



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 pupils 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 pupils.

Mr Willcocks
Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

2024	
12th - 16th February	Half Term
22nd February	Y8 Parents' Evening
20th, 21st, 22nd March	Academy Show
27th March	Y8 HPV Vaccinations
28th March	Last day of term
15th April	First day of term

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM 2024

YEAR 8

ENGLISH

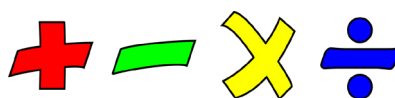
Year 8 will have eight lessons a fortnight where they will complete three different learning activities in this time.

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, pupils 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 B.



MATHS

This Spring term pupils will learn a variety of topics including decimals, ratio, angles, fractions, straight line graphs and probability. This is the final year before pupils begin their GCSE course in Years 9, 10 and 11. They will be more fluent at using their scientific calculators and there will be a greater emphasis on problem solving.

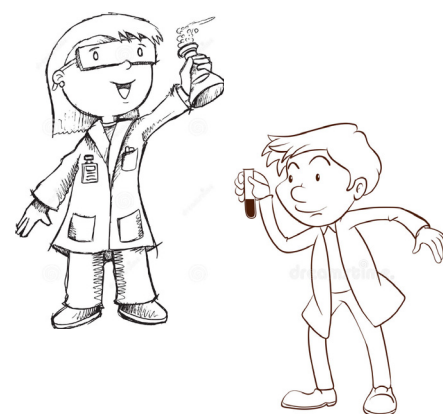
Year 8 will be assessed at the end of every topic. These results will build a personal pupil profile which can help to identify areas for development and strength. This can then result in additional and personal intervention to help close the gap in pupils' knowledge.

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

SCIENCE

Pupils will continue to work through the newly designed course which covers the core principles to prepare them for their GCSE course. This term we will cover chemistry including the following topics: chemical reactions, pH, acids and alkalis, reactions of metals, metal displacement, combustion, thermal decomposition, endo and exothermic reactions, conservation of mass and bonding, bond energies, the earth's climate and recycling.

This scheme of work is designed to specifically focus on those topics which form the GCSE curriculum. In addition, we will continue to prepare pupils with scientific techniques via investigative work such as extracting metals and investigating climate change; this will show the pupils how real-life scientists can achieve this. These core investigative skills will help pupils develop critical thinking skills needed at a GCSE level.



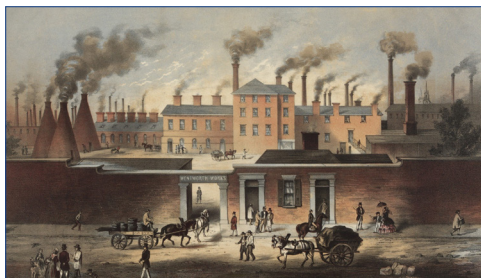
HOME LEARNING

(See last 2 pages at end of newsletter)

Pupils 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 pupils. There is a Home Learning Breakfast Club from 8am each morning to support pupils.

HISTORY

After seeing the struggles of religion and monarchy through the Stuarts, pupils 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

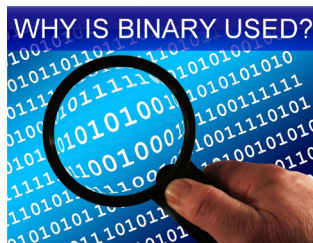
Year 8 will be looking at several modules which aim to develop pupils' thinking skills and ability to express their own opinion and the opinion of others. The modules we will be examining are Human Rights and Animal Rights. This is an opportunity for pupils to explore some fundamental world issues and 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 pupils will be encouraged to complete several key word and definition tests during these studies. In addition pupils will be given assessments at the end of each term.



GEOGRAPHY

During this term pupils will study the ever changing urban environment. Urban areas are growing rapidly and there are now more people living in towns and cities than in rural areas. Pupils 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. Pupils will recall previously learned knowledge (for example map skills) whilst developing their location knowledge and studying how people live in other parts of the world. The lessons centred around urban areas in low income countries help our pupils recognise that there are many different levels of challenge around the world and help them to become more understanding of global issues.

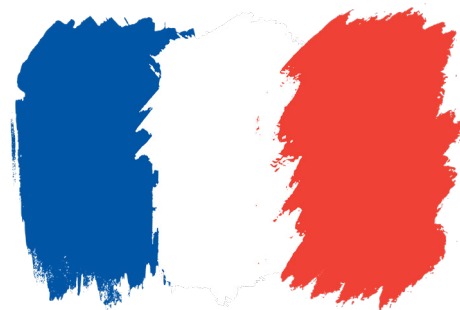
They will develop their team work and debating skills whilst looking at their local urban area and the regeneration taking place in Torbay. Our Geographers will identify how urban areas around the world are acknowledging the changing climate and how they are adapting to become more sustainable environments.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

PYTHON - SELECTION AND ITERATION

Pupils will take the Python Turtle skills developed in Year 7, moving to text-based Python, learning the programming constructs selection and iteration. These are key GCSE concepts and pupils will learn to create code using selection within coding using *if* and *else* statements and also the ability to repeat code through the use of iteration. Pupils will learn these practical skills through activities such as creating a quiz, where outcomes are determined by the user input. Finally pupils will put all of these skills together, developing their problem solving ability, to decompose problems and identify the skills needed to solve programming challenges. Alongside this pupils will continue to develop their understanding of programming theory concepts, such as the use of variables and constants, data types and different types of operators.



FRENCH

This term, the pupils are talking about what they do during various celebrations throughout the year. They shall talk about when their family and friends have their birthdays and then go on to talk about what people do in preparation for people's birthdays and other special occasions.

To support them with this, the pupils shall have their Knowledge Organiser online, from which they will need to complete a weekly homework. There will be a vocab check once per week to check their understanding and progress.

Excitingly for Year 8, this term also overlaps with the French Pancake Day (La Chandeleur) and to celebrate this, there will be a lesson this term where the pupils get to enjoy a traditional French crepe!

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. Pupils 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 pupils will be exploring the theme ***Come Fly with Me*** through 'purposeful play' and 'happy accidents' with 3D techniques. Pupils will be researching artists such as; Antony Gormley and Louise Bourgeois. They will develop observational drawings exploring shape and form, experimenting with materials and techniques and then making an outcome that relates to the theme. Pupils will have the opportunity to work with 3D materials. The project will focus on the formal elements of shape, form and scale as well as the key words *hybrid*, *sculpture* and *form* which will enable them to understand how to embed fundamental skills and techniques.

During the project 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 pupils to progress. Home learning consists of developing drawing and recording skills using both retrieval and flipped knowledge and revision strategies using brain dumps and self quizzing. KS3 Art Club gives pupils 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 pupils to have basic art equipment at home to help complete home learning and encourage independent exploration.



PSHE

Year 8 will start the term focusing on the core theme *Living in the Wider world*. They will have careers lessons thinking about future jobs, different ways of working and the costs involved in working. We will then focus on staying safe in the online world, thinking about how the media impacts our self-image and how we can stay safe from potential dangers online.

The second half of the term sees our pupils study a relationship topic based around understanding ourselves in comparison to others. We will have lessons on gender prejudice, sexuality, consent and what is and isn't appropriate to send online.

MUSIC

Pupils will learn about the development and conventions of minimalist music. Beginning with Steve Reich's "Clapping Music", pupils 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" and using rhythm grid notation to record their poly-rhythmic piece.

Pupils move on from rhythmic motifs to learn about melodic motifs and their use by minimalist composers such as Mike Oldfield. Pupils 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, pupils briefly explore how minimalist music has influenced contemporary club dance, EDM and hip-hop, briefly looking at the similarities between minimalism and looped-based music.

After half term, pupils explore the sounds of Indian music and core elements: raga, drone, tala. They will learn to distinguish the influence of Indian music on Western music: Bhangra, Talvin Singh, Nitin Sawney and the Beatles. They will compose their own melodic 'ragas' and rhythmic 'talas', improvise melodically on a raga and rhythmically on a tala. Through practical exploration, pupils will develop their understanding of musical structure and form and learn to compose using Indian scales with improvisation deepening their familiarity of western notation.



DRAMA

Pupils 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, interpretation of a role, will be developed through this topic.

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

Pupils will receive one hour a week for lessons throughout the year and homework is set once every three weeks.

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

The Academy musical 'Matilda Jr' will be taking place from the 20th -22nd March 2024 in The Arena at Borough Road. **Tickets will go on sale on Monday 8th January 2024** on the Academy Online shop.

PUPILS 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

Health Development - Over the course of the Spring term, we will be challenging our Year 8 pupils to explore "What does health mean to me?", with emphasis on developing their understanding of how the physical activities they are studying (and sport in general) can have an impact on their physical and mental well-being. A similar approach will also be taken to their Year 7 counterparts, as pupils will be challenged to continue to develop their motor competency within sports like football and basketball, as well as developing knowledge of the rules, tactics and strategies that performers need to develop to be successful in table tennis. Additionally, pupils will also progress to *Health-Related Fitness* where they will focus on learning about the heart and its functions and what healthy participation looks like, while also carrying on their development of problem solving within their outdoor education sequence of learning.

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 pupils to continue to develop their physical literacy in more competitive scenarios, and enhance their love of learning for these and develop ambition which are our PE core values focus for this term.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Home Learning – Year 8 Spring 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	30 mins per week	Sparx Reader - students will read for at least 30 minutes per week Research task linked to SOW set at the beginning of the term	Sparx Website	Students must accrue a certain number of points per week
Maths	30 mins per week	Retrieval: Pupils will recall work completed that week, plus other work in the year in consolidations tasks Flipped learning: Pupils will build on, extend work currently completed. This will feed into 'insights' given back to the teacher to feed into starter tasks	Sparx website	On the website
Science	30 mins per week	2 x research projects, (1 per half term), 1st half term - cells 2nd half term - Photosynthesis	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 on paper - will be set on Class Charts.	Through 5 a day, visual checks and questioning.
History	20/30 Minutes per fortnight (Set on Week A due on Week A)	Research tasks to find out about events happening during the same time period but elsewhere in the world. Retrieval to make connections to in class work.	Complete on paper / HW booklet. Template posted on Class Charts.	Homework handed in, checked & praise points awarded.
French	20 minutes per week	Vocab learning based on a particular section of their Knowledge Organiser	Knowledge of learned vocab assessed in class	Corrected in class and PP added during the week

Computer Science	20/30 Minutes per fortnight (Set on Week A due on Week A)	Retrieval practice to define key terminology and showcasing understanding of key programming skills.	Completed on Google classroom or on paper.	Homework handed in, checked & praise points awarded.
Ethics	30 minutes per half term.	Retrieval - pupils will recap Autumn term concepts and key terms. Flipped learning - looking at future topics and key content to be delivered in future lessons using Cornell Notes - with an information source.	Printed worksheet	Marked by teacher and praise points added
Drama	Drama	Every 3 weeks Retrieval: Students to complete activities based topics they have already learnt. Flipped Learning: Students to research new information for the next lessons and watch video examples	To be completed via Word Wall , google forms & Google Classroom	Self marking via google forms or word wall. Praise points awarded
Music	30 mins per 6 weeks (2x 15 mins per 6 weeks)	Music home learning will consist of listening, appraisal tasks, retrieval and flipped learning linked to the different topics studied that term.	Set on ClassCharts, completed on Google Forms	Marked on Google Forms
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 Tech/H&C	30 mins per Half term	Retrieval Activities fortnightly to include: key words quiz and some research into new topics (flipped knowledge)	Set on ClassCharts/Homework book	Homework to be collected and marked by the teacher. Praise points given.