



PAIGNTON ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

Welcome to the summer term. We only have one term left before we move into Year 9! We are really looking forward to the final term and hope the students continue the great progress made this academic year; we look forward to celebrating their successes at the end of term. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for attending Parents' Evening. If you have any feedback regarding the new online system please do not hesitate to contact me. Year 8 have their exam week and subject options choices coming up this term. I hope they have revised thoroughly over the Easter break. We hope the information in this newsletter is useful in supporting your child in their studies as they move into the final year of Key Stage 3. If you have any questions regarding your son/daughter's progress please do not hesitate to contact myself or Thomas Young on 01803 403005.

Will Virgo, Head of Year

IMPORTANT DATES

2019	
29 Apr-3 May	Exams Week
6 May	Bank Holiday
27-31 May	Half Term
14 June	Sports Day
8-10 July	Summer Musical
18 July	Celebration Eve
19 July	Last Day of Summer Term
3 September	First Day of Autumn Term

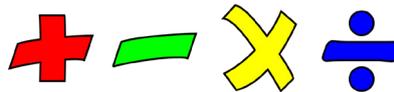
CONTACT INFORMATION

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YEAR 8

ENGLISH

For the first half of next term, Year 8 will study WWI poetry, allowing them to improve their skills in analysing language and structure. In the latter half of the term, students will focus on multi-cultural short stories. In addition to their work in class, students will be set homework in order to encourage independent study skills. This will include research-based tasks, spellings, and extended written pieces. Students are also expected to continue their AR reading of at least 20 minutes, three times per week.



MATHS

In the summer term students will study a variety of topics including percentages, decimals, fractions, statistics, graphs and charts, scale drawing and measures.

Students will be formally assessed in this term. They will first be given a week of revision prior to their exams which will contain questions from all of the topics they have covered so far this year. Following this exam, dedicated topic improvement time will be given whereby students have an opportunity to identify the gaps in their learning. Time will be given in class following the exam. Furthermore, students will be directed to resources that can help them improve outside of the classroom.

We will be continuing to run maths clubs throughout this term. We have several clubs and support available for students. Students can receive help with their homework in the IT rooms on Tuesdays. We have after school maths support on Tuesdays and we have our Maths All Stars club on Wednesdays after school.

Homework will be set primarily through Pearson Active online. Students are encouraged to attend our maths clubs for extra support with their homework and support following their lessons. Pearson ActiveLearn also comes with worked examples and videos which help support learning outside of the classroom.



SCIENCE

Students are being taught the new 'AQA Activate' scheme of work, which is more rigorous and flows much better into the GCSEs that are in place at KS4. Students will cover modules on energy and waves; climate change; Earth's resources; and variation. There will be a greater emphasis on improving practical skills, so students will be able to investigate how much energy goes into particular activities. The unit on Earth and its resources will allow students the opportunity to discuss areas of scientific controversy and link science to the world around them e.g. conserving the natural resources of the Earth.

Students will continue to work through the "AQA Activate 2" course and will be tested on a regular basis. In addition to end of unit tests, PPE (pre public exams) will take place. The results of these assessments will form the basis for the levels reported to parents. Students will also be given the opportunity to track their own progress during lessons. Homework will continue to be set on a regular basis, details of which can be found on ClassCharts or in their student planner.

Details of Activate Science can be found on: <https://global.oup.com/education/content/secondary/series/activate/?region=international>

MATHS CLUB

There is a maths club available to all Year 7 and 8 students on Wednesdays, 3pm – 4pm.

There are 3-4 members of staff there each week to support students and we have implemented a peer mentor system where students from Years 7 and 8 help support others with their learning.

Students can further develop their mathematics knowledge and have recently carried out an investigation whereby they were able to use geometry to prove Pythagoras' Theorem.

HISTORY

Students in Year 8 will begin the summer term studying the Slave Triangle, the shocking conditions aboard the ships and life as a slave. The abolition of slavery will then see students look at the long fight for Civil Rights in the USA. The term will conclude with the Industrial Revolution, one of the most significant times in History, as it led to the rise of the British Empire and arguably contributed to World War I.

ETHICS

Students have a lesson of Ethics every two weeks in Year 8. During these lessons, students have looked at areas such as human rights and animal rights. Part of students' studies has included learning exam language and technique. By the end of Year 8 all students will be well versed in the type of questions and answer requirements for GCSE studies. The final module to study this year will be an examination of Christianity and how it fits in to modern Britain.



FRENCH

In the final term of Year 8, students will be learning about Paris and what there is to do in the city. Students will be encouraged to give their opinions and explain them, as well as using the past tense. We are also teaching learning skills to encourage our students to become independent learners, for example how to use a bilingual dictionary, both hand-held and online.

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. Encourage them to explore fun ways of learning from home, for example, sticking post-it notes on the fridge or on their back so you can test them aloud. Get them to teach you, rap it, sing it, dance along to it, record it, and use the "look, cover, say, write, check" method. There are endless ways to learn and only by experimenting will they discover which method works best for them. Our online school subscription to Linguascope is also a fun way to improve their vocabulary, and students can log in at any time. Home Learning tasks will be recorded on ClassCharts. Thank you for supporting us with your child's learning. *Merci et Bon Courage!*

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8 will begin the term studying rainforests. We look at why rainforests are located where they are, the climate of the rainforests and how this leads to certain fascinating plant and animal adaptations. We finish the topic looking at how and why these incredibly precious ecosystems have to be managed. We then end the term studying urbanisation. For the first time more of the population of our planet now lives in towns and cities, in the UK 82% of people live in urban areas. We look at why there is a migration of people to urban areas from rural, the impact this has on people and the environment and the economy. As skills are an important part of Geography, we combine map and graph skills to study the ever-growing number of megacities and the social differences found in these areas, such as slums in Kenya. This will lead us on to looking at how cities have successfully become sustainable - with a focus on Curitiba, Brazil's sustainable city.



PE

The start of the summer term should see an improvement in the weather and students will hopefully be working in hot and sunny conditions. It may, therefore, be necessary to ensure they have applied sun cream and are well hydrated, bringing in a suitable water bottle for PE. If students do have PE lessons in the morning, we strongly advise that they also have a good breakfast!

Please encourage your son/daughter to attend our sports clubs – look out for the new clubs list after Easter and remember, it's never too late to start!

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

GIRLS	BOYS
Athletics	Athletics
Rounders	Cricket
Tennis	Volleyball
Table Tennis	Table Tennis



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 8 will be creating a game using the software 'Kodu', in a unit of study that our students love. They can create their own virtual world and design a game using their imagination that can contain aspects like different levels, number of lives and other features. Some of our previous students' work in this unit has been outstanding, and allows an introduction into the world of game making.

Following this, students will be looking at e-safety, the threats posed online and how they can keep themselves safe in this ever-changing world. This is particularly important for students with the popularity of social media, online gaming and other aspects of the online world. In Year 8 this will include looking at cyber-bullying and trolling, sexting and online chat forums.

ENGINEERING

Our Year 8 engineers complete a module in which they are given the opportunity to design and make a desktop lamp connected to and powered by the home laptop, desktop computer or mobile phone charger.

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: lighting, natural and man-made materials, CAD/CAM and structures. More information about the module can be found at www.pcsaengineers.uk.





ART

Year 8 students will be exploring the theme 'Bonkers Buildings'. Students will be researching artists, developing observational drawings, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making an outcome that relates to the theme. The project will focus on the formal elements of shape, pattern, and colour which will enable students to understand how to embed fundamental skills and techniques.

During the project students 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 progress. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. KS3 Art Club runs on Friday lunchtimes where students have the opportunity to take part in competitions and complete any unfinished work. It would be beneficial for students to have basic art equipment at home to help complete homework and encourage independent learning.



MUSIC

Students will be learning about signature pieces, such as an overture, and theme tunes. They will be developing their keyboard skills by learning a well-known theme and developing this by changing the tone and adding a beat.

Don't forget to encourage your child to attend one of the music clubs offered at lunchtime and after school.

Extra-Curricular:

Tuesday lunchtime – Rock School

Wednesday lunchtime – Choir

Wednesday after school (3.15 – 4.30) - Band

Thursday lunchtime – Karaoke Club

Practice rooms are available to book on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes.



CAREERS

To start career planning we suggest you use the Careers Hub (located on the school website) to explore the exciting opportunities that are available, enhance employment skills and build confidence by learning about interview techniques.

<http://careers.paigntonacademy.org/>

This term Year 8 students will focus on KS4 options and can have support from the Careers Advisor when making appropriate subject choices for GCSE. Students will benefit from a variety of off-site university/ employer led activities during the summer term.



DRAMA

This term focuses on the 'Introduction to Devising Skills' based on a stimulus. Students will look at drama devices, theatrical skills and structuring original work to create engaging drama for a target audience. The topic 'Let Him Have it' will cover a range of stimulus material to develop physical and vocal skills, characterisation and ensemble work. Written work is a key component of the drama course and students will record their devising process as a written log with a focus on skills and interpretation. Homework is set on alternate weeks.

Rehearsals for the Summer Musical 'Annie' will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3pm - 4.30pm at Waterleat Road for those taking part. Show dates are 8th, 9th and 10th July at 7pm with matinees for primary schools during the day. The tech and dress rehearsals will be Wednesday 3rd July and Friday 5th July from 8.30am to 3pm. All information for the cast will be posted on Google Classroom.



PSHE

Students will cover areas such as citizenship, relationship and sex education, healthy lifestyles, life skills, careers and financial studies.

In the first half of the summer term students will take part in lessons on RSE (Relationships and Sex Education). Students are taught in single gender classes with specialist teachers. The topics that are delivered are puberty, making babies, pregnancy and birth, menstrual cycle and personal hygiene. Students are also informed of the many places they can seek help and guidance relating to the topics and are encouraged to ask questions either during the lessons or after the topics are completed. Particular emphasis is placed on the concept of healthy relationships and consent.

During the second half of the summer term students will take part in lessons on emotional and mental health. This part of the curriculum is new to Paignton Academy and it is a good opportunity to promote student well-being through the development of healthy coping strategies and an understanding of students' own emotions as well as those of other people. The lessons will help to promote well-being and resilience.



**Year 8 exams
week
29th April**