

YEAR EIGHT CURRICULUM SUMMARY – SPRING TERM 2021

ENGLISH	<p>Year Eight students will spend the Spring Term reading and responding to Susan Hill's 'The Woman in Black', as well as a further selection of gothic horror extracts and short stories. A range of reading and writing activities will develop the skills of analysis, critical thinking and creative writing.</p> <p>Through their reading, students will be expected to learn new vocabulary, make inferences and refer to evidence in the text, commenting on how language, vocabulary, grammar, text structure and organisational features present meaning.</p> <p>In their writing, students will plan, draft and edit, writing for a range of audiences and purposes, applying their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing.</p>
MATHEMATICS	<p>In the Spring Term, Year Eight pupils will study the following units from the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brackets, equations and inequalities • Sequences • Indices • Fractions and percentages • Standard index form • Number sense <p>Greater detail about the content of the unit, keywords and individual objectives can be found on the maths curriculum page of the school website in the knowledge organisers section.</p>
SCIENCE	<p>This term, students will understand how science can be linked to the world of the Olympics, drawing on the three strands of biology, chemistry and physics in a range of practicals and investigations related to sport and health. They will understand the structure and functions of the human skeleton and the notion of biomechanics to explain the interaction between skeleton and muscles, including the measurement of force exerted by different muscles. Students will also be revisiting the content of a healthy human diet and why it is needed, considering the consequences of imbalances in the diet, including obesity, starvation and deficiency diseases. There will also be the opportunity to observe the effects of recreational drugs (including substance misuse) on the behaviour, health and life processes for athletes. Students will be introduced to the Periodic Table of elements and will participate in a range of investigations testing both metals and non-metals to observe their reactions with oxygen, water and acid. Finally, students will look at calculating speed and how this is represented on distance-time graphs, before examining how forces play a big part in most sporting events.</p>
ART	<p>Students begin the Architecture Project this term. They will be encouraged to think about architectural design aspects in depth and form opinions on what they like and dislike. Students will be introduced to perspective drawing before investigating the work of John Piper.</p>
COMPUTING	<p>Topics to be covered this term include repurposing digital, audio data, and exploring the use of sort and search algorithms. Programming will continue to develop using Python as a base for object orientated coding. Students will learn to use and manipulate variables, cast data, use subroutines, loops, conditions and arrays. We will then be covering hardware and software which will include inputs, outputs and processing as well as systems, operating and security software.</p>

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DANCE	<p>During the students' dance rotation, they will cover 3 topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dance is everywhere.2. The Car Man and3. World Dance. <p>Topic 1 covers analysis of how dance is used within advertising and on British television. Topic 2 covers the analytical and practical exploration of Matthew Bourne's work 'The Car Man' and topic 3 looks at how national and social dances shape cultures around the world.</p>
DRAMA	<p>Stanislavski was one of the most influential theatre practitioners of the twentieth century, creating a detailed and disciplined system by which an actor could create a sense of truth on stage, challenging the melodramatic and declamatory style of acting present in theatres at the time. This term, pupils will explore some key elements of Stanislavski's system.</p>
FRENCH	<p>Students will spend the first few weeks of this term learning how to invite friends out and how to make arrangements, as well as giving reactions to invitations themselves. This topic culminates in an important speaking assessment in the form of a role-play, which will give students a taste of their future GCSE speaking exam. Students will also enjoy the topic of food and drink: they will work in groups to create their own 'restaurant role-play', giving them the opportunity to gain independence in both written and oral work. This topic will also introduce students to the past tense in French, as they describe what they ate for dinner last night and what they thought about it!</p>
GEOGRAPHY	<p>Year Eight will continue with their learning about 'Fragile Ecosystems'. In this topic, students will explore some of the big issues facing some of the world's fragile ecosystems. They will use contemporary case studies and research to explore this. Links will be made to the historical factors of uneven development studied previously, to understand more about the physical and human issues facing ecosystems such as those in Ghana. Students will extend their use of map skills and numeracy skills. They will be encouraged to link their geography and geographical skills to see the connections in their learning. Students have access to Seneca Learning to further their learning at home.</p>
HISTORY	<p>This term pupils will complete their investigation into industrial Britain, working towards a final answer to our big question: A great time to be alive? The British people and the Industrial Revolution. The focus will then switch to a study of Britain and its empire, asking ourselves, ultimately, 'Should we be proud of Britain in the period 1745- 1901?' Further work on the interpretation and evaluation of historical sources as well as how to create extended answers will form the backdrop to our lessons.</p>
MUSIC	<p>The theme for the term is 'Pop and Rock Music'. Students will develop their understanding of the social and historical context of pop and rock music. They will explore the key musical features of this style through performing and composing activities.</p>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<p>PE courses will continue to be in health-related fitness or basketball. Students within games-based lessons will work on improving the quality of their skills. They will learn the basic principles of play when selecting and applying tactics for defending and attacking. Girls will participate in badminton, hockey or cricket. Boys will participate in badminton, basketball or handball. During lockdown pupils have been encouraged to participate in daily physical activity. Home workouts and fitness challenges have been provided via SMHW.</p>

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LIFESKILLS	<p>As part of the statutory Relationships topic, students will be considering discrimination in all its forms. They will focus on how to manage influences on beliefs and decisions, and how to develop their own self-worth and confidence. After considering what gender identity means, they will explore gender-based discrimination and how to recognise and challenge homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. They will end the topic by considering how to recognise and challenge racism, religious discrimination and disability discrimination. The statutory Health and Wellbeing topic this term will focus on the importance of physical and mental health, about balancing work, leisure, exercise and sleep and how to make informed healthy eating choices. They will explore influences on body image, how to make independent health choices and the importance of taking responsibility for their own physical health, including self-examination for age-related conditions such as testicular cancer.</p> <p>Useful resources to support this term's learning can be found at BBC Bitesize (https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/ztvq9j6), The Teenage Cancer Trust (https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/information/five-most-common-cancer-warning-signs-young-people) and Young Minds (https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help-for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-gender-identity-issues/)</p>
RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS	<p>In the Spring Term we will be investigating morality and ethics, investigating the big questions: 'Why are people good and bad?' and 'Why is there suffering in the world? Are there any good solutions?' In the first instance, students will look at arguments relating to The Fall and original sin, and how this impacts people today. The second question delves into the 'problem of evil' and the inconsistent triad, asking 'how can God be all-loving if evil exists?' Students will investigate solutions to suffering in the world.</p>
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	<p>Students will extend their existing knowledge to develop further independent skills within their design work by creating a brand new product that could be sold in the Design Museum, London. This is in conjunction with a live competition run by Design Ventura where pupil's designs will be submitted for a chance to win. Pupils will then begin to explore Graphics in more detail with a focus on keywords and subject vocabulary Within the design process pupils will investigate a real life event (Tokyo Olympics) and complete a series of tasks such as logo redesign and the use of these within merchandising.</p>

We encourage staff to be innovative within their subject areas and seize topical opportunities as they arise, therefore aspects of the taught curriculum may differ from the one which is published. Details of the personalised learning programme are available on the school website

The delivery of some content may be impacted as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.