

Year 8 homework

Across the summer term, the core of our homework programme is a highly ambitious reading programme in which students will read a challenging text in each of their subjects, and answer questions on what they have read. The texts chosen relate to what students are studying in class, but they add to and enrich classroom lessons.

They have been chosen because they reflect ‘the best of what has been written and thought in our subjects’.

They might have been written by a great thinker in the subject. The text might be a piece of inspirational writing that scholars in the subject love. It might be a piece of commentary on a key idea, written for an educated and well-read audience. It may introduce the students to a scholarly journal or magazine, where they can read the same texts professionals in the field will read.

This term, our year 8 students will read:

Subject	Curriculum focus	Reading homework
English	Blood Brothers	The Guardian What makes us? Nature or nurture? The DNA debate comes back to life https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/nov/11/nature-or-nurture-debate-three-identical-strangers-film
Maths	Maths in the news: the budget, exponential errors, extreme events and expected goals in football	The Guardian newspaper https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/mar/12/how-to-read-the-news-like-a-mathematician-from-the-budget-and-hs2-to-covid-and-sport
Science	Biology Focus	Adam Kay, doctor Kay’s Marvellous Medicine ‘A gross and gruesome history of the human body’
RE	God Calls Me	Oswald Chambers , minister and principal of the Bible Training College in the early 20 th Century God's Purpose or Mine? My Utmost For His Highest
History	World War One	BBC History Magazine (August 2014) ‘The greatest misconceptions of the First World War’
Geography	UK Weather and Climate	Geofile by Alison Rae ‘Cold winters in the UK: A case study of 2012/13’
Art	Art on the world stage	The World Economic Forum, Davos ‘Why Art has the power to change the world’ https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/why-art-has-the-power-to-change-the-world/
Music	Musical theatre	The Smithsonian Museum ‘The story behind SIX the Musical’ https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-true-history-behind-six-the-musical-about-henry-viiis-wives-180978781/
MFL	French society and culture	Extract of 2014 Literature Nobel Prize winner, Patrick Modiano https://www.asymptotejournal.com/fiction/patrick-modiano-paris-nocturne/
Computing	Networks and Encryption	Simplilearn – an highly regarded online training platform ‘What Is Data Encryption: Types, Algorithms, Techniques and Methods’ https://www.simplilearn.com/data-encryption-methods-article

How can you support your child with this homework?

- Why not read the articles with them and discuss the issues?
- Use this list as a checklist, ticking off each reading as they complete it
- Recognise and praise the achievement of your child, who has read some very complex and demanding texts by completing these homework tasks.