



What we are learning

The Key Stage 3 curriculum

Year 8 Term 5



What we are learning in Year 8

The curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9 – Key Stage 3 – is rich and stimulating.

Throughout these three years, we want our students to discover a love for learning and knowledge that will help them select their GCSE courses and continue to progress successfully in Key Stage 4.

What we are Learning is designed to give you an overview of the topics, knowledge and skills being covered each of the six school terms, in each subject.

Our KS3 curriculum is connected by four main strands. Each department delivers its own content and the curriculum is mapped to ensure key concepts and ideas are developed and explored from a range of angles over the three years.

We look at:

- Our own identity
- Our place in society
- Our world around us
- Our skills and future lives

We hope you enjoy what you are learning in school and that the information here helps you share and develop your ideas and knowledge with your families at home.

If you would like to know more, or have any questions, please contact your subject teacher.



Mr Ben Edwards

Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

Year 8 Term 5

Art

Students will be continuing their Tones and Techniques projects, creating their ambitious still life mixed media final pieces that explore the shape colour, tone and surface texture of objects of interest. Students will then begin a photomontage project that looks at how artists use collage and found imagery to create new and potentially surreal artwork.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology this term, students will be completing one of the following three projects that they began at the start of last term. The first is an exciting new Electronics project in which students will build on the basic hand and tool skills developed in Year 7, whilst also developing more advanced design skills. The second is also a new e-textiles project, in which students create a bucket hat inspired by the context of festivals. Finally, students could also be doing Food Technology where they will build on the culinary skills they developed in Year 7. They will finish these projects before the end of April and then rotate to the next material area. The students studying the Electronics project will rotate to Textiles, the Textiles students will rotate to Food Technology and the Food Technology students will move onto the Electronics project. Students will also have a "quest" assessment in week 2 or 3 of the term based on the theory learned in the project to date.

Drama

This term we will be looking into the exciting world of slapstick drama. Students will explore how to only use exaggerated body language and mime techniques to communicate to an audience. This will link with exploration of silent film techniques, mime, body language, slow reaction shots and exaggerated movements to create their own Slapstick performance.

English

This term, we will be developing our understanding of the Fin de Siècle by looking at a debate-style unit on Man and Machine. Students will engage with a range of short stories, extracts from novels and poetry from the turn of the century, which will introduce genres such as Gothic and Science-Fiction literature. We will also use this thematic unit as an opportunity to develop confidence in public speaking, oracy and debate as students will engage in moral questions based on the texts they encounter.

French

This term, we will be learning about different genres of music and how to talk about music tastes. This will be followed by the topic of clothes and describing what we wear to different occasions. Finally, we will learn about mealtimes in France and express opinions about food. Our grammar will include revisiting the three tenses, adjectival agreements and the partitive article.

Geography

After completing our in-depth study of Antarctica, we will be completing a short unit called 'Plastic, Fantastic?'. Students will explore how we use plastic and some of the issues it causes. There will be a particular focus on how plastic ends up in our oceans and its consequences. Students will investigate possible solutions to plastic in our oceans and how we may be able to reduce our use of plastics to protect our planet. During this term we will also explore a range of resources about climate change and a proposed site of a wind farm, in preparation for the upcoming decision-making paper for the Year 8 Geography exam.

German

Continuing with our topic of food, we will be studying the grammar of the future and perfect past tenses in greater depth, as well as consolidating the rules we have studied on stem-changing verbs and word order. We will be reflecting on language learning strategies, which can help us become more effective independent linguists, in order to think ahead for the exams, learning useful active revision strategies to try out.

We will also be learning some useful role-play phrases for situations which arise when abroad and thinking ahead to this vital GCSE speaking skill.

History

This term our Year 8 History students will be looking at how the trade in enslaved Africans developed during the 17th to 19th centuries and how the legacies of this trade impacted African Americans and Black Britons in the 20th century, and even into today.

Computer Science

This term we will be covering the basic principles and architecture of networks. We will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the Internet, and how web addresses are constructed and stored as IP addresses. Client-server, peer-to-peer networks and the concept of cloud computing are all included. Methods of keeping data secure and simple encryption techniques are also covered.

Mathematics

In Maths we will be covering, in block 7 functions, coordinates and graphs (functions, coordinates, plotting linear and non-linear graphs, reading graphs and using graphs.) In block 8 we will be covering, introduction to statistics (collecting data, charts and graphs, averages and range). There will be a topic review/assessment at the end of each block and an end of year examination.

Music

Did you know that hundreds, if not thousands of pop songs are made up of only four chords? We call this the four chord trick and we'll be learning how to play this famous chord sequence. We'll also be learning the theory of major and minor chords, culminating in a performing assessment where you'll be building a medley of your favourite melodies over this chord progression.

Philosophy, Beliefs and Ethics

After Easter we will be exploring how Jesus' teachings could be considered 'radical' and how they have inspired and motivated people more recently. Students will be studying people such as Oscar Romero, Elizabeth Fry, Martin Luther King and Desmond Tutu, and how they campaigned against injustice and issues surrounding human rights.

Physical Education

After Easter, students will start block 7 as outlined below. For the summer term (blocks 7, 8 and 9), to coincide with our fixtures and athletic events, the PE lessons will be split to cover 2 sports each week; thus allowing students experience in both sports ahead of the summer fixtures and athletics events.

Block 7 (4 weeks; wb 8/4/24 - 29/5/24)

- Boys group 1 = Lesson 1: Athletics Lesson 2: Cricket
- Boys group 2 = Lesson 1: Athletics Lesson 2: Cricket
- Girls group 1 = Lesson 1: Cricket Lesson 2: Athletics
- Girls group 2 = Lesson 1: Cricket Lesson 2: Athletics

Block 8 (4 weeks; wb 6/5/24 - 3/6/24)

- Boys group 1 = Lesson 1: Athletics Lesson 2: Cricket
- Boys group 2 = Lesson 1: Tennis Lesson 2: Softball
- Girls group 1 = Lesson 1: Cricket Lesson 2: Athletics
- Girls group 2 = Lesson 1: Cricket Lesson 2: Tennis

Block 9 (4 weeks; wb 10/6/24 - 8/7/24)

- Boys group 1 = Lesson 1: Tennis Lesson 2: Softball
- Boys group 2 = Lesson 1: Athletics Lesson 2: Cricket
- Girls group 1 = Lesson 1: Rounders Lesson 2: Tennis
- Girls group 2 = Lesson 1: Rounders Lesson 2: Athletics

Science

This term, students will continue with their “Cotswold Farm” topic, learning about why soil is so important and looking at how features are passed down through organisms in with more work on genetics and inheritance. As we head closer to the end of year exams, students will revisit content from throughout the year in supportive revision sessions, guided by their science teacher and learning revision techniques within their science lessons.

Spanish

This term we will be learning how to talk about holidays in the past tense. We will revise how to improve writing skills and spend some time revising and preparing for our end of year assessment. Our grammar will include the present and past tenses.