 2 year, half term rolling cycle.

Beliefs and Values. (RE and PSHEE)

Animal Rights - Pupils investigate laws governing animal welfare. They then plan an argument to abolish or maintain contentious issues such as vivisection, fox-hunting etc. **Britain, a Diverse Society** - a look at the history of the UK and how it is made up of many different groups and nationalities. Pupils look at diversity, cohesive communities and multiculturalism. **Expressions of Spirituality** - An investigation into how people express their religious views in a multicultural society.

Sikhism – an in depth look at the authority, beliefs and concepts which make the religion. Also how a religion affects behaviour and compare aspects of Sikh beliefs and behaviour with views of other religions. **Interfaith Dialogue** - An investigation of how individuals and communities can work together to help one another through charity work and through religious groups. **Careers** – a brief look at career choices, the skills and qualifications required for different careers.

DDT - Dance

Dance is taught within the school as an additional physical education subject, therefore the children getting an extra 18 hours of PE every year in addition to the required 2 hours a week. The children work on a range of themes in a 9 week block, this year focusing music, movies, legends and a whole school musical. Children work in small and whole class groups to choreograph their own dance routines to music of their choice. At the end of the unit of work they put on an evening of dance for parents. A dance extra-curricular club reinforces the curriculum and these pupils also perform in the productions. The dance department also runs trips and have performed at Move It in London for the past 4 years.

DDT - Food Tech

DT – Year 8

In Year 8 pupils will produce a variety of products from around the world which, as in Year 7, can be adapted and enhanced to suit preferences. Financial and nutritional values will be taken into account. At the end of the course pupils will work together to produce two courses of a meal which use a variety of skills, complement each other and can be produced in the allocated time.

DDT - Resistant Materials

Pupils work with a range of materials, skills and processes within the context of the Design Brief. Students are encouraged to use their initiative in proposing, planning and developing ideas.

In Year 8 pupils make a desk tidy. They use last year's skills to make box sections and draws. These must then be added to, to make sure their tidy will house a wide variety of objects. Pupils are encouraged to make a cohesive tidy that brings all the elements together.

DDT - Textiles

In Year 8 pupils make either a skirt or a pair of shorts. They learn how to use a commercial pattern to construct their garment. Pupils use a variety of textile techniques including seam allowance, precise ironing and button holing.

Languages

In KS3 pupils continue to learn French, they work on their previous learning and build their vocabulary whilst learning the more challenging aspects of French grammar and different tenses.

Some pupils are offered Spanish and German in addition to French during years 7 and 8. Curriculum Fridays for KS3 can feature Japanese Days, Chinese New Year celebrations, Italian and German themed days, as well as a day of cooking and eating frog's legs and snails, with a vegetarian option of croissants and pains au chocolat.

Geography

Coasts – We return to describing natural processes in this topic and start to look at applying the GCSE guidelines to our descriptions. Cities, Citizens and Population – In this topic we learn about the factors leading to migration to cities and the patterns of growth of conurbations. We also cover China's one child policy. Earthquakes and Volcanoes – We move on to looking at natural processes on a global scale and discussing the impact of volcanoes both positive and negative on human history.

History

In the first topic, The Making of the UK the pupils learn about the English Civil War and analyse in depth the long term causes that led to its outbreak. We cover the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, the Restoration and its crucial events; the Great Plague and the Great Fire. We then move forward to look at the revolution of 1688 and attempts by the Stuarts to win back the throne. In the final term we look at African People of the Americas - This topic starts by looking at the power and economic influence of the Early Modern kingdoms of West Africa, this is linked to their art. We move on to look at the Triangular Trade, the Middle Passage and the American Civil War.

ICT

Year 8 have a cross curricular topic running during the Spring term looking at data collection, analysis and presentation in an appropriate form. Further development of Scratch game making, iMovie and iMotion capabilities and photography is continued throughout the year. As a result the pupils will become involved in the production of their own year book.

Music

Year 8 learn to compose music in a variety of structures. They study The Planets by Gustav Holst. Pupils are taught about major and minor chords, Blues Scales and how to create a Jazz composition. We also look at, and perform, songs in various styles.

PE

We offer an excellent, well balanced physical education curriculum.

Pupils will acquire and develop, select and apply skills, be aware and implement tactics, develop compositional ideas, evaluate and improve performance and be aware of physical fitness and health. These components will be taught through the following activities: netball, hockey, football, basketball, tag and full contact rugby, cricket, rounders, softball, tennis, gymnastics, OAA, athletics, health related fitness and dance.

The curriculum is reinforced by a multitude of sporting clubs and teams that play in local, regional and national tournaments.