

What will my Year 8 child learn this term?



A summary of learning for the Summer Term 2024

Art

In Year 8, pupils are researching endangered species. Their task is to raise awareness and produce a poster influenced by a range of illustrators.

Computing

In Year 8 Computing this term, students will be embarking on their second computer science unit, building on the knowledge gained in Year 7. They will delve into different number systems, exploring how binary, decimal, and hexadecimal systems are used in computing. Additionally, students will learn about various algorithms, understanding how they are designed and implemented to solve problems efficiently.

Design & Technology

In Year 8 Design & Technology our pupils rotate through a range of topic areas, allowing them to experience a variety of hands on learning to support their developing theory knowledge. Throughout the year pupils will cover: Food, Timbers, Metals & Polymers, Product Analysis & Disassembly, and Sustainable Design.

Drama

In Year 8 Drama this term students have been studying the A Midsummer Nights Drama by William Shakespeare. This offers a great opportunity for cross curricular understanding as it supports their English studies. Students will be exploring the mysterious world of the fairies and the comedy stylings of The Mechanicals.

English

This term, students will read William Shakespeare's comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. From the Athenian lovers to the fairies found in The Woods, we will explore the major themes in the play as well as analysing the characters and their relationship with one another. Year 8 will also explore Utopian and Dystopian worlds in our unit 'Dystopia and Other Worlds'. Students will read extracts from incredible and renowned authors like Lewis Carroll, Philip K. Dick and Cormac McCarthy and consider how they created incredible and unique worlds through language. From here, students will begin to create their own worlds through creative writing.

Geography

As pupils progress through the Geography Curriculum, they will explore a range of topics which are connected through our core themes of interdependence, physical and human processes, environmental impact, sustainable development, cultural awareness and diversity. During the Summer Term, pupils will continue with their investigation into the "Almighty Dollar" following the journey of the dollar from USA to China and through the countries of Africa. Pupils will then begin a synoptic topic, examining the challenges that cold environments face. This unit includes a case study on Antarctica looking at the wildlife, climate and threats from humans.

History

So far in Year 8 History, pupils have shaped their understanding of the themes of power and control from 1600 to 1914 by investigating events such as the Gunpowder Plot, the English Civil War, the development of parliament and the role of the Suffragists and Suffragettes in achieving votes for women. The development of the lives of ordinary people has also been a key theme being considered during these periods of study. Britain's place in the world has become more of a focus in recent lessons, as we turn our attention to the growing power and influence of the British Empire during the Industrial period, and the impact it has had on people from different countries and cultures. During the summer term, pupils will investigate Britain's role in the slave trade, the factors involved in establishing the freedom of enslaved people, and the continued fight for civil rights by different groups in the 20th century.

Maths

Pupils in Year 8 will be continuing to progress through KS3 Maths this term looking into further mathematical concepts all in preparation for beginning their GCSE course in year 9. They are currently studying unit 6: Probability where they will identify possible outcomes and chances of events happening. They will also use a range of different representations, for example Venn Diagrams, Frequency trees and Probability trees. As the year comes to a close, they will be sitting a retrieval paper to assess their retention of all the topics studied in year 7 and 8 to identify the ideal group and tier they will begin to study for in Year 9 for their GCSEs.

MFL

French: Pupils in Year 8 are currently exploring the unit of celebrities and festivals. Pupils will be able to give opinions in French about their favourite festivals and what they like to watch on TV using developed reasons. Pupils will be able to discuss their music preferences and listen to some French speaking artists. Pupils in Year 8 should be able to confidently express opinions on the topic of celebrities and also use a range of 3rd person verbs to describe what others do. Pupils will develop all 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing whilst covering this unit of work.

Spanish: Pupils in Year 8 are currently exploring the unit of celebrities and festivals. Pupils will be able to describe what they and other celebrities look like and be able to speak and write about who they admire and why. Pupils will become familiar with a range of Hispanic celebrities. Pupils in Year 8 should be able to confidently express opinions on these topics and also use a range of 3rd person verbs. Pupils will develop all 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing whilst covering this unit of work.

Music

This term, pupils are studying Blues music. They are learning about the origins of Blues within the music of the slave trade, and how work songs and spirituals have been influential in shaping Blues. Pupils are currently learning about the 12 bar Blues chord progression, learning to play this on the keyboard. Following on from this, they will learn about walking bass lines in Blues, and the role that improvisation plays in Blues melodies. Pupils will round off this term exploring the impact that Blues has had on Rock music, identifying some of the characteristics that are common to both genres.

PE

In Year 8, pupils complete 4 week units of work in a wide range of sporting activities. Pupils develop the skills and techniques that they learnt in Year 7 to allow them to play in competitive matches. Pupils develop their understanding of the key rules and tactics needed in each sporting activity and use their knowledge of the rules / tactics to improve their performances.

PSHE

Year 8 started the term with the Health and Wellbeing unit. This includes discussions about healthy eating, disordered eating and eating disorders, and strategies to maintain your mental health. They also covered hormonal changes as a result of puberty and coping with symptoms of grief arising from separation from family, such as through divorce. They will be moving onto a final unit focused on politics and sustainability where they will learn about national organisations that impact our day-to-day lives, including the national government and how it works.



Science

In this term our Year 8 students will be learning about the Earth and the Atmosphere. Pupils will look up what gases form our atmosphere and the dangers of greenhouse gases and climate change. Pupils will also study about genetics, what makes us individuals and the theory of how plants and animals have evolved over time. Pupils will also complete a unit on magnetism and electromagnetism.