

Key Stage 3 - YEAR 8 – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH:

In Year 8 students write in a variety of styles using their reading to inform their writing. They learn to develop their analysis of the writing of published writers. Speaking and Listening work is monitored by continuous assessment and there is emphasis throughout the year on the writing of accurate English. The subject is broken up into a variety of modules:

Module	Unit of work	Assessment pieces: recommendations
1	Shakespeare project	Analytical response based on extract: 'Romeo and Juliet' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research; information leaflet produced • Examination of original text • Character analysis • Descriptive writing • Use quotation
2	Poetry	Poetry analysis: Response to an unseen poem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonnet form explored • Use quotation • Creative writing – including from other perspectives Poetry comparison
3	Pre-19 th Century texts: short stories Gothic/murder, mystery, detective genre	Analytical writing response to text(s) studied. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figurative language • Explore beginnings/endings • Genres • Characterisation • setting Write story based on genre studied
4	Novel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and respond to whole text • Analysis of how writer writes effectively • Extract based question on a character • Use of quotation
5	Origins of English	Evolution of English Dialect, slang Influences – cultural and technological
6	Non-fiction writing	Explore different types of non-fiction: report writing, instructions, descriptive non-fiction Produce: examples of different types of non-fiction writing Comparison two non-fiction texts
	Speaking and Listening	Speaking competition: inform audience on subject of choice.

Students plan and draft their work in exercise books. Best pieces are completed in assessment books and kept at school. All Year 8 students are expected to have a personal reading book with them in English lessons.

MATHEMATICS:

Our Mathematics curriculum has been designed to offer challenge and enrichment at an appropriate level to motivate all of our students. Students explore links between different topics and undertake investigations and projects of their own. Students are encouraged to think like a mathematician: creatively and logically. They are encouraged to develop clear communication and fluency of techniques. Students use ICT in lessons to enhance and support their learning experience. If any of our students need extra support, we offer a number of intervention opportunities for them. Our scheme of work in Year 8 builds towards the new GCSE with links to other subject areas of the curriculum. Students are taught in sets upon entry to the school. Movement between sets is determined from the results of termly assessments.

The curriculum broadly covers 4 attainment objectives:

- AO1 Using and Applying Mathematics
- AO2 Number and Algebra
- AO3 Shape, Space and Measures
- AO4 Handling Data/Probability

We use an exciting range of materials provided by a variety of software packages. These enable teachers to introduce topics and consolidate learning using a wide variety of highly visual interactive resources, games and puzzles. Student participation is encouraged at all times.

Details of assessment

- Students sit an examination of two 1-hour papers in the Summer (one non-calculator paper and one calculator paper) which are equally weighted.

Useful revision websites:

www.mymaths.co.uk: We subscribe to the 'Mymaths' website which is being used very effectively to support students' home learning. Students are given individual passwords which allow each student to complete work online which can then be tracked by the class teacher. There is also the facility to use the site as a learning tool, with lessons covering most aspects of the schemes of work.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize/>; A good site for revision of specific topics.

SCIENCE:

Pupils study the following topics:-

- Periodic table
- Elements and compounds
- Ecosystems
- Forces
- Sound
- Light
- The Earth
- Motion & Pressure
- Metals and Acids
- Electricity
- Magnetism

Scientific enquiry plays a big part in teaching and learning in Year 8 science. Students are encouraged to learn through practical investigation, making their own observations, obtaining evidence and analysing results.

COMPUTER SCIENCE:

Students will study the new exciting Computer Science curriculum which includes internet safety, understanding of computer systems, hardware and software, networking and the internet, binary code, machine code, visual and text based computer programming, web design, databases and android app development.

PE:

Students take part in the following activities: athletics, fitness, gymnastics, trampolining, swimming and games.

Students will participate in at least three games activities from basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby and tennis.

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

ART:

Students develop a broad based understanding of the nature of Art and Design. They will work on a variety of areas of study and will use materials like paints, oil pastels, chalk pastels, coloured pencils and clay. The themes that Year 8 students work on are Skulls in Art, Decorative Art and Food in Art. Through these projects students develop skills in drawing from observation, how to experiment with media, research into contextual issues and develop an understanding of artists through history.

DRAMA:

KS3 students have one Drama lesson per fortnight. They are taught in their Form groups. During their lessons, students will develop a range of skills which not only prepare them for further study at GCSE, should they choose this as one of their options, but also develop skills which will benefit them in other subjects. These include concentration, confidence building, learning to work with others, tolerance, problem solving and evaluation. Drama lessons involve games and activities that enhance these skills, as well as opportunities for performance.

Students have the opportunity to develop performances based on Melodrama, look at social issues such as bullying, which ties in with PSHE, and study and implement the features of Greek Theatre. Those who would like to participate more in drama are welcome to join Drama Club which runs once a week during Thursday lunchtime or to participate in the school production.

FRENCH and SPANISH:

All students will study French and Spanish throughout Key Stage 3, for 2 hours a fortnight.

French Topics:-

- Food & drink
- My town
- Lifestyle

German Topics:-

- Where I live
- Freetime

All skills, speaking, listening, reading, and writing will be practised.

Assessment:-

Each unit will be assessed through

- Regular vocabulary tests
- Reading/listening exercises
- Powerpoint presentations
- Oral presentations
- Translation exercises

Resources:-

- Allez 1 (French) Mira 1 (Spanish)
- www.rgshw.com (languages online)
- www.atantot.co.uk
- Kerboodle
- Duolingo

GEOGRAPHY:

In Year 8 we study earthquakes and volcanoes, settlements, population, India, Africa and resources. The desire is to give them a taste of a variety of different topics to inspire and encourage them to independently research.

Key Stage 3 is taught in mixed ability tutor groups. This allows the students to develop their relationships within their groups, and also helps to create a positive working environment, where discussion of geographical topics can flourish.

HISTORY:

In year 8 students will study the following topics:

- Black Peoples of the Americas
- Conflict in the Twentieth Century
- The Holocaust

MUSIC:

Students receive three Music lessons a fortnight in Year 8. They will focus on developing their skills and technique on one main instrument that was selected at the end of Year 7. They will also extend their skills on FL Studio and Sibelius software when composing their own music. The students will participate in a range of exciting performance and composition topics, including Film Music, Pop Music, Bhangra and My Music Part 2, which is a composition for their chosen instrument. Students are encouraged to play an instrument at home wherever possible and are invited to take part in the wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs on offer, including KS3 Choir, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Rock Band and Music IT Club.

RE

All students will complete the following units:

- Science - has it got all of the answers?

- Evil and Suffering.
- How do religious values and ethics influence our lives?

TECHNOLOGY

Food Technology

Students further develop their practical cooking skills in Year 8. The dishes that they make are ever more challenging and are based on recipes from around the world. New and different flavours and ingredients are used to create delicious dishes that students are proud to take home. The use of processed food is challenged and healthy eating is always discussed in relation to the dishes made. Shopping for food and storage of food is also highlighted. Year 8 work forms a good basis for this subject as a GCSE option. Examples of the dishes students make in Year 8 are Vegetable Chilli, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Green Thai Curry and many other favourites.

Graphic Products

Graphic Products is a practical subject which allows students to design, model and prototype their creative ideas, using the excellent resources within our subject. Graphic Products builds on and develops a range of hands-on skills through the design process.

In Year 8 students are designing a Commemorative Coin to celebrate something that has been important in their lives; this is then being packaged ready for presentation. Both projects are also used to teach students how to effectively use CAD and CAM. Students have the opportunity to develop their use and understanding of our 'Laser Cutter' which is an invaluable resource to support their design work within the subject.

Product Design

Year 8 students build upon those skills learnt in Year 7. They now have an acute awareness of Health and Safety and a familiarity of all the different areas of Technology. Year 8 students explore, research and use the information which they have learnt, to help them design their own personalised clock. A combination of CAD/CAM and traditional hand crafted skills help produce the practical outcome. Year 8 is a good grounding for GCSE and teaches independent learning skills such as researching effectively, time management and organisation, in addition to furthering practical skills.

Textiles Technology

Textiles in KS3 is about learning skills for life, alongside being part of a broad and balanced creative curriculum. We start with the basics of hand sewing and move through to teaching skills to use the sewing machines.

In Year 8, students build on these skills, revisiting the basics whilst considering products and techniques for a wider target audience. Popular products in Year 8 include the designing and making of a cushion. Students often wish to personalise products through adding other surface decoration techniques and broadening their repertoire of skills.