



PAIGNTON ACADEMY
Believe and Achieve



Welcome back to Paignton Academy for what we are sure will be a successful and enriching year for your child.

We hope they have settled back into Academy life and are becoming familiar with their new timetable. We are pleased to introduce our vast and varying extra-curricular activities clubs that are available at lunchtimes and after school. Encourage your child to become involved in as many as possible, to build confidence and make new friendships across the year group and also across the sites. It would be useful to familiarise yourself with the ClassCharts system to allow you to keep up to date with your child's school day, checking for Home Learning and rewards points.

IMPORTANT DATES

2023	
3 October	Open Morning (WRC)
5 October	Open Evening (BRC)
6 October	Jay's Aim Defib Training - WRC
13 October	Jay's Aim Defib Training - BRC
20 October	Non-Pupil Day
23-27 October	Half Term
13 December	Christmas Concert
15 December	HPV Vaccinations
15 December	Last day of term
2024	
3 January 2024	First day of term

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2023

**YEAR
8**

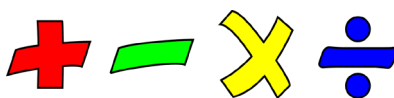
ENGLISH

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 stories. 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 changing from September. The English department are introducing 'Sparx reader' for Key Stage 3 and will be expecting students to complete at least 30 minutes of reading each week.



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 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, magnetism and waves, 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 (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.



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.



HOME LEARNING

Students will have a Knowledge Organiser and a Home Learning exercise book (if they need one) 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.



HARDWARE

SOFTWARE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

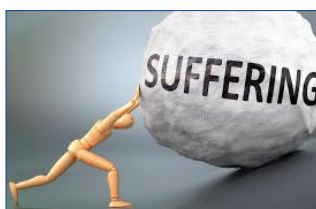
Year 8 will be working on their digital literacy and IT skills alongside developing their understanding of key theoretical terminology.

Students will gain an insight into the inside workings of a computer, looking at the different hardware components, such as the CPU, RAM, ROM and storage options available as well as magnetic, solid state and optical devices. They will look at the purpose of the different computer hardware components and the features and uses of the different storage media. Alongside this students will look at the types of software, including different utility software as well as encryption software, compression and defragmentation software and why these help to maintain a computer system. In addition, students will look at the role of the operating system and how it helps to run the computer systems that we use.

Students will then move towards developing their digital literacy skills using different applications to create artefacts involving image editing, audio creating and publishing skills. These artefacts will be created to meet a given client brief and target audience. Students will complete this communicating and presenting their digital artefacts through email.

ETHICS

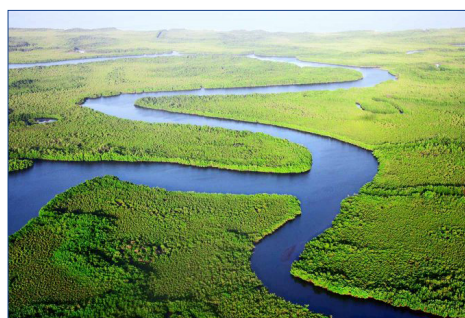
Students in Year 8 will be adding to their ethical knowledge from Year 7 through the exploration of evil and suffering in the world, with a focus on the philosophical dilemma "can God exist and evil?". Further to this, students will explore how the UK deals with suffering and evil through court systems, 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

Are we drinking the same water that dinosaurs drank? Studying the water cycle and how water moves on our land will help us to answer this question! Students will study UK rivers to understand how rivers have shaped our landscape. They will be able to identify features of a drainage basin, a river profile, landforms found from source to mouth before looking at the causes, effects and responses to a UK flood using a recent example. Students will learn and develop key skills such as using, interpreting and completing diagrams, aerial photographs and map skills. We will look at the causes, effects and responses to a UK flood using a recent example.

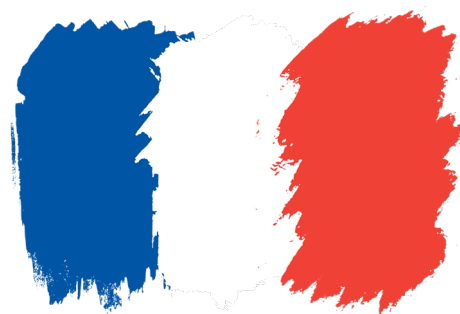
Home learning will be based upon Knowledge Organisers with opportunities for further independent research. Students' progress will be assessed with recap questions in lessons as well as a mid and end of topic assessment.



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 well-being. Lessons will be based around how to manage our emotions and learning coping strategies. We will be learning about unhealthy coping strategies as well; including eating disorders.

During 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. Vaping lessons will focus on the law, the dangers we are aware of and how vaping is supposed to be for people trying to quit smoking. 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.



FRENCH

In Year 8 we focus on the students' ability to use both the future tense and the past tense. We look at these two tenses through the themes of free-time, sports, social media and special occasions throughout the year such as Christmas and Easter. As we go through the term, the students will practise all four skill sets of listening, reading, speaking and writing, but their end of cycle assessment will ask them to write about what they did last Christmas and what they are hoping to do this year.



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 Class Charts 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 *Sweet and Sour*. Students will be researching artists such as Sarah Graham, Lisa Milroy and Joël Penkman. They will develop observational drawings exploring blending and tone, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making an outcome that relates to the theme. Students will have the opportunity to work with 2D materials. The projects will focus on the formal elements colour, tone and composition as well as the key words; photo-realistic, colour and tone which will enable students to understand how to embed 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 developing drawing and recording skills with an emphasis on colour theory using both retrieval and flipped knowledge and revision strategies using flashcards and self quizzing. 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 as well as utilise the specialist equipment and support to complete home learning. It would be beneficial for students to have basic art equipment at home to help complete home learning and encourage independent exploration.

FOOD PREPARATION

Throughout this term students will be given the opportunity to explore a wide range of ingredients and food as well as be introduced to a range of practical skills, methods of cooking, healthy eating, food provenance and the function of ingredients. They will learn how to apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating and will be introduced to the 'Eatwell' guide, food and its nutritional value and health and safety in preparing and making food.

Students will learn the importance of hygiene and the potential hazards when working in the technical area by preparing and cooking a variety of dishes incorporating theoretical understanding and knowledge.

Students will learn how to design and make a fresh fruit salad and a pasta salad as well as experiment making different flavoured scones.

MUSIC

What are the key features to consider when learning piano?

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 the opportunity to take up music lessons offered by our specialist peripatetic teachers in guitar, piano, drums, singing, saxophone, clarinet and flute.



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 3 weeks . 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

Practical Development

Over the course of the Autumn term, students will work through four different activities in which they will be challenged to develop their practical competencies and cognitive understanding. Initially, boys' groups will progress through a block of work of rugby with emphasis on building upon last year's knowledge by exploring more advanced skills, and will complement this by working through a block of Outdoor Education to further enhance their key communication and organisation skills. Girls' groups will begin by studying a unit of work of netball and will focus on developing their skill sets further by exploring more challenging content, and this study will run alongside a focus on gymnastics where students will aim to develop the aesthetic side of their repertoire. Our Year 8 boys will continue with rugby before moving on to football for the second half of the Autumn term, and these lessons will intertwine with a study of gymnastics where they will also look to develop their creativity in an aesthetic environment. After the October half term, the girls' groups will progress to dance while also carrying on their development of netball before moving on to Badminton with the focus on hand/eye coordination development.

As per our Year 7 cohort, the PE team will also place greater emphasis on encouraging our Year 8 pupils to attend our extra curricular provision in an attempt to allow students to continue to develop their physical literacy in more competitive scenarios.



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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	Flipped learning at start of term Sparx Reader every week	Online	Online - percentage of accuracy given
Maths	30 mins per week	Activities based on knowledge they have learned over the last week and term.	Online resources set through Sparx.	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. Flipped learning in the form of independent research. Revision will be set before mid and end of cycle assessments.	Complete in home learning book - will be set on Class Charts.	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 & 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 Class Charts.	Students will have a vocabulary test each week which will be marked
Computer Science	To prepare for assessments	Revision of key terminology	Complete in home learning book - will be set on Class Charts	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 or made resources such as mind maps. Will be announced on Classcharts.	Self marking Google quizzes and checking HL book for evidence of revision.
Drama	3 times per cycle	To prepare for mid and end cycle assessments and activities based on the key knowledge they have learn in the previous lessons	Complete on Google classroom/wordwall , work will be set on Class Charts* google classroom	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 Class Charts	Teacher assessment, self marking wordwall quizzes, google quizzes
Art	1 hour per home learning, 3 hours total a term.	Home learning will consist of practical tasks focusing on retrieval and flipped knowledge linked to the project theme. Revision strategies will be included in home learning to support assessments.	To be completed on paper and work will be added to students' portfolios.	Home learning will be collected on the deadline by the class teacher, stamped and praise points awarded.
Food	15 mins per week	Food - Key words, Questioning around the KO and revision.	Food - Home learning books / Google document	Checked,marked and dated by the class teacher.