



PAIGNTON ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2022

YEAR 8

ENGLISH

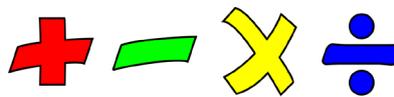
Year 8 will have 8 lessons a fortnight where they will complete three different learning activities in this time.

As part of the Literary Heritage unit, Year 8 will start by studying Sherlock Holmes, focusing on 3 of the stories within this collection. This will build on their understanding of life in Victorian London as well as learning the plot and characters from the novel. For their final assessment, they will focus on one main character and answer a question to demonstrate their understanding of the text and key ideas relating to context.

To develop core writing skills, Year 8 will continue with Mastery Writing and move into modules 2 and 3. This will directly build on and extend the key spelling, punctuation and grammar learned for SATs and extend this further to prepare them for writing tasks at GCSE.

Finally, Year 8 will read a specifically chosen book, as a class with their teacher, each fortnight in the Reading for Pleasure module, focusing on vocabulary and enjoyment.

Home Learning is set fortnightly, every Monday week A.



MATHS

Year 8 will revisit topics they have covered in Year 7, to both reinforce prior learning and to explore the mathematical concepts in greater depth. During the Autumn Term they will study ratio, scale, multiplicative reasoning, fractions, graphs, handling data and probability. These will build a stronger understanding of algebraic expressions, interpreting graphs and begin to develop cross-topic links between each module of work. There will continue to be a strong focus on presenting work in an organised manner. Homework will be both paper based and online based and focused towards understanding and applying skills that have been learnt in class and reviewing earlier learning. Homework will be logged on ClassCharts for parents to track and monitor.

SCIENCE

Students will be taught a wide range of units covering the Physics section of the disciplines. This term, students will be completing units on *forces* and *energy*, these will be heavily related to real life examples and their homework projects. 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 (pre - 15 multiple choice quiz questions, mid cycle - 15 quiz multiple choice questions and some exam style questions) and an end of cycle assessment which will be 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.



LITERACY

Throughout the Autumn Term, Year 8 will have one Literacy lesson per fortnight. The focus for these lessons will be 'Women, Power and Misogyny.' Each lesson, the students will access a different text that links to this topic. Texts range from 19th century autobiographies to modern day poems. The wide range of texts taught are supported by explicit vocabulary teaching that is directly related to the text that students will read that week. To show their understanding, students will answer comprehension questions and form clear, developed sentences using the vocabulary that they have learnt. They will also practise using this vocabulary through class discussion, using the vocabulary in complete, sophisticated sentences. Students will complete a pre-cycle and end-cycle assessment to show how their understanding of the vocabulary throughout the term has improved.

HOME LEARNING

(See last 2 pages at end of newsletter)

Students will have a Knowledge Organiser and a Home Learning exercise book to support their Home Learning. Home Learning will include a range of activities. Home Learning for each subject for the Autumn Term is outlined in the table below. All Home Learning will be set on ClassCharts on a Monday, so that parents can plan their child's Home Learning for the week. Home Learning will be marked in different ways as outlined below. Expectations for Home Learning in each subject will be made clear to all students. There is a Home Learning Breakfast Club from 8am each morning to support students.

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2022 | |
| 21 October | Inset Day (no students in school) |
| 24 October - 4 November inclusive | Half Term |
| 7 November | Return from Half Term |
| 16 December | Last day of term |
| 2023 | |
| 3 January 2023 | First day of term |

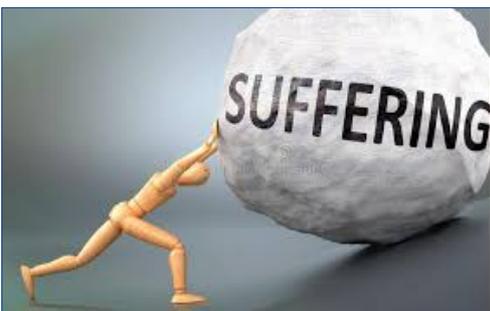
HISTORY

Students will pick up with the Stuarts in Year 8, seeing how the monarchy passes from the Tudors to the Stuarts and how that implicated Britain. Students will discover the unification of Great Britain and Ireland under one ruler and monarchy. Further to this, students will understand the changes to the Church of England and the consequences of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 for Catholics in England. Case studies will focus on the Witch Scares during the reign of the Stuarts and their implications on society.



ETHICS

Students in Year 8 will be adding to their ethical knowledge from Year 7 through the exploration of evil and suffering in the world, with a focus on the philosophical dilemma “can God exist and evil?”. Further to this, students will explore how the UK deals with suffering and evil through court systems, punishments and charities supporting the ending of suffering. Where possible students will be encouraged to examine local charity work which impacts on our own community in Paignton. Linked into the module will be the opportunity to see how other religions deal with evil by examining Karma from within Hinduism. At regular intervals students will complete assessments, which are designed to reflect their depth of knowledge and ability to use facts and information to complete extended opinion writing.



GEOGRAPHY

Students will start the academic year studying ‘The Journey to the Sea’, an exciting topic that studies how rivers lead to the coast and how they influence our landscape. Students will identify features of rivers and coasts, the importance of them and therefore why and how they need to be managed carefully.

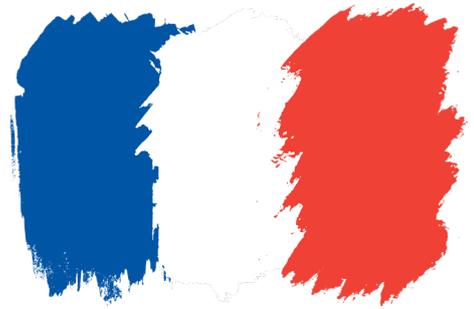
By 2025, over 3 billion people will live near the coastline which is subject to both erosion and flooding – students will evaluate current local, national and international methods to try and manage this. Through (sometimes heated!) debate they will develop their Geographical skills by critically evaluating the options of hard and soft engineering in the many choices of sea defences which are built at great expense to protect our coastlines with reference to real case study examples.

Home Learning will be based upon Knowledge Organisers with plenty of further opportunities to use websites to develop independent research. Students’ progress will be assessed with recap questions in lessons as well as a mid and end of cycle assessment.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will take the Python Turtle skills developed in Year 7, moving to text-based Python, learning the key skills of sequence and selection. These are key GCSE skills and students will learn to create code using sequential commands like inputs and print statements and also use selection statements within coding. Students will learn these practical skills through activities like creating a quiz, where outcomes are determined by the user input. Alongside this students will learn key programming theory, such as the use of variables and constants and key data types and operators used within programming.



FRENCH

In Year 8 we continue working from Studio 1 on the topics of social media, hobbies and sport. We also start to learn the future tense as well as explained opinions which are key skills at GCSE. The department has electronic resources to support students. We will also be using Linguascope, an online package which has many interactive resources to make learning fun. We continue to build on skills and knowledge learnt in Year 7 and ensure that students enjoy learning a language with as many engaging activities as possible. Students’ knowledge is tested in a pre-cycle test, then a mid-cycle test during the term and finally at the end of the cycle so we can see what knowledge and skills they have acquired and what gaps there are in their learning which needs to be revisited. We study all 4 skills - listening, reading, speaking and writing.

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 for example, sticking post-its 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, check” method. There are endless ways to learn and only by experimenting will they discover which method works best for them. All Home Learning for their vocabulary tests will be from the Knowledge Organiser and it will be set on ClassCharts each week. Students will need to use their Home Learning exercise books to practise their spellings.

Thank you for supporting us with your child’s learning.

Merci et Bon Courage!





ART

Year 8 students will be exploring the theme Bonkers Buildings. Students will be researching artists such as Ian Murphy, Antoni Gaudi, Filippo Brunelleschi, Hundertwasser, Lyonel Feininger, as well as different architectural styles including Gothic. Students will develop observational drawings, experiment with materials and techniques and then make a 2D Relief outcome that relates to Bonkers Buildings. Students will explore 2D materials, techniques and processes. The project will focus on the formal elements of shape and form as well as the key words, environmentalist and relief sculpture which will enable students to understand how to embed these fundamental skills and techniques.

During the projects 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 to progress.

Home Learning consists of research, collating information and drawing and recording. KS3 Art Club gives students the opportunity to take part in competitions, produce artwork linked to current affairs or have free choice and develop their own artistic style. It would be beneficial for students to have basic art equipment at home to help complete Home Learning and encourage independent exploration.



MUSIC

In the Autumn Term students will be learning to play keyboards and exploring effective keyboard performance techniques. They will learn how to read and play chords, sharps and flats, melodies and playing with both hands. Students will have an understanding of how to play music and apply their skills by learning popular songs. They have the opportunity to come and play instruments in the school band or lunchtime jam sessions and also to take up music lessons offered by our specialist peripatetic teachers in guitar, piano, drums, singing, saxophone, clarinet & flute.

After the half term students will be learning about African Drumming, exploring polyrhythms and improvisation. Students will learn about the origins of African music and apply their knowledge by performing steady rhythms and pulse

Academy band will be taking place at BRC in EM20 on a Monday throughout the year and students are encouraged to take part to further develop their musicianship.



PSHE

In Year 8 all students will have one hour of Personal, Social, Health Education per week.

To start the term we will be learning about managing mental health and how to look after our daily wellbeing. Lessons will be based around how to manage our emotions and learning coping strategies.

In the second half of the Autumn Term we will be learning about the legal age restrictions of activities, students will have lessons on the dangers of drugs and alcohol and have lessons about consent in relationships. Throughout all PSHE lessons we will be looking to develop character and will focus on positive role models. We will also include 'life hacks' like how to tie a tie or how to boil an egg for example. In PSHE students will have the opportunity to develop their oracy skills through discussions.

DRAMA

Students will be studying : An introduction to Devising and Page To Stage

Core skills include developing theatrical skills using physicality and the voice alongside characterisation, working with text and beginning to analyse and evaluate the work of others.

Students will be introduced to key drama devices including: stream of consciousness, monologue, duologue, choral movement, slow motion, canon and repetition

Written work is an integral part of the drama course and students will be expected to keep a drama log book of the work they undertake including live theatre performances.

Students will receive one hour a week for lessons throughout the year and homework is set once every half term.

A Key Stage 3 Drama Club will be taking place once a week.

Auditions will also take place in September for The Academy Musical.

STUDENTS THAT CHOOSE TO WEAR A SKIRT ARE REQUIRED TO BRING A PAIR OF PLAIN BLACK LEGGINGS TO THEIR LESSON EACH WEEK. SKIRTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.



PE

Over the course of the Autumn Term, Year 8 students will be exploring specific sporting values that relate to the Olympic and Paralympic games. Students will be challenged to improve and consolidate their knowledge further regarding the key values of sport, while extending their learning by focusing on topics such as Team Spirit, Citizenship and National Pride. In addition to this, students will delve further into Olympic and Paralympic values by studying the history of the events, in particular the meaning of each ring and how these rings represent the legacy that the Olympic games has worldwide.

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Home Learning – Year 8 Autumn Term



| SUBJECT | HOME LEARNING TIME (12 weeks) | HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES | WHERE TO COMPLETE e.g. home learning books, google classroom, subject home learning books | HOW IT WILL BE MARKED |
|----------------|---|--|---|---|
| English | 1 hour per fortnight | Project based on the text we are studying | On paper, to be stuck in their exercise books | Acknowledged each fortnight and a comment at the end of the project (every half term) |
| Maths | 30 mins per week | Activities based on knowledge they have learned over the last week and term. | Primarily online resources set through ClassCharts. | Self-marking online and feedback into classroom planning by the teacher. |
| Science | 30 mins per week | 2 x research projects, (1 per half term), 1st half term - Forces 2nd half term - Energy | Completed on paper, instructions on google classroom and class charts of what to complete each week | Through the homework being handed in, praise points awarded |
| Geography | 20 minutes per fortnight (set on Week B due on Week B) | Retrieval activities based on the knowledge organiser. Revision will be set before mid and end of cycle assessments. | Complete in-home learning book - will be set on ClassCharts. | Through 5-a-day, visual checks and questioning. |
| History | 20 minutes per fortnight (set on Week A due on next Week A) | Research activities, spellings and definitions from the knowledge organiser. | Home learning booklet. | Homework used in assessed work in MCA/EOC or checked by teacher. |

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|------------------|--|---|---|--|
| French | 15 mins per week | Vocabulary learning - a test will be set every week in lessons Cultural research | Complete in-home learning book - will be set on ClassCharts. | Students will have a vocabulary test each week which will be marked |
| Computer Science | To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments | Revision of key terminology | Complete in-home learning book - will be set on ClassCharts | Staff will check the home learning book. |
| Ethics | To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments | Learning key terms and key facts. | Revision materials and instructions on whole year Google Classroom including Knowledge Organiser. Evidence of revision in HL books. Will be announced on ClassCharts. | Self-marking Google quizzes and checking HL book for evidence of revision. |
| Drama | Twice per 12-week cycle | To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments | Complete on Google classroom, work will be set on ClassCharts | Teacher assessment, self-marking wordwall quizzes, google quizzes |
| Music | Twice per 12-week cycle | To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments | Complete on Google classroom, work will be set on ClassCharts | Teacher assessment, self-marking wordwall quizzes, google quizzes |
| Art | 3 per cycle - to fit in with 2 week timetable. | Key words, images, research and practical tasks. | Combination of home learning books, bringing in images and on paper depending on the home learning task. | Checked and stamped by the class teacher. |
| PE | Twice per 12 week cycle | To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments | Using revision material from cycle focus and KOs to prepare for assessments. This will be set on Google Classrooms and ClassCharts | Teacher assessment through assessment achievements |