



PAIGNTON ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve

Happy New Year and welcome back.

The year group settled in well last term and need to continue with the same enthusiasm and motivation.

The 'Attitude to Learning' scores in their reports were impressive and it was extremely pleasing to award so many certificates in the final assembly.

This term students will continue to develop their knowledge and skills across all curriculum areas. Homework is being set regularly by the teachers so please contact the Academy if you need to reactivate or install the ClassCharts application to see what is being set. Parents' Evening will be just after half term. Please make every effort to attend Parents' Evening and take advantage of the extra help and guidance on offer from staff to provide a strong platform from which to achieve the best for the students.

Mr Willcocks
Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

| 2023 | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 3 January | Start of term |
| 8 February | Year 8 Aspire Evening |
| 13-17 February | Half Term |
| 23 February | Year 8 Parents' Evening |
| 20-24 March | Academy Musical |
| 29 March | Data Drop 2 sent home |
| 31 March | Last day of Spring term |
| 17 April | First day of Summer term |

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM 2023

YEAR

8

ENGLISH

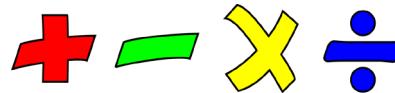
Year 8 will have eight lessons a fortnight where they will complete three different learning activities in this time.

As part of the *Literary Heritage* unit, we move on to look at *The Tempest* written by **William Shakespeare**. As a development from their study of a small section of a play in Year 7, students will now cover a larger part of a play text and explore in more detail contextual ideas within the play whilst ensuring they understand the construction of the plot and characters.

To develop core writing skills, Year 8 will continue with **Mastery Writing** and move into Module 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

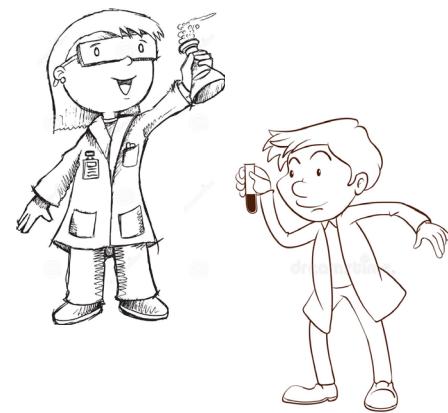
This Spring term students will learn a variety of topics including **decimals, ratio, angles, fractions, straight line graphs and probability**. This is the final year before students begin their GCSE course in Years 9, 10 and 11. Students will be more fluent at using their scientific calculators and there will be a greater emphasis on problem solving. Year 8 will be assessed at the end of every topic. These results will build a personal student profile which can help to identify areas for development and strength. This can then result in additional and personal intervention to help close the gap in students' knowledge.

Home Learning will be set via Sparx. Set Monday and due the following Monday. This is an incredibly useful and powerful maths package. It sets work and adjusts to the student's level then sends feedback to the teacher. We do expect 100% completion and run help sessions at lunchtime to support students.

SCIENCE

Students will continue to work through the newly designed "Activate 2" course which covers the core principles to prepare students for their GCSE course. This term will cover **biology** including the topics: **health and nutrition, respiration, photosynthesis, evolution** and the principles of **genetics**. This scheme of work is designed to specifically focus on those topics which form the GCSE curriculum. In addition, we will prepare students with scientific techniques throughout investigative work such as rates of respiration and photosynthesis, to see how real-life scientists can measure this accurately. These core investigative skills will help prepare students for the critical thinking skills needed at GCSE level.

You can help your child to think scientifically about our genes, DNA and how characteristics are inherited!



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.

HISTORY

After seeing the struggles of religion and monarchy through the Stuarts, students in Year 8 will begin the fascinating journey into the **Victorian Age**. Understanding the changes in living conditions in society, as the population begins to move from towns into cities. We will experience the introduction of machines and factories and their impact on the economy of Britain. Killer diseases loom around every corner for the everyday Brit in England. We will look at various case studies of crime and punishment during this time period, the introduction of the Metropolitan Police Force and the famous murderer Jack the Ripper!



ETHICS

Year 8 will be looking at several modules which aim to develop students' thinking skills and ability to express their own opinion and the opinion of others. The modules we will be examining are **human rights** and **animal rights**. This is an opportunity for students to explore some fundamental world issues and solutions. They will also look at legislation regarding animal welfare alongside ethical debates on the treatment of animals by humans. There is a big focus on developing subject literacy within this unit and students will be encouraged to complete several key word and definition tests during these studies. In addition, students will be given assessments at the end of each term.



GEOGRAPHY

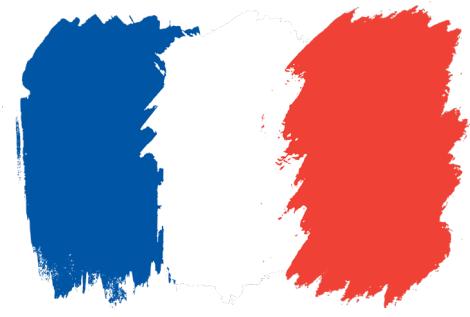
During this term students will study the ever-changing urban environment. Urban areas are growing rapidly and there are now more people living in towns and cities than are not. Students will be looking at the factors that are causing populations to migrate from rural to urban areas around the world, and the range of opportunities and challenges faced as a result of this movement. Students will study global and national urban environments taking into account the wealth of the country and the national changes of regeneration and sustainability. Students will enjoy developing their locational knowledge and studying how people live in other parts of the world, from the UK to Japan to India, and express their creativity by building a slum out of limited resources.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

NUMBER SYSTEMS

Within this unit of study students will learn about the computer units of measurement, ranging from a bit of data, to modern storage capacities that we see like megabytes, gigabytes and terabytes and beyond, and look at how we move from one unit to another. Students will look at how a computer stores and understands data in binary form, looking at how we convert human numbers, in denary, to these binary numbers and vice versa. Linking to computer storage units, students will look at computer memory - RAM and ROM - and its features alongside different types of storage. Within this, we will investigate the features of storage media, such as optical devices - CDs and DVDs, magnetic hard drives and modern solid-state storage - like SD cards and memory sticks, identifying the advantages and disadvantages of each before being able to recommend a device for a given scenario.



FRENCH

In Year 8 in the Spring term we continue working from Studio 1 on the topics of where we live, food & drink and carnival. We also continue to learn the future tense, as well as explained opinions which are key skills at GCSE. We have the French 'crêpes' experience at the end of the Spring term for Year 8 students. 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 need 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 **Come Fly with Me**. They will be researching a variety of artists who have explored the theme from a contemporary angle. Students will develop observational drawings, experiment with materials and techniques and then make a 3D clay hybrid bug. They will explore both 2D and 3D materials, techniques and processes. The project will focus on the formal elements of 3D, line, shape, form and structure which will enable students to understand how to embed these 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 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.

PE

The Spring term brings a new practical focus for **Year 8 boys** who will be following the same curriculum plan as their Year 7 peers by completing a unit of work on **Table Tennis**, however their focus will revolve around developing their skill levels and understanding of the advanced skills within the sport. Year 8 boys will also be continuing to learn about the advanced skills of **Football** within their second lesson of the week to extend upon the core skills they covered in their Year 7 programme of study. Similar to the boys, the **Year 8 girls** will also follow the same plan as their Year 7 peers by moving on to new focus areas of **Health-Related Fitness** where they will develop their knowledge of the key Skill related components of fitness and how to be physically active. They will also learn about the advanced skills of **Basketball** in order to extend upon last year's learning which revolved around the core skills of basketball performance.

MUSIC

MINIMALISM

Year 8 will learn about the development and conventions of **minimalist music**. Beginning with Steve Reich's "Clapping Music", students analyse how minimalist composers use small rhythmic motifs to build up a bigger piece and learn about "phase shift". They apply their understanding by performing their own version of "Clapping Music", reading their own part from rhythm notation and composing their own rhythmic minimalist piece using features of "Clapping Music" using rhythm grid notation to record their polyrhythmic piece.

Students move on from rhythmic motifs to learn about melodic motifs and their use by minimalist composers such as Mike Oldfield and his minimalist piece "Tubular Bells". Students will perform different parts to "Tubular Bells" creating a group arrangement using "phase in" and "phase out" techniques developing an awareness of how parts dropping out and coming back in are key features of minimalist music.

To end the unit, students briefly explore how minimalist music has influenced contemporary club dance and electronic music and hip-hop, briefly looking at the similarities between minimalism and looped-based dance music or hip-hop.

Students will use their knowledge, skills and understanding of minimalism to compose their own piece of minimalist music based on melodic motifs and minimalist compositional techniques.

Students evaluate their work and reflect upon their own and other's (partners) roles within their compositions and performances to discover ways in which their own minimalist piece could be improved.



PSHE

Year 8 will begin the term by studying how to maintain **healthy relationships**. There is a particular focus on online relationships and how to keep safe and be aware of dangers. We will be looking at the subject of consent and appropriate contact.

The second half of the term starts by studying **healthy lifestyles** and the importance of sleep, exercise and healthy eating. The end of the term sees Year 8 taking part in careers lessons. These will focus on what subjects are important for future careers and how earning money can influence their futures. All lessons include an opening activity that focuses on something that is happening in the world or that is currently in the news.

DRAMA

Students will be studying **Physical Theatre** and **Shakespeare – 'Romeo & Juliet'**.

Core skills include developing skills in Physical Theatre in the first half of the term and focusing on the work and techniques of Frantic Assembly using movement to devise original pieces of theatre. The second half of the Spring term will explore gangs, rivals and discrimination through Romeo & Juliet. Explorations of ensemble movement and Shakespeare's language will be a key focus. Stage fighting techniques, character work and interpretation of a role will be developed through this cycle.

Written work is an integral part of the drama course and students will be expected to keep a drama logbook 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 at Borough Road on a Thursday from 3.15pm - 4.15pm and this is open to students from both sites. The Academy musical 'Peter Pan' will be taking place from the 20th - 24th March 2023 in the Arena at Borough Road. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of February on the Academy Shop.

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.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Borough Road Centre

T: 01803 403003

E: brdadmin@paigntonacademy.org

Waterleat Road Centre

T: 01803 403005

E: wrdadmin@paigntonacademy.org

www.paigntonacademy.org



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. |

| | | | | |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 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 |