



PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

WELCOME back to all of our Year 8 students. I hope they had a fantastic summer break and are ready to get back to school! It is vital that students get off to a good start in Year 8 in order to continue the excellent progress made last year and build the foundations for GCSE examinations in the future. I have no doubt that Year 8 will be another great year as we have a wonderful group of students. If you have any questions regarding the curriculum or any pastoral issues please feel free to contact myself or Mrs Gower on 403005.

Katie Hine, Head of Year 8

IMPORTANT DATES

2017

6 th Oct	Kidzania Trip 1
16-27 th Oct	Half Term
30 th Oct	Return from Half Term
17 th Nov	Kidzania Trip 2
15 th Dec	Last day of Autumn Term

2018

2nd January First Day of Spring Term

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2017

YEAR
8

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, providing 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 literature. This will help the students to develop the skills linked with the assessment objectives of GCSE Literature. 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.



AcceleratedTM
Reader



MATHS

Year 8 will have previously been studying ratio and proportion in the Summer term. During the Autumn term, they will continue to develop their key mathematical skills of number calculations, negative numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages. Mastery of these 'key' skills continues to be essential for pupils' future success in a variety of different topics which follow in the Spring and Summer terms. There remains 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 students will be given feedback to support their progress. Students 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 MyMaths websites. Students 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.



SCIENCE



Students will start the new scheme of work, *Activate combined science for AQA*; this course enables all students 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 pressure and contact forces. 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 the 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/>

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8 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.



ICT

Students will start work on website creation and the features of current popular websites. Beginning to understand HTML, the website used to create websites, students will create their own website, coming up with their own theme and multimedia content to create an interactive and engaging website. This presents an opportunity for students to begin learning skills that will be used at KS4 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!

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. We will also be using Linguascope, 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 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 ("pod-casting" 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, in their yellow book or on Linguascope. Thank you for supporting us with your child's learning. Merci et Bon Courage!

FOOD

In Year 8 practical tasks are designed so that students acquire more advanced knife and technical skills. 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: fresh mini bread rolls, vegetable pizza, pasta bake and finally they design their own multicultural main meal dish.



PSHE

As part of the PSHE programme at PCSA, Year 8 will receive six 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.



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. This will be accompanied by the film *Osama* about a young girl in Afghanistan and some of the issues she faced.

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.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Student programming skills will be applied to Python, the language that will be used throughout Computer Science in the Academy. Students will learn key skills such as selection, sequence and IF/while loops to create working solutions to problems. This will then be applied to Python Turtle where students will use these skills to create graphical images like flags and shapes. Students will also investigate the key hardware needed in computers, using old machines to identify the purpose of all key components.



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 have been 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 greatly encouraged, with equal emphasis placed upon the production of a well finished product; often the simplest of ideas are completed to a high standard. 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 during the module; your chosen animal, natural and man-made materials, structures and tools.



ART

Year 8 students will be exploring the theme '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 of shape and form which will enable students to understand how to embed 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 students to 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.

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCT DESIGN

Multimedia Product Design is about designing and making functional outcomes. The course provides opportunities for students to explore a range of materials and construction techniques and to develop their design skills in two and three dimension. Students apply their knowledge and skills creatively in response to the set design brief. The project brief is to design and make a piece of merchandise that supports a new interactive computer game; the theme combines research into graffiti, emojis and Pokemon. Homework is set weekly to support development of the project and to expand knowledge of the subject area. All work is assessed against the assessment criteria for BTEC Product Design and provides a solid foundation for students to continue with the subject in Year 9.

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.

Drama is taught in 2 half term blocks. Students will undertake written theory to support practical explanation,

Drama kit: black leggings for girls.

MUSIC

Students in Music have a half termly rotation and will build on skills learnt during Year 7. This term students will explore Celtic music and performance skills, playing in a band using guitars, ukuleles, keyboards and vocal techniques. Music theory will include standard notation and TAB. There will be three homework challenges set during the rotation to build on the theory skills gained during the lessons.

There are lots of extra-curricular clubs held including a keyboard and guitar club on a Tuesday lunchtime, Year 7/8 band on a Tuesday after school, choir on Wednesday lunchtimes and karaoke club on a Thursday lunchtime. All students are welcome.

Instrumental lessons are offered by visiting teachers and students can sign up by collecting a letter from the Music department.

This term there will be a Christmas concert on the 13th December at Paignton Parish Church.



NEW "REAL TIME" - PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER APP CLASSCHARTS!

From September 2017 ClassCharts will become available to all Pupils and Parents to record and track student homework and behaviour within Academy. There is a ClassCharts App for Parents and Students which allows you to view for example, all homework behaviour points. More features will become available as the package is expanded.

The ClassCharts Apps are available for both Mobile and Tablets from your Apple or Google App Store.

Parental codes and instructions will be made available by email so please ensure we have your most up to date email. Further assistance will be available at year group open evenings.

To update your email address please email debbie.hill@paigntonacademy.org stating the name of your son/daughter, tutor group and your new email address.