

YEAR EIGHT CURRICULUM SUMMARY – SPRING TERM 2020

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 choice, 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>Students will complete a unit on data, introducing them to the use of scatter graphs and finding averages from a frequency table. They will learn how to apply statistics to describe a population. They will then be encouraged to draw conclusions from data and analyse in depth what a graph/chart tells them and how accurate the data may be.</p> <p>In algebra, students will learn how to rearrange formulae and solve equations with unknowns on both sides. They will construct graphs using ICT and on paper and will use them to begin to solve simultaneous equations.</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 also 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 will be studying The Building Project. They will work through the basics of perspective drawing before moving on to working in a variety of media. A final outcome will be produced in the form of a 3D collaged surreal façade of a building they have designed.</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. There will also be further development in hardware and software.</p>
DRAMA	<p>Year Eight students who have chosen drama as part of their Personalised Learning Project will focus on Component 1 of the new GCSE course. The Drama PLP serves as a 'taster session' for further study and hopes to expose students to the subject as a craft. Over the term we will focus on devising theatre and linking creativity and originality to either genre or an influential practitioner.</p>

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FRENCH	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, in order to 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!
GEOGRAPHY	Year Eight will complete their development topic and begin their new topic '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 to explore the wider issues facing fragile ecosystems and extend their use of map skills and numeracy skills in doing this. Students will be encouraged to link their learning and skills to see the connections in their learning.
HISTORY	The focus will be on aspects of both World War One and World War Two, which includes a study of trench warfare, leadership, the Home Front and moral issues such as the Holocaust and the dropping of the atom bomb.
MUSIC	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.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PE courses will continue to be in the following areas: dance and health-related fitness or basketball. In games, students will be developing their skills through a variety of different activities including badminton, hockey or cricket. Boys will be developing their skills through badminton, basketball or handball.
PSHE	During the Spring Term, students will be studying online safety and digital literacy, with a focus on understanding the impact of online activities and understanding the laws surrounding internet use. They will then study Healthy Lifestyles where they will explore the nature of emotional wellbeing, how life events can impact mental health and wellbeing, and how to manage emotional responses to change, challenge and adversity. Thereafter, they will study a module based on Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing that covers loss, divorce, separation and bereavement.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	The theme for this term is 'What happens when I die?' Students will be looking at religious and secular views about life after death and evaluating their own views and beliefs.
TECHNOLOGY - includes COOKING AND NUTRITION AND AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	In cooking and nutrition students will learn to cook a repertoire of predominantly savoury dishes so they are able to feed themselves and others a varied diet. They will learn to plan their meals, write a method to work from and evaluate their dishes. Please encourage your child to be prepared for their cooking lessons by bringing the correct ingredients in a labelled tin. In design technology students will be given the opportunity to build upon and develop their CAD skills alongside improving their existing hand making skills. High expectations of independent skills are essential to time manage tasks and develop a sound knowledge of processes to develop and make a functional desk tidy. Students will be learning 3D drawing skills to allow them to communicate their ideas visually.

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