



Year 8
Curriculum
Bulletin



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

In year 8 pupils revisit the skills, materials and techniques that were introduced in Year 7. This half term students will develop their skills and techniques through investigating the theme of 'Industry' with a focus on the industrial and patterned work of Pop Artist Eduardo Paolozzi. Students will continue to work in sketchbooks to develop, refine, record and present their responses. They will build on their drawing skills from Year 7. They will develop their ability to analyse the work of relevant artists and designers and use the work of others to inspire their own development and ideas. Through the exploration the formal elements of shape and line students will produce a low-relief sculpture inspired by the work of Paolozzi.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Students should use the bi-weekly home learning document to ensure they have a solid grasp of the techniques and vocabulary used in our lessons.

ASSESSMENT

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS



Computer Science

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We are learning digital skills, using spreadsheets, looking at the skills needed to create and use simple spreadsheets, moving onto more advanced features over the weeks.

We will then move onto Data representation. There will be an end of topic practical assessment that will check pupils understanding of using the data in a spreadsheet.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

There will be 2 quizzes per topic area on TEAMS to complete. This is to go alongside the Bi-Weekly KS3 Knowledge Booklets.

ASSESSMENT

Each unit of work completed will be followed by an assessment.

Assessments will be a mixture of paper based and online forms.

This term the spreadsheets test will be a practical test.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Overview:

This term, we will explore the theme of musicals, with a focus on an exaggerated acting style and heightened emotion to produce theatre for the musical genre. We will also look at acting through song, and how this can be used within a musical to entertain the audience. Finally, we will explore the use of dramatic techniques, recapping knowledge from year 7, as well as new knowledge for year 8. We will study how these techniques can be incorporated when using a script, where it is appropriate to place them, and how they can impact the audience.

Key Knowledge:

- Characterisation
- Scripts
- Stage directions
- Acting through song
- Mime
- Exaggeration

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Students are provided with a knowledge organiser, they should use this at home to revise key terms, skills, and techniques for the term. This will be tested via do now activities and questioning in lessons.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed in the final lessons of the term, completing a practical performance which encompasses all the skills learnt. They will perform their piece for assessment and evaluate this within class time.

TRIPS

Theatre Trip

Lowry Theatre – War Horse

Wednesday 25th September

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Year 8 will be learning about Health and safety in a DT workshop, pupils will be familiarising themselves with main differences between a normal class room and a DT workshop. All pupils will then be starting to design and make a personalised picture frame, pupils will be conducting some research about their chosen client and then will produce some design ideas followed by a final design. Pupils will then move on the making part where they will use a wide range of hand tools and machines to produce this high quality product.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Students should use the bi-weekly home learning document to ensure they have a solid grasp of the techniques and vocabulary used in our lessons

ASSESSMENT

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

'Storms, Islands and Us'

This term, Year 8 will begin their English lessons by exploring the literary world Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and a host of cultural and diverse poetry and prose. Beginning with an exploration of how the English Language has changed over time to the contextual richness of colonialism, our students meet Caliban and Prospero as evil plans are unhatched.

Some of the stories pupils will be exposed to are:

- *The Tempest*
- *The Kite Runner*
- *Half of a Yellow Sun*
- *Writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, John Agard, Caleb Femi and more!*

Throughout this topic, pupils will develop their ability to read a range of cultural literary influences whilst heightening their understanding of a world full of diversity. Furthermore, they will build on their writing skills from Year 7 by explicitly practising ambitious sentences structures and descriptions based on the new worlds they encounter.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils are provided with reading and comprehension homework where they will be expected to complete it to the best of their ability. English homework also includes key vocabulary that will be used in class.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will complete a formative assessment every few weeks based on the themes, topics and skills covered in lessons.

Pupils will also complete a larger assessment each term based on the prior learning of this term.

TRIPS

We are exploring new and exciting trips for our KS3 cohort such as visits to the theatre to watch shows based on our topics across the curriculum.

CAREERS EVENTS

In English, we are always supporting possible career avenues where pupils can use their knowledge and skills from their English lessons. For example, we encourage students to realise that almost every job requires literacy skills from speaking and listening, writing and reading and being able to show perception about the world around us. English equips all pupils with the ability to analyse situations, language and discourse with detail.

Some careers events include author talks and visits, 'University' master classes, competitions and challenges where their writing can be recognised.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

In food technology this term, we will be focusing on special diets and how recipes can be adapted to suit individual needs. We will learn about several special diets including Vegetarian, Vegan, Pescatarian and omnivorous diet. We will try to understand some of the reason people follow a special diet including religion, culture, medical, ethical or environmental factors.

We will also learn about how allergies and intolerances may cause a person to need a special diet, and the risks involved in eating foods we may be allergic or intolerant to.

We will look at the law called 'Natasha's Law' and why this is now a law all food providers must follow in the UK.

We will also revisit our work on a balanced diet and the Eatwell guide and extend it to look at deficiency disease including Scurvy, Rickets and Anaemia.

We will also extend our year 7 work on food hygiene while looking at the temperature foods need to be cooked and stored at for them to be safe to eat.

We will cook several recipes which help use better understand the themes above including Sausage or cheese rolls, Spaghetti Carbonara and stir fry.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils will be provided with a recipe book which includes recipes will be cooking in school which they can try at home.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will have their practical work assessed by the teacher and photos will be taken as a record of their skill level.

TRIPS

Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a restaurant experience.

CAREERS EVENTS

Pupils will be able to explore career prospects within the food Industry. This will be done through calling experts in the field to come and do talks with pupils at our local school, or even by taking pupils out into different catering settings to show the numerous opportunities that the industry offers those who wish to explore it and delve deeper.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We are learning about Population. We will look at population growth and the distribution across the world with a focus on the UK's population. From this we will look at how population growth is impacting our planet and population in the future.

Our next topic is Urbanisation, building on our previous topic Population. We will look at how towns and cities grew with a focus on Manchester as a case study.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils will complete weekly tasks in their Geography homework booklet. This will consist of the following:

- Spelling
- Reading
- Skills
- Knowledge

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will complete an assessment on the topic 'Population' including a range of multiple-choice questions and extended responses at the end of the topic.

TRIPS

Liverpool- Urban Study

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We will be learning about changes to power in Early modern Britain. We'll look at the causes of the English Civil War, Commonwealth and Restoration. Pupils will be answering the enquiry question on the significance of Oliver Cromwell during this period. Pupils will develop their disciplinary knowledge of causation, thinking about long term and short term causes and key factors.

After this enquiry, pupils will learn about the transatlantic trade of enslaved people. We'll look at the development of this trade and the reasons for abolition. Pupils will be answering the enquiry question on the significance of key individuals that contributed to abolition. Pupils will develop their disciplinary knowledge of writing analytical narrative accounts.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils will complete weekly tasks in their History homework booklet. This will consist of the following:

- Knowledge organiser
- Reading and comprehension
- Extended writing

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will complete an assessment on the topic 'Early modern power' including a range of multiple-choice and short answer questions and extended responses at the end of the topic.

TRIPS

Liverpool- Urban Study

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We are learning topics on ratio and scale, multiplicative change, multiplying and dividing fractions, co-ordinates and straight line graphs, representing data and tables and probability.

Useful websites

Pupils can use Mathswatch for any independent revision by logging into the website Mathswatch.vle

The login is...for example,
23smithj@penketh
Penketh (with a capital P)

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils are expected to complete homework every week, alternating between an appropriate level step homework or a topic-based homework which could be on-line or a worksheet.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will complete an assessment every few weeks based on the topics covered in lessons.

Pupils will also complete a larger assessment each term based on the prior learning.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS

Links to different careers in Maths are made where appropriate. We also take a closer look at the Maths needed to be a Games designer and a Civil Engineer.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We will first be learning to explain what TV programmes they prefer to watch and when they usually watch them. This term, our new knowledge will be to refer to past events so pupils will learn to say what they watched last night.

The second topic will be describing the types of music we like to listen to and saying what concert we have been to recently.

In doing so, we will develop the key skills listed below, which will be built on and further developed during the course of their language studies:

- Expressing and justifying opinions
- Using direct object pronouns
- Conjugate a regular '-ar' verb in present & past tense
- Referring to past events using correct grammar

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils will complete fortnightly tasks in their Spanish homework booklet and will be directed to revise specific lists of words studied in class. The homework will tackle the following aspects:

- Vocabulary building
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing/speaking skills
- Cultural capital gain

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will complete an assessment on the topic 'Music' which will include vocabulary/sound recognition, grammatical multiple-choice questions, reading & listening tasks as well as an independent written response.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

This term, Year 8 will be exploring Rhythm and Melody, with the aim to create their own composition using musical concepts explored in lesson time.

When studying about Melody, pupils will learn about compositional techniques, looking at specific scales in which they can compose, whilst also appraising different styles of music and identifying what common elements are featured within that genre.

When studying Rhythm, pupils will learn about rhythmic devices with the aim to use this knowledge to then create their own compositions to showcase their understanding of Rhythm.

Pupils will also be acquiring knowledge of the names of notes used in Music, what a chord is, while exploring a given scale to create an opportunity for pupils to access their creative side and compose their own melodies.

Across all these lessons, pupils will be developing theoretical knowledge of what the elements of music are, being exposed to key terminology which they will develop as they progress through their music learning journey in Key Stage 3.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils are expected to complete a short quiz which will be set on Teams.

This will be used as a medium for teachers to check for understanding of pupils and test their recall of knowledge.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will be assessed based on their practical performances, in which they will demonstrate their understanding of Rhythm and Melody.

Pupils will learn to analyse different styles of music using taught vocabulary. This will be assessed upon the start of every lesson through the 'DO NOW' activity.

TRIPS

Pupils can access additional experiences in this subject by attending enrichment outside of class time.

Instrumental lessons available on request.

Harmonix choir is ran on a Monday 3:15-4:00.

For instrumentalists Band is ran on Tuesday 3:15-4:00.

CAREERS EVENTS

Pupils will be able to explore career prospects within the Music Industry. This will be done through calling experts in the field to come and do talks with pupils at our local school, or even by taking pupils out into different musical settings to show the numerous opportunities that the industry offers those who wish to explore it and delve deeper.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

BOYS

Health Related Fitness – Pupils will be learning about the different fitness components and how each one can be tested. This will include aerobic endurance, muscular endurance, speed, strength, power, flexibility, agility, balance and reaction time.

Rugby League – We will be learning about the techniques and tactics involved in Rugby League including the main rules and regulations. Pupils will learn the basic skills of passing, tackling, driving the ball, kicking and team play. Pupils will be involved in small sided competitive situations.

Table Tennis – We will be learning about the techniques and skills involved in Table Tennis. Pupils will be learning about the basic serving, forehand, backhand, spin, attacking and defensive shots. Pupils will also be learning about singles and doubles play.

Outdoor Adventurous Activities – We will be learning about the different types of Outdoor Adventurous Activities and completing tasks related to orienteering. Pupils will learn skills related to teamwork, map reading and basic compass work.

GIRLS

Netball – We will be learning about the skills and techniques in Netball. Pupils will learn the basic skills of passing, catching, shooting, dodging, attacking and defending. Pupils will also be involved in small-sided games.

Badminton – We will be learning about the skills techniques and tactics involved in Badminton. Pupils will learn basic techniques of the serve, overhead/underarm clear, drop shot, and smash. Pupils will also play competitive individual and doubles games.

Dance – We will be learning about different Dance styles and movements, where pupils will create their own Dances based on what they have learnt in previous lessons.

Football – We will be learning about the skills and tactics involved in football including passing, tackling, dribbling, shooting, attacking and defending. Pupils will also be involved in small-sided game situations.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will be assessed against a range of Physical Education criteria at the end of each unit of work. Pupils will self-assess their work, using their own assessment booklets whilst also receiving summative feedback from their class teacher.

TRIPS

School Fixtures

Boys – Football, Rugby League

Girls – Football, Netball

CAREERS EVENTS

Sport Cluster Career Talks



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

This term in Form PD, pupils in years 7 to 10 will complete the Politics and British Values unit of work which includes the following topics:

What is a General Election? - Understanding of the processes of a General Election. Understanding constituencies and how MPs are elected. Understanding how MPs gain votes.

What is a Political Party? - Understand what a Political Party is, what and who it is made up of. Understanding which Political Parties current government is made up of.

Who is in charge of the UK? - Understanding the current political situation in the UK as a whole – understanding the Political Party in charge and the Prime Minister. Understanding politics local to Warrington.

What are British Values? - Understanding the different fundamental British Values and what they mean: Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance, Individual Liberty. Making links between BV and how we demonstrate each one in school, including examples.

What can happen when society clashes? - Understanding mob mentality and criminal behaviour, racism and stereotyping, and counter-protesters. Understanding how society can be influenced by other factors leading to misinformation and mass misunderstanding. Learning linked to recent rioting in Summer 2024. Reference to Fundamental British Values.

Why do people migrate and become refugees? - Learning about what it may feel like to be forced to leave home. Applying knowledge to practice empathy, through discovering the similarities we have with those who migrate. Looking at how we can help refugees and people seeking asylum feel welcome in our community.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

ASSESSMENT

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS

Learning linked to the Pupil Leadership Team elections in school.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

This term in Personal Development, pupils in year 8 will complete the Being Me in My World unit of work.

Pupils will cover self-identity, family and identity, stereotypes, personal beliefs and judgements, managing expectations, first impressions, respect for the beliefs of others and active listening.

Pupils will learn how to think critically about their own identity, what influences it and how they can remain independent whilst maintaining relationships with family and friends.

Who am I? – Learn to appreciate that identities are complex and can change over time. Learn to appreciate the similarities, differences and diversity of people's identities. Understand that faith, families, communities and cultures influence identity and can start to identify the influences in their lives.

What is family? – Understand about collective and individual identities and cultural diversity. Understand the influence family has on self-identity. Make sense of what has happened in their lives and understand the influences from their own history and how they have shaped their self-identity, including those they have chosen to reject.

What is your place in your family? – Define what stereotypes are, in particular in relation to family status, Be able to listen actively to other people. Identify what is important for them and what they expect from themselves, taking into account the beliefs and expectations of, for example, their family.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Homework in Personal Development is set once per term and consists of wider reading opportunities based on topics that are being covered in the current unit of work. Pupils are required to read a digital news article that is provided to them by their teacher, followed by completion of reading comprehension questions in a self-marking quiz on Microsoft Teams.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils are assessed once per term using Assessment Mind Maps. Pupils complete a mind map at the start of each unit demonstrating their existing knowledge. They then revisit the mind map at the end of the unit, adding all new knowledge acquired throughout the term, thus demonstrating progress. Personal Development is a non-examined subject, so there are no formal assessments.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS

Learning is linked to skills necessary for the future, including further education and careers.



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We will be studying the Faith and you unit. In which we will be learning about the religion of Islam. We will be investigating key beliefs, teachings, and practices within the religion and how to analyse their impact on Muslims daily lives and on the world, we live in.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils should independently use the biweekly vocabulary booklets.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will complete an assessment at the end of the unit via teams.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

We are learning about Revenge and Passion through short stories and extracts from fiction and non-fiction. The focus is to improve pupils' independent skills to clarify vocabulary, skimming and scanning and discussing authors' viewpoints and purpose. This supports the whole school curriculum, supporting pupils in independent reading.

During form reading, pupils are reading 'Wuthering Heights – A retelling' by Tanya Landman. This is a reading for pleasure session and pupils are encouraged to discuss the novel, read aloud and listen to others.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Pupils will be given reading homework across their subjects.

We encourage pupils to read independently outside of school, this can be fiction or non-fiction. To support this, there are reading lists on our website.

ASSESSMENT

Summative assessments of reading skills will take place each term using NGRT Assessments.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Pupils will begin the academic year looking at diet and digestion this will focus on what makes a healthy and balanced diet and then what are the impacts of an unbalanced diet on our health and how our body deals with food. We will then move on to chemical reactions which will develop pupils' knowledge of endothermic/exothermic reactions and displacement reactions. The final unit of the term will look at the different types of energy stores and how they can be converted from one form into another.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

This will take the form of a short quiz released on teams every Monday which will be due for the following Sunday. There will be a video to support pupils answering the multiple-choice questions in the quiz.

ASSESSMENT

Pupils will take assessments each tab which will be cumulative and consider all prior learning from the academic here. Assessment will have a range of questions from multiple-choice short and extended answer.

TRIPS

CAREERS EVENTS

Careers will be featured in discussion and activities through lessons in the curriculum and students will be informed how what they are learning could feature in career pathways.