

What will my Year 8 child learn this term?



A summary of learning for the Spring Term 2025

Art

Last term pupils looked at the theme of 'Animals'. Here they developed their drawing skills by studying the basic shapes, form and colour. These skills are going to be built upon in the spring term by looking at the theme of Hybrid animals. Here the pupils are asked to use their imagination and develop ideas from the work of Artist Alexis Daiz. Pupils will be asked to work in groups, create mono prints and then showcase their ideas by painting a large scale hybrid animal.

Computing

In the last half term, our students delved into Python, gaining valuable skills in text-based programming and strengthening their understanding of key computing concepts. Building on this foundation, this half term we shift our focus to Spreadsheets, a crucial tool in data management and analysis. The curriculum will cover the basics of spreadsheet use, including the creation and management of spreadsheets, and move on to more advanced aspects like formulas and functions. This progression is designed to equip students with the practical skills needed to effectively manipulate and analyse data, an essential competency in both academic and professional settings. The journey from Python programming to mastering spreadsheets reflects our commitment to providing a well-rounded computer science education that balances programming skills with practical application tools.

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 and Polymers, Product Disassembly and Analysis, and Sustainable Design.

Drama

Last term year 8 developed their understanding of dramatic style and genre. This term they will apply and expand that knowledge through exploring the play, Blood Brothers. They will explore how stereotype can be used to show important themes such as social class as well as looking at how the narrator can be used to develop tension in a story. Students will also use script where they explore and perform dialogues from Blood Brothers.

English

This term pupils will be interleaving their reading and writing skills through focusing on Poetry from Different Voices and a Transactional Writing unit. Pupils will explore poems with unique voices across different backgrounds and cultures, helping to further their poetic knowledge and their understanding of the world around them. In the Transactional Writing unit, pupils will learn to express their viewpoint in an eloquent and thought provoking way.

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 Spring Term, pupils will continue with their investigation into how and why cities change over time, using case studies from China, India and Denmark. Pupils will then begin an environmental-change focused enquiry, examining the threats to our oceans from human activity. This unit also includes a local case study, where pupils will explore the impact of human activity of the increasingly rapid erosion of the Holderness Coast.

History

Throughout KS3, we focus on the unfolding narrative of History through the key themes of power and control; lives of ordinary people; the significance of Hull through time and Britain's place in the wider world. Our Y8 curriculum throughout the Spring Term allows pupils to build on their understanding of the economic, political and social changes that shaped the Industrial Age and life for people in Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries. We begin the term with a focus on the theme of suffrage from the 1600s up to 1918, and will consider why power and rights in the UK shifted from the political elite to the middle and working classes. We will also begin to explore how industrial growth led to the expansion of the British Empire, and investigate the impact of colonisation on countries and cultures around the world.

Maths

Pupils in Year 8 will be continuing to progress through KS3 Maths this this term looking into further mathematical concepts all in preparation for beginning their GCSE course in year 9. They are currently studying unit 3: Angles and construction where they will be using standard ruler and compass constructions. This unit will also include opportunities to learn and use angle facts to solve problems including those involving parallel lines. Once completed they will move onto unit 4: Coordinates and graphs. They will be working with coordinates in all four quadrants, drawing graphs of linear and quadratic functions and begin to interpret gradients and intercepts of linear graphs .

MFL

French: Pupils in Year 8 are currently exploring the unit of sports. Pupils will be able to give opinions in French about their favourite sports and describe what they like to do and play in a range of weather types. Pupils will be able to identify French speaking sports personalities and discuss popular sports in France. Pupils in Year 8 should be able to confidently express opinions on the topic of sports and living healthily 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 healthy living. Pupils will be able to describe what they eat for each meal and give opinions about foods. They will learn typical Spanish foods and how to order food in a restaurant setting. Pupils will continue to learn about healthy lifestyles when they learn a range of

sporting activities and explain what sports they do in a range of weather conditions. 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 learning about Programme music of the Romantic period. They are studying the extra-musical stimuli that composers can respond to to inspire their work, and some of the techniques composers use to help tell a story through their music. Pupils will explore harmony through composition, learning about the differences between consonant and dissonant harmony. They will also look to film music to find out how it has been influenced by the Romantic period composers, in particular, through their use of leitmotif.

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 half term, students will study a unit on Relationships and Sex Education. Students will study the chemicals related to attraction, discuss the features of consent on romantic relationships, evaluate the choices around relationships, and evaluate the accuracy of or damage done by relationships presented in the media.

Religious Studies

In Year 8, students are continuing to focus on the 'How do we challenge prejudice and discrimination?' unit of work. Pupils are focusing on Islamophobia and Homophobia and how religious communities respond to these. Pupils will then move on to study the resurrection of Jesus and explore reincarnation and the festival of the Day of the Dead.

Science

In Year 8 pupils have completed units on the human body, acids and alkalis and uses of electricity. This term pupils will move on to study a variety of different chemical reactions during their chemistry lessons. In biology the pupils are moving on to studying photosynthesis in plants and respiration. In physics the pupils will study forces and motion.