



## PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

*Believe and Achieve*

**YEAR  
8**

Welcome back to all of our Year 8 students I hope they had a fantastic summer break and are ready to get back into our learning culture. It is vital that students get off to a good start in Year 8 to continue the progress made last year and build the foundations for GCSE examinations in the future.

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum or any pastoral issues please feel free to contact myself or Mr Stacey on 403005.

**Jodie Brown, Head of Year 8**

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### 2016

17th Oct	First Day of Half Term
31st Oct	Return from Half Term
16th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term

#### 2017

3rd January First Day of Spring Term

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### ENGLISH

Year 8 launches with an 'Under The Sea' theme. Students will study a range of marine based texts including a range of 19th century texts similar to those used at GCSE. This will provide students with the experience of decoding unfamiliar texts and analysing language features and provide them with the skills that they will build on at Key Stage 4. The second half of the term will be spent immersed in War/conflict poetry. They will study the context of the poems and develop an understanding of how poems can impact on the reader. This unit of work will be assessed by internal examination during the week commencing 14th November. Students will continue with the Accelerated Reader programme and are expected to spend 20 minutes reading at home 3 times per week. Regular homework will be set to develop students' skills and understanding. These can include Doodle homework, research projects or extended writing.



### SCIENCE

Students will start the new scheme of work, 'Activate combined science' course; this course enables all pupils to prepare for Science GCSE in a more specific way. This will be the final year of the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Students will be taught a wide range of units covering all the science disciplines. This term, pupils will be completing units on healthy lifestyles, the periodic table and electricity and magnetism. As in Year 7, a great emphasis will be on learning and using different practical techniques. Students will also spend time working on scientific literacy in preparation for new style GCSE exams. Assessment will take place on a regular basis in the traditional form of end of unit exams and will include QWC (quality of written communication) questions which will prepare them for GCSE exams in the future.

Details of Activate science can be found at: <https://global.oup.com/education/content/secondary/series/>

### MATHS

Year 8 will have already been studying ratio and proportion in the summer term. During the Autumn term they will study a variety of topics, such as the calculating with decimals and negative numbers, manipulating units of measure to find area and perimeter of shapes, building a stronger understanding of simplifying algebraic expressions and solving equations, investigating links between angles and shapes and calculating with fractions and percentages. There will continue to be a strong focus on presenting work in a neat and organised manner with clearly identifiable notes at key points.

Teacher assessments of the work covered in class will take place at the end of each topic and pupils will be given feedback to support their progress. Pupils will have online access to the range of textbooks used and associated videos to support further learning.

Having the correct equipment is an essential part of assessment preparation as well as revision. Whilst most of the focus in Year 8 is on developing non-calculator skills it is a good idea to bring a suitable scientific calculator to every Maths lesson.

Homework will be predominantly paper based and focused towards understanding and applying skills that have been learned in class. Occasionally, especially for revision purposes, additional work will be assigned using the Kerboodle and Doodle websites. Pupils have their own login details for these websites which they should keep somewhere safe. If, for any reason, these are misplaced then any member of the Maths team will be able to help.



### ETHICS

Students will be continuing their study of Ethics. They will start the year by exploring issues of Human Rights and examining how the United Nations promotes this.

There will be one assessment each half term which will be designed to give students the experience and strategies needed for GCSE study in the future. This will allow good mapping of student progress and individual target setting to make sure all reach their potential in Ethics.

### LITERACY

Literacy skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening will be taught during English lessons with a particular focus on these cross-curricular skills during the lesson in which students engage in their private reading on the Accelerated Reading scheme once a week.

## PSHE

As part of the PSHE programme at PCSA, Year 8 will receive 6 dedicated Sex and Relationship Education lessons. We will continue to look at some of the changes that take place during puberty, with separate sessions for boys and girls. We will continue with 'Who Influences Us?' which looks at how the media may influence us to have unrealistic expectations about how we should look and behave, and how this in turn can affect our relationships. We will explore some of the different types of relationships we have, for example friends, parents and partners, and appropriate behaviour in these relationships. This will lead into looking at ways of Keeping Safe in a variety of social situations and Age Related Laws. As part of the healthy lifestyles and personal well being we will be looking at Personal Hygiene and 'Getting Help', where we can go to get help and advice.

## GEOGRAPHY

Year 8s will begin the year studying how rivers shape our landscape. We will then go on to look at our changing coastline. By 2025, over 3 billion people will live near the coastline which is subject to both erosion and flooding. Students will study the physical processes of erosion, transportation and deposition and the resulting landforms. They will critically evaluate the options of hard and soft engineering in the many choices of sea defences which are built at great expense to protect our coastlines. Pupils will be assessed with a mini decision making exercise to develop their geographical skills.



## HISTORY

We welcome back the Year 8 students with the following enquiry question: Why did Henry leave the Catholic Church? Students will work independently to investigate the young life of Henry VIII and consider the impact of his famous jousting accident. They will analyse and respond to the work of leading Tudor historians. The assessment focus will be extended writing and students will learn how to redraft work to improve their performance. This will help to prepare them for their future GCSE studies.



## FRENCH

In Year 8 we continue working from Studio 1 on the topics of hobbies and sport. The department has electronic resources to support the courses which pupils can access from home on [www.paigntonmoodle.com](http://www.paigntonmoodle.com). We will also be using Doodle, an online package which has many interactive resources to make learning fun.

### French - How parents can help

We would love you to support your child with their home learning by regularly helping them to learn vocabulary in preparation for their weekly vocabulary tests. Allow them to explore fun ways of learning from home, e.g. sticking post-its on the fridge, get them to teach you, rap it, sing it, dance along to it, record it ("podcasting" as it's now referred to), watch it on "Paignton Online" and use the "look, cover, check" method. Only by experimenting will they discover which method works best for them. They will be issued with vocabulary lists and any other homeworks will be either on worksheets or in their yellow book. Thank you for supporting us with your child's learning. Merci et Bon Courage!

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 8 have just completed their 'Knowledge of Computing' unit and sat their exam just before the Easter break. They will now start an E-Safety unit of work where they will learn basic skills on how to keep safe online. As part of this unit we will be covering concepts such as cyberbullying, the dangers of social media and some of the rules and regulations that govern the way we use the internet and computers in general. Students will research, learn about and discuss in depth, social networking and apps that are being used in the 21st century, which can be used effectively, but also lead to a wide variety of online issues.



## ICT

Pupils will start work on website creation and the features of current popular websites. Beginning to understand HTML, the website used to create websites, pupils will create their own websites, coming up with their own theme and multimedia content to create an interactive and engaging website. This presents an opportunity for pupils to begin learning skills that will be used at KS4 study by our GCSE students and is a valuable skill used in the IT sector. There will be prizes for the best websites in each Band!

## ART

Year 8 students will be exploring the themes 'Bonkers Buildings' and 'Come Fly With Me'. Students will be researching artists, developing observational drawings, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making an outcome that relates to the theme. Students will have the opportunity to work in both 2D and 3D materials. The projects will focus on the formal elements, shape and form, and will enable students to understand how to embed these fundamental skills and techniques.

During the projects pupils will develop ideas, drawings, research and experiments which will be self-evaluated, peer assessed and marked by the class teacher. Targets are regularly set and reviewed to help pupils progress. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. KS3 Art Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes where pupils have the opportunity to take part in competitions and complete any unfinished work. It would be beneficial for pupils to have basic art equipment at home to help complete homework and encourage independent learning.

## MUSIC

Bridging Unit: In the first half of term, students will build upon work they did during their Year 7 rotation.

Topic 1: African Drumming and Rhythms

Topic 2: Folk Music

Learning chords, notation, developing singing skills and ensemble work.





## PE

Welcome back! All the PE staff hope you are excited and ready for the start of a new academic year.

At KS3 we have four blocks of work offering twelve different activities throughout the year, with even more available during lunchtimes and after school.

Parents – Please encourage your son/daughter to attend our sports clubs. Look out for the clubs list that will appear soon.

Pupils - Please ensure you have all the correct kit for your lessons:

- Academy Blue PE shirt
- Academy Blue rugby top
- Academy Black shorts
- Academy Blue socks
- Suitable footwear: Studded boots for rugby/football. Supportive trainers (NO pumps).
- Gum shield and shin pads for football, rugby and hockey.

No hoodies or uniform will be allowed.

In very cold weather it is good practice to wear a number of layers: under armour (or alternative) is great, with the polo shirt and or rugby top.

Please remember: If students do have PE lessons in the morning, we strongly advise they have a good breakfast.

The table below shows the sports the students will be covering in the Autumn term.

GIRLS	BOYS
Netball	Rugby
Multi-skills	Multi-skills
Football	Gymnastics



## PRODUCT DESIGN

The students' experience has now been improved with the introduction of double lessons replacing the single lessons of previous years. The students will be given the opportunity to design and make a Desk Top structure, based upon the theme of the natural world. Individuality in design and final outcome is encouraged. The students have access to a range of design tools including 2D Design and Computer Aided Manufacture, and a wide range of workshop tools and equipment. Home learning opportunities are through the four research tasks set.



## TEXTILES

Pupils will design and make a bag with a 'graffiti' theme. Pupils will research the theme 'graffiti' and the artist Hundertwasser. They will learn how to do a range of decorative printing and machine sewing techniques. Pupils will produce a range of design ideas based on the 'graffiti' theme and the artist Hundertwasser and learn how to construct a bag. Homework is set weekly to support development of the bag. All work will be assessed against the assessment criteria for Technology and targets for improvement set on a regular basis.



## DRAMA

In Year 8 the Units of Work will be on scripted drama and mime, Greek theatre and Shakespeare.

Skills: Script work, characterisation, physical theatre and ensemble work.

Auditions for the annual panto take place in September.

Drama is taught in 2 half term blocks.



## FOOD

In Year 8 practical tasks are designed so that students acquire more advanced knife skills, puréeing, melting method and use of hob. Students will learn how to design and make composite meals. There is a greater emphasis placed on finishing techniques for food presentation and learning about the properties of ingredients such as raising agents and the functional properties of starch

In Year 8, students make the following recipes: crudités, fresh mini bread rolls, vegetable pizza, pasta bolognese. Students will then use the skills gained in these focused practical tasks to be able to design their own multicultural main meal.

