Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 1

English

What are we studying? Drama Study -Romeo and Juliet. Students continue their introduction to Shakespeare through one of his best loved tragedies. Students will get to grips with Shakespearean language and understand the context of this play and history at the time of its writing. They will study key extracts from the play and watch it in lessons to bring it to life.

Assessment: End of unit assessment - knowledge, grammar, reading and writing skills

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their Lexia minutes, learns their spellings and completes their reading logs. If you can listen to your child read, that is even better!

Science

What are we doing this half term? (1) Biology – Photosynthesis topic is completed **(2) Chemistry** –Energy changes in chemical reactions is completed (**3) Physics** – Magnets topic is completed. **Assessments:** 3 (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) assessments carried out in class over the half term**.**

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler and their own scientific calculator. The BBC KS3 bitesize is a useful resource for homework tasks and revision - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p.It would be useful to have a KS3 Science revision guide to aid students in preparation for summative assessments - https://www.amazon.co.uk/KS3-SCIENCE-REVISION-LEVELS-GUIDES/dp/B008MWXGFO Students to complete weekly Sparx science tasks.

Music

What are we studying? Year 8's are learning about how music can be used in adverts.
They will be composing, performing and analysing music for adverts.

Assessment: Composition of music to accompany an advert.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child arrives to their lessons with their Music book, a pen, ruler and pencil, and encourage them to listen to lots of

Maths

What are we studying? Linear graphs: plotting straight line graphs, find the equation and using y=mx+c. Transformations: including translation and reflection. Angles: Finding unknown angles in quadrilaterals, parallel lines and angles in poylgons. Data: drawing and interpreting pie charts, line graphs and stem and leaf diagrams.

Assessment: Students will be doing an open book assessment once each unit of work has been completed.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has the correct equipment such as a pencil, ruler, protractor, compass and their own scientific calculator. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX spending at least 1 hour per week doing their home learning and the times tables practice. Encourage your child to engage fully with SPARX spending at least 1 hour per week doing their home learning and the times tables practice.

PE

Skills, techniques and strategies are continuing to be built on by experiencing a different set of sports and activities with a focus on striking and fielding games and athletics.

Assessments : Students will be assessed throughout the practical blocks of work.

How can parents help?: Please ensure students complete home learning tasks on time and that they are organised with their full kit on PE days.

Geography

What are we doing this half term? Y8 students will be learning about glaciation**.**

Assessments: Tri-weekly assessment and end of topic written assessment.

How can parents help? Ensure your child has a glue and scissors. Make sure the literacy sheet is fully completed. Revision notes for assessments need to follow the guidance on the revision help sheet.

History



What are we studying? We continue our studies of the British Empire, looking at the good and the bad and making our own minds up about the legacy of the British Empire for the modern world.

Assessment: End of year assessment.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to read or watch programmes related to the British Empire and its legacy such as David Olosuga's 'Black and British.' Visit the Museum of London Docklands.

French



What are we studying? My town/my region. Students will describe and express opinions about where they live and explain what their ideal town would look like

Assessment: vocabulary test and end of year assessment.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

Computer Science



What are we studying? Web design in HTML

Assessment: On the topic above students will answer a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise using: *https://www.w3schools.com/*

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)



What are we studying? The Problem of Evil

Assessment: The same style of assessment is used throughout the year. 5 questions that add up to 24

How can parents help? Discuss RPE lessons with your son/daughter. Play devils advocate and encourage healthy debate about important topics.

Art



What are we studying? Year 8 students are continuing their 'Amazing Architecture' project. This includes studying a variety of local and international buildings and Architects. Students will be studying one and two point perspective.

Assessment: Students are graded holistically throughout the project based on the 4 assessment objectives detailed in their sketchbooks.

How can parents help? Please ensure that your child completes all their Art & Design homework activities for this project. Visiting local and national landmarks and discussing works of art and architecture at home can enable students to gain confidence in sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Spanish



What are we studying? My town/my region. Students will describe and express opinions about where they live and explain what their ideal town would look like.

Assessment: vocabulary test and end of year assessment.

How can parents help? Encourage your child to learn the new words and phrases regularly by testing themselves or by testing them.

Drama



What are we studying this half term?

Year 8 Drama students will explore William Shakespeare's play The Tempest this half term. Students will learn the key points of the plot and develop their characterisation of key characters. Their performance techniques will be honed whilst using spoken thought, body propping, duologues and nightmare sequences.

Assessment: A performance of a nightmare sequence, and written test on key aspects of the plot.

Help at home? Please ensure home learning is completed on time and where possible, take your child to see a performance of a Shakespeare Text.

Food and Nutrition

The focus this year is on developing and refining the basic skills taught in year 7, developing accuracy and control across a range of equipment. More complex dishes featuring meat, chicken and alternative proteins are introduced this year. These intermediate skills build on the foundations of the basic skills learned in year 7 and prepare students for year 9. Our students come from a variety of different cultures so a focus in year 8 is International and British cuisines. This year also introduces the concept of different nutritional needs based on lifestage, and food choice based on ethics. Students are exposed to a variety of food related messages from different sources so in year 8 we focus on how different factors affect food choice such as religion, celebration, dietary needs, peer pressure and the media.
Practical lessons include: Burritos, Sausage Pasta Bake, Goujons, Margarita Pizzetta, Superveg Burger and Rainbow slaw, Irish Soda Bread

How will they be assessed? Students will be given regular verbal feedback within their practical lessons 'in the moment'. This allows students to act upon this feedback immediately for the maximum impact on progress.
Students will be assessed via written and practical assessments.

Design Technology (Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? We will be looking into forces that act upon materials when we use the in products and polymer-based materials. We will manufacture a pen holder from acrylic and crate a small night light. We will be trained how to use the pillar drill, polishing machine, plastic heating equipment, the vacuum former and soldering irons. We will focus on finishing skills to create high quality products. We will also cover the concept of quality assurance, quality control and tolerance within manufacturing.

Assessments: Students will be assessed on the Acrylic pen stand practical work which they have the opportunity to focus on quality. Students will be assessed on their small night light, in which their soldering skills and ability to construct a vacuum formed case will be the focus.

How can parents help? Take an interest in the project work and skills they are learning and discuss them. Help them look at products made from polymer materials and try and work out how they are made and constructed.

DT Textiles –(Rotation)

What are we doing this half term?: Students will use recycled fabrics or clothing to design a Puggly Mascot. Throughout the project, students will look at quality control, fabric construction, hand-sewing, machine stitching, embroidery, applique, seam allowance and templates. The Puggly mascot project will allow students to develop independence whilst using the sewing machine, as they will have to ensure that they have sewn in the correct places to construct the product accurately. This particular Textiles project will challenge their problem-solving skills and ability to work to a high quality.

Assessments: Design sketches will be assessed as well as the practical outcome of the mascot itself.

How can parents help?: Discuss the project, look at existing mascots for a variety of events or teams. Help them to experiment or practice sewing skills at home.

DT Graphics (Rotation)

What are we doing this half term? Students will be using analysis, enterprise and teamwork skills in order to design and make a prototype of a flat-pack product. In completing the project, students will look at sustainability and material management, developing an awareness of intellectual property, and will look at how products are assembled. They will also look at the importance of prototyping within the design process. The project aims to develop students' awareness of designing for a target audience, managing materials, prototyping and working with others.

Assessments: Students will be assessed in the areas of Investigation (analysing flat-pack products and analysing their appropriateness for the fair), Designing (designing different products that could be sold) and Evaluating (evaluating the final product).

How can parents help? Students will be designing a product for a realworld situation, so discussing what customers might want from the products they buy would be useful.