



Year 8 Curriculum - Spring Term

In order to support your child with their studies, we have put together a brief summary of the topics/themes which they will be studying this term in Year 8.

How could I use this to support my child?

- Start a conversation about one of the topics and see what they know
- If you have time, and it is possible, visit somewhere relating to the topic
- Choose a book which has similar themes or topics which your child could read.

English



Students will explore the theme of Justice and Injustice through:

- Studying Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'
- Discussing debates on modern justice methods
- Exploring themes such as antisemitism and discrimination

Extending Learning : Review and discuss modern case studies of justice in the UK and abroad

Mathematics



Students will be studying the following topics in their maths lessons this term:

- **Brackets and Equations**
- **Indices**
- **Standard form**
- **Fractions and Percentages**

Extending Learning : Encourage regular practice using mental maths or real-life problems

Science



Students will investigate key scientific ideas through practical work and discussion.

- Fluids
- Gas exchange and diffusion
- Intro to bonding and structure
- Thermal physics
- Enzymes and digestion

Extending Learning : Practice recalling your powerful knowledge using your homework booklet

Geography



Students will explore how the world's population has changed throughout time.

- Population changes and causes of these changes.
- How has China's population changed and the impacts these changes have had.

Students will then move on to study the impact of plate tectonics.

- Plate tectonic theories.
- The causes and impacts of earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis.

Extended Learning: Keep updated with the news and any recent tectonic events.

History



Students will examine the key themes of change and attitude in English society. They will focus on

- **The Industrial Revolution**
- **The British Empire**

Students will develop knowledge of urbanisation and industrialisation within England, as well as looking at working and living conditions, civic rights, and historical interpretations.

Students will look at the Scramble for Africa, India, and Australia under colonisation and the British Empire's impact.

Extended Learning: Research colonial impact has been made by the British Empire

Art



As part of your carousel of subjects (Art, DT, Food and Textiles) you will spend between 18-20 lessons learning about Surrealism.

- what is it?
- what does the Artwork look like?
- what inspired them?

Students will use their knowledge of Surrealism and their own imagination to design and create a 'Surreal Eye' painting.

During this year you will work to secure and master some of the skills you explored in Y7.

Extended learning: learn how to draw accurate facial features:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ueWr2EseM0>

Sport



In Sport, students will rotate between different sports during the course of the year. During term 2, students will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the following: Group 1: Cricket, netball and rugby. Group 2: Athletics (endurance training), basketball and table tennis. Group 3: Ultimate frisbee, fitness and volleyball. **Extending Learning:** Develop your understanding of the rules for each sport.

French



Students will continue to develop confidence & accuracy in core language skills.

- **Vocabulary:** talk about family members, pets, and describing people
- **Phonics:** ch, silent final letters
- **Grammar:** revision of *avoir* and *être*; adjective agreement

Extending Learning : use Languages online [languages online](#) to practise topics further.

Spanish



Students will continue to develop confidence & accuracy in core language skills.

- **Vocabulary:** talk about family members, pets, and describing people
- **Phonics:** ay, cua, z, j
- **Grammar:** revision of *ser* and *tener*; adjective agreement

Extending Learning : use Languages online [languages online](#) to practise topics further.

Computing



Students will develop programming skills and an understanding of how data can be kept secure.

- Learning the basics of programming, including variables, input and output, and simple conditional statements.

Extending Learning: Encourage independent exploration through beginner Python coding challenges.

Music



In the Spring term the focus in Music moves to the study of piano/keyboards.

This module expands on knowledge learnt in Year 7 and works to develop not only basic piano skills but reading musical notation.

Drama



Students will learn how to interpret scripts through character analysis and rehearsal, making informed vocal and physical choices to communicate the playwright's intentions.

Extended Learning: Read a short scene from a play and make notes on what you learn about one character from their dialogue, actions, and interactions with others.

Food and Nutrition



Students will learn developed cooking skills with a focus on dietary needs and choices and adapting recipes.

- Preparing dishes, including:
 - Soup
 - Bolognese
 - Bread Rolls
 - Shortbread

Extending Learning : Encourage your child to practise the skills and recipes they have learnt in school

Design Technology



Students will continue to develop confidence & accuracy in making through the animal shelter project

- Students will tailor their designs to suit a specific setting
- Develop sketching and rendering skills to enhance design drawings

Extending Learning : Talk about design choices in everyday objects.

Textiles



The Pencil Case project builds on the skills and understanding gained in year 7, focusing on how to translate design ideas into made objects.

- Students will explore block printing to create a repeat pattern.
- Learn how to safely use the sewing machine
- Design for a client

Extending Learning : Practise simple stitching at home or look at textile products together.

Personal Development Time



Students will explore the following themes during PDT lessons this term:

- Mental health
- Self-esteem
- Overcoming conflict
- Healthy lifestyles