



Curriculum Overview
Year 8A & 8M Spring Term
 January - March, 2025

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)/Relationship and Sex Education	Computing
<p>Term begins: Tuesday 7th January</p> <p>Open Morning - Friday 31st January</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 14th February (16.10)</p> <p>Half-term ends: Sunday 23rd February.</p> <p>RSE Parent webinar: Monday 24th February (18:30)</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 6th March</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 28th March (12.00).</p>	<p>The first unit will explore the theme of body image and self-esteem, considering the influence of the media.</p> <p>The pupils will study different types of relationships, covering issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, gender and how to negotiate social media effectively.</p> <p>During the second half of the term the pupils will develop their study skills; learning and practising different revision techniques.</p>	<p>Developing for the Web: Pupils will explore the technologies that make up the internet and World Wide Web. Starting with an exploration of the building blocks of the World Wide Web, HTML, and CSS, pupils will investigate how websites are catalogued and organised for effective retrieval using search engines. By the end of the unit, they will have created a functioning website.</p> <p>Representations: Pupils will be introduced to binary representations. The activities introduce pupils to binary digits and how they can be used to represent text and numbers. The concepts are linked to practical applications and problems that the pupils are familiar with.</p>
English	Mathematics	Science
<p>This term the pupils in Year 8 will study the following topics:</p> <p>Reading: Pupils will finish reading ‘Of Mice and Men’ by John Steinbeck paying particular attention to the use of characterisation in the text. They will then study Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream’ using this text to study various themes as well as the language and devices used by Shakespeare in his plays.</p> <p>Writing: Pupils will continue to learn the skills of critically analysing the texts that they read. They will also be given the opportunity to write creatively.</p> <p>Assessment: The pupils will be given opportunities to attempt a number of short writing tasks to build up their creative skills under timed conditions.</p> <p>Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG): The pupils will continue to review key elements of SPaG during their feedback sessions as well as through discrete sessions.</p> <p>Speaking & listening: All pupils will be asked to prepare and perform one of Shakespeare’s sonnets to a small or larger audience. They will be given the chance to recite and even act out scenes from Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer’s Night’s Dream’. They will be given targeted practice to help them prepare for their scholarship interviews.</p>	<p>This term, pupils will cover the following topics:</p> <p>Statistics: Pupils will calculate and investigate finding probabilities of discrete events and of two sequential events. They will compare theoretical and experimental probabilities.</p> <p>Measurement: Pupils will convert between units of measurement, then investigate the relationship between speed, distance and time, rearranging formulae to calculate an unknown quantity.</p> <p>Algebra: Pupils will balance and solve equations, including those involving brackets and fractions. They will apply knowledge of common factors to help simplify expressions involving division or fractions.</p> <p>Shape, Space and Measurement: Pupils will explore Pythagoras’ Theorem. They will recap the rotation, reflection and translation of shapes. They will learn to enlarge shapes with scale factors greater than and less than one.</p>	<p>Acids and alkalis: Pupils will finish their learning about this chemistry topic and review some content from Year 7 which will be included in the AP+ exam.</p> <p>Light and Sound: They will learn about these two types of waves, consider how they travel and their different speeds.</p> <p>Energy: Then they will look at the types of energy and how they can be transferred from one type to another. They will consider the different types of energy resources, renewable and non-renewable and how these can be used to generate electricity.</p> <p>This will be followed by a review of the electricity and magnetism topic with some additional electricity content then moments, pressure and speed.</p> <p>After this they will revise a number of chemistry and biology topics that will be included in the AP+ exam.</p>
Geography	History	Religious Education (RE)

<p>This term the pupils will start a new unit on contemporary conflicts and associated challenges. They will consider the causes of conflict, different types of conflict and examples of local and regional conflicts around the world. They will also examine the impacts of conflict on the countries and regions involved.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will be investigating, through role play, discussion and reading contemporary sources, the major causes of illness and death in medieval England, and the remedies which were employed to improve survival. The pupils will undertake a detailed study of sources relating to the spread of the Black Death in England. They will then examine the causes of the Peasants' Revolt and consider which of these major 14th Century events was the most significant. Following this pupils will undertake a short study of the Reformation.</p>	<p>Pupils will continue and complete their study of the Buddhist religion, which culminates in a study of its holy books and festivals.</p>
<p>French</p>	<p>Latin</p>	<p>Core Skills</p>
<p>This term pupils will continue to build on the grammar they have learned from last term using the passé composé and the imperfect as well as the future tense. Topics to be studied will include camping restaurants and shopping. These will be tested by asking pupils to translate sentences from English into French and vice versa We will also be preparing dialogues and practising answering and asking questions. These dialogues that will be used in the AP+ speaking exams.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will continue their study of Latin grammar and vocabulary and of Roman civilisation. A particular emphasis this term will be on present participles, neuter nouns, adjective agreement and relative clauses. Pupils will also learn about Roman life and the excavation of the Roman town of Bath.</p>	<p>This term the pupils start by looking at further developing their comprehension skills and in particular looking at the use of figurative language. They pupils will also be studying 'The Tempest', supporting their work in the main English lessons.</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>Design and Technology (DT)</p>	<p>Music</p>
<p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or DT sets for the first half of the year. The Art students will explore Architecture. They will experiment with a variety of media ranging from acrylic painting, collage and clay. The main topics this term will be: Recording from observation: The pupils will complete large observational drawings of architecture looking to international and local established artists for inspiration. Clay: They will complete the architecture project exploring structural embellishments, and create a 3d clay gargoye.</p>	<p>In DT this term Year 8 pupils will be working on 2 separate projects, each focussing on different skills using a variety of materials and processes. Mood lights: Pupils will be using CAD and CAM skills and a variety of wood and plastics to create a LED mood light. Students will be using the laser cutter to engrave images into acrylic and MDF. Bedroom Design: Pupils will be working on their graphic design skills and introduced into various forms of technical drawing, including perspective, isometric and Orthographic projection. Students will use these skills accompanied by CAD skills to create a bedroom design of their dreams!</p>	<p>This term the pupils will study the following topics: New Directions: Pupils will consider the question: 'What is music?' They will learn about experimental techniques of the 20th century. They will develop knowledge and discussion skills around analysing music in context with a particular focus on Aleatoric music and Minimalism, creating their own arrangement of 'Tubular Bells' using specific Minimalist techniques. Drama: The pupils will be learning the songs for the Senior Production. They will also be learning choreography and rehearsing some parts of the play.</p>
<p>Games</p>	<p>Physical Education (PE)</p>	<p>Swimming</p>
<p>This term's major team sport will be football. They will train for and play 11-a-side or 9-a-side games. They will practise the following skills: kicking, passing, dribbling, shooting, throw-ins, free-kicks, penalties, tackling, positional play,tactics, and reading the game. They will have the opportunity to participate in inter-school and house matches. Pupils will follow the ISFA and FA Junior Football Guidelines.</p>	<p>Year 8 pupils will develop their knowledge and skills in the following areas this term: Hockey: They will develop their skills in dribbling, passing and shooting, and taking short corners. Basketball: The pupils will practise their passing in small groups using the pivot. They will improve their shooting and be introduced to the lay-up.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills: Breaststroke: Pupils will further develop their arm action, leg action, breathing and timing of the stroke. Butterfly: They will be taught and given opportunities to develop how they kick, use their arms, start races and improve their turns. Assessment: Pupils will be assessed in their ability to use both strokes.</p>