

What will my Year 8 child learn this term?



A summary of learning for the Autumn Term 2025

Art

In Year 8 we will look at the theme of animals. This will allow pupils to experience a range of art media and methods, whilst focussing upon the formal elements of line, shape, form, tone, texture and pattern.

The skills embedded in this unit are - helping pupils to build upon their drawing and observational skills, problem solving by working with a range of materials such as painting, pen and ink and printmaking.

Computing

In Year 8, pupils will start off by exploring a range of cyber security threats and how best to defend against them in our Online Safety Unit. This will include topics such as Malware, Encryption, and the most effective ways to secure data. Later on in the term pupils will begin a text based programming unit, building on the foundational knowledge they developed in Year 7's Visual Programming unit. They will cover the basics of sequencing commands, variables and selection. This unit sets them up for a more advanced programming unit in Year 9 and for further study in some Year 10 options.

Design & Technology

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

Drama

In drama, pupils will explore the big question 'Can theatre be more than entertainment?' in relation to the Brazilian theatre practitioner Augusto Boal. They will learn a range of his techniques and use them to explore the topic of cyberbullying. Pupils will then go on to explore how Commedia Dell'Arte evolved into melodrama and pantomime; they will learn how stock characters, exaggeration and audience interaction are used to create comedy.

English

Pupils will cover both reading and writing skills in Year 8. They will begin by reading Fabio Geda's novel 'In the Sea There are Crocodiles' for two lessons a week. This brilliant biographical novel follows the experiences of a young boy and his struggle to find a safe place in the world. This topic will allow students to explore the themes of resilience and overcoming adversity in a modern world. Pupils will also study 'Writing in Journalism' and explore both old and new media formats, developing their non-fiction writing skills through the lens of journalism.

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 Autumn Term, pupils will build on their Year 7 knowledge of climate and weather by considering how the changing climate is affecting our world. Pupils will then follow this up by considering the impact the environment can have on settlements and cities over time, looking at case studies of cities from around the world.

History

Throughout KS3, we focus on the unfolding narrative of History through three key themes: power and control, the lives of ordinary people, and Britain's place in the wider world. In Y8 students continue their journey through a study of power in England from 1603: the Tudor reign has ended and a century of turmoil, conflict and crisis is beginning. Pupils will investigate why England killed its King and the effects of unstable leadership by both Crown and Parliament throughout the 17th century. After half term, we will explore changes to Britain as it unified and industrialised in the 18th century, including how this impacted life for those living in increasingly overcrowded and dirty cities.

Maths

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 1: Geometry and Measure where they will be looking into the properties of 3D shapes, their nets and their plans and elevation. This unit will also include opportunities to convert between different units in different scenarios. Once completed they will move onto unit 2: Sequences. They will be introduced to the key vocabulary within sequences, recognise sequences in numbers and shapes and how to find the nth term formula for any linear sequence.

MFL

French and **Spanish**: Pupils are learning to discuss the topic of holidays. The first half term will focus on expressing future holiday plans with an emphasis on the future tense. The second half term will focus on holidays in the past. Pupils should be confident in expressing opinions about holidays and they will also be able to discuss different holiday activities and the weather. Pupils will be using a range of reading, listening, speaking and writing skills.

Music

In Year 8, pupils build on the foundational knowledge of musical elements and music making skills acquired in Y7. In Term 1 they study West African music, learning about and performing traditional West African polyrhythms on the djembe. This is underpinned by learning about djembe playing techniques, including how to produce the three main djembe notes of bass, tone, and slap. In Term 2 pupils will study music as a descriptive art form, learning about Programme music of the 1800's, and how this genre has been influential on modern day film music. They will finish the year studying Blues music, making contextual links to what they learned about West African music in Term 1, by identifying some of the characteristics of this music in the Blues genre.

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

This term, Year 8 will be completing a unit on Identity and Diversity. This includes studying the historical origins of hatred and discrimination in society and the rise in hate crime in the modern day. We look specifically at rising islamophobia and the factors that contribute to this.

Religious Studies

In Y8 Religious Studies, pupils will begin by exploring Buddhism. They will learn about the life of the Buddha and key teachings of the Buddhist faith including the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. Pupils will then move on to have a look at how we challenge prejudice in society. Pupils will learn the key definitions of prejudice and discrimination and look at real life examples of these including the case of Anthony Walker, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. Pupils will also explore racism in sport and Islamaphobia.

Science

In our biology lessons we will be covering the topic of the human body and will cover the following areas:

- Skeleton and Muscles
- The structure and functions of the human skeleton, to include support, protection, movement and making blood cells. Biomechanics – the interaction between skeleton and muscles. The function of muscles and examples of antagonistic muscles.
- Describe the function of the human skeleton
- Name the components of a joint
- Explain how a joint works
- Describe the interactions between skeleton and muscles and describe how antagonistic muscles work
- Explain how muscles work in different organ systems e.g. the heart and small intestine
- Health, Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases
- Introduction to health and the difference between a communicable and a non-communicable disease. Could give different examples for each e.g. cancer and heart disease as non-communicable and covid-19 as a communicable disease. Introduce bacteria and viruses only.
- Define health
- Describe the difference between communicable and non-communicable diseases

- Compare different diseases and their causes

In our chemistry lessons we will be covering the topic of acids and alkalis and will cover the following areas:

- State examples of acids and alkalis in the home and give their properties
- Name examples of acids and alkalis in the lab
- Use hazard symbols to consider safety when using acids and alkalis
- Describe what an indicator is
- Compare acids and alkalis using an indicator (litmus and universal indicator only)
- Explain how an indicator can be used to compare acid and alkalis
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of indicators
- Use the pH scale to compare the pH of acids/neutral and alkali.

In our physics lessons we will be covering the topic of further electricity and will cover the following areas:

- Static Electricity
- Identify some uses of static electricity
- Describe the structure of the atom (Basic qualitative look at charge of nucleus & electron location)
- Describe how a static charge can build up
- Ohm's Law
- Describe the effects of different combinations of batteries on pd and current in a circuit
- Determine the relationship between current and resistance in a circuit
- Calculate current, p.d. or total resistance using Ohm's law
- Determine the relationship between p.d. and current for an ohmic device