Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter Summer Term 2

English



What are we doing this half term? Dystopia. Students will look at a range of Dystopian fiction and build an understanding of the genre and its features and apply these to their own piece of creative writing.
Assessment: End of year exam.
How can parents help? Please encourage your child to complete their Lexia usage and their spelling and reading log. If you can listen to your child read, even better!

Science



What are we doing this half term?

(1) Biology – Complete Photosynthesis topic

(2) Chemistry – Complete structure of the atom topic

(3) Physics – Complete Waves topic

Assessments: Low stake quizzes and summative assessment. The summative assessment will test students on their knowledge of all topics covered in Year 8. Revision topic list was emailed to all parents.
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

History



What are we studying? We will be finishing off our British Empire topic, continuing to look at the impact of the British Empire on the colonies and people it ruled over and coming to our own judgements about whether the Empire was a force for good or evil.
Assessment: End of year exam (British Empire - overview, slave trade and India)

How can parents help? Encourage revision for end of year exam. Visit the London Museum Docklands.

Maths



What are we doing this half term? Year 8 will be finishing summer term by covering: transformations, angles on parallel lines, angles in quadrilaterals and polygons (including exterior and interior angles), pie charts, stem & leaf diagrams, Recurring Decimals and Algebraic Fractions.

Assessment: Assessment: Students will continue to complete unit assessments for each topic. There will also be an exam based on all of the content covered so far. Students have been set revision tasks on Sparx to help them prepare for this.

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 exam revision tasks spending at least 1 hour per week. It is also important to remind students that they need to remain focused after their summer exams.

Spanish



What are we studying? Clothes and fashion

Assessment: End of year tests - Listening, Reading and Translation

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

French



What are we studying? Clothes and fashion.

Assessment: End of year tests - Listening, Reading and Translation.

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

Art

What are we doing this half term?

Year 8 students are continuing their 'Amazing Architecture' project. This includes responding to the work of a variety of artists and designers to create their own 3D structure inspired by the architecture of their choice.
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.

PE

What are we doing this half term?

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.

Drama

What are we studying this half term? Year 8 will learn about Greek Theatre this half term and will explore the structure of an amphitheatre. Students will learn about the Greek chorus and explore the plot of Antigone and the Trojan War in their practical exploration of this significant period of theatre history.

Assessment: The end of year assessment will contain a mixture of multiple-choice, and short answer questions covering key learning through year 8. Please ensure your child completes their revision for the end of year assessment using the guidance on Bromcom.

How can parents help? Please ensure your child completes their revision for the test.

Geography

What are we doing this half term?

Y8 students will be learning about glaciation.

Assessments: An end of topic written assessment.

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

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)

What are we doing this half term?

In Year 8 Philosophy module 2, we dive into themes like what makes you "you," what it means to be human, why behaviour matters, and the big questions about the existence of God. We'll wrap it all up with a fun philosophy and arts competition.

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: Sausage Pasta Bake, Chicken Goujons, Garlic dough balls, Thai Fishcakes, Fruit muffins, 50:50 Bolognaise.

Assessments: 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.

Home Learning: Students are set practical evaluations to reflect upon their practical outcome and own personal performance in practicals. In addition, where students provide ingredients for practicals they will continue to develop their weighing and measuring skills at home when preparing their ingredients for lessons.
Students are encouraged to practice their practical skills out of lessons by helping to prepare and cook meals at home.
To be successful in this subject, students will need to be good at and enjoy:
Learning how to cook independently
Developing organisational and time management skills
Developing problem solving skills and the ability to overcome challenges
Teamwork when carrying out practical investigations
Learning through practical activities

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 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.

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.

Music



What are we doing this half term?

Year 8 are learning about Fusion music by playing a piece of Bhangra music. They will a number of parts as an ensemble.

Assessment: Performance assessment and end of year listening exam.

How can parents help? Please encourage your child to revise for their exam using their resources on Bromcom. Ensure your child arrives to their lessons with their pen, ruler and pencil, and encourage them to listen to lots of Music at home.

Computer Science



What are we doing this half term?

Students will revise all topics covered this year in preparation for our end of year exam. After the exam students will learn about spreadsheets, including conditional formatting, validation and formulae.

Assessment: The end of year assessment will contain a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions.

How can parents help? Encourage students to revise.