



YEAR 8

Secondary

Curriculum Newsletter

Message from the Vice Principal

Welcome to the Spring term newsletter which will inform you of the subject material being taught during this term.

You can really support your child by looking at the topics covered in each subject area and discuss these with them. Please ensure you give your child support to make sure they are completing their homework regularly, on time and to the best standard they can.

ENGLISH

What are we doing this term?

Pupils will be studying 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo this half term. The novel is set in rural England, just as World War One breaks out, and explores themes such as loyalty, discrimination, family, friendship and morality.

After half term, Year 8 pupils will begin their study of Love and Relationships poetry. This unit builds on the more analytical skills that pupils have developed so far this year and explores poems by the following poets: Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, Thomas Hardy, Maura Dooley, Simon Armitage, Owen Sheers, Andrew Waterhouse and Carol Anne Duffy.

What can you do to support your child?

Discuss the novel with your child - in particular the character of Big Joe. He contracts meningitis as a child which results in severe brain damage and learning difficulties as he grows up. The discrimination faced by the family and reactions to the character's disability at the turn of the century can provide a useful discussion point to help young people to understand the impact of prejudicial views on the victims.

Wider reading:

Read up on the author's life and find out

ENGLISH (cont....)

more about his other novels here: <https://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/>

Find out further information on the causes and impact of World War One to discuss with your child here: <https://historykids.net/history/world-war-1-facts-and-information/>

On the Key Stage 3 Bitesize website, you can read up on some of the different poems - follow this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zprysq8>

Test your knowledge of a range of poetic terminology here: <https://www.purposegames.com/game/poetry-terms-quiz-quiz>

SCIENCE

Pupils will continue studying the AQA Activate scheme of learning. This term they will cover Breathing, Digestion, Magnetism, Electromagnets, Elements, The Periodic Table, Respiration and Photosynthesis.

MATHS

The Year 8s have continued to move through their topics very well last term, already covering number skills, shape and algebra.

Some pupils have also been able to demonstrate some excellent understanding, taking on GCSE level challenges and tasks already!

This term we will start to focus on the use of data and graphs to depict real life scenarios.

We would like to re-emphasise the importance of supporting learning in school with skills focussed homework.

Reminders/Key dates:

Spring term 2022
4 January - 1 April

Half term
14 February - 18 February

Easter Holiday
4 April - 19 April
(returning on the 20 April)

Training day
19 April

Theatre trip
9 February

School production
Legally Blonde
8 March - 10 March
12 March

Parents' evenings
17 March
23 March

Castle Newnham School's award-winning
4SIXTEEN Theatre Company
proudly presents

TUESDAY 8TH - THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2022
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2022
EVENING PERFORMANCES 7PM
SATURDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCE 3PM
TICKETS: £7.00
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CASTLENEWNHAM-BOXOFFICE

noda

MATHS (cont....)

Well done to the many who have been doing this regularly, but if your child is having issues getting onto Mathswatchvle then please do not hesitate to contact Mr Almen; using malmen@castlenewnham.school.
Happy New Year from all of the Maths department.

PE

As our first full term has come to an end, the department have loved being back delivering our usual curriculum, returning to some sports that pupils haven't had the chance to participate in for almost two years due to Covid restrictions. During the last two weeks of the Autumn term, all secondary year groups have had the opportunity to take part in the **Winter Games**, one of our first inter-house competitions in PE and something we trialled initially last year with one group. Every pupil has had the chance to represent their house in either netball, football or table tennis against their peers from the other houses. It's been wonderful to see the pupils in a competitive environment and making the most of this opportunity.

Pupils who had their winter programme of sports severely curtailed by the lockdown restrictions have been experiencing the winter sports of table tennis, netball and OAA. Our OAA unit (outdoor adventurous activities) allows our pupils to develop their physical, social and cognitive skills.

GEOGRAPHY

Our learning this term will focus on human geography with 'People, People Everywhere'. We will learn about changes in global population in the past and how it might change in the future and why. We will consider population density and factors influencing this followed by a close look at countries' population structures through the use of population pyramids. Once we have learned about past development of settlements, we will study current trends of urbanisation, how this differs between countries at different levels of development and what its impact is on people.

Throughout the topic, pupils will have opportunities to learn and practise a variety of skills, building on those learned before. Pupils will learn to think increasingly widely, finding links between learning and applying this in answering questions about our world.

Homework quizzes will continue to be set every Week A on Satchel One and are designed to help pupils to remember information – and for longer. Pupils should have at least two attempts at each quiz – at least one day apart.

Pupils can best support themselves in learning and making progress by consistently giving of their best in lessons and during homework activities.

HISTORY

What is being covered

Our Year 8 topics continue to build on the Autumn Term's knowledge of society and culture of Early Modern England. This term, we widen our knowledge beyond England and focus on key European events of the period such as the Reformation and development of medical knowledge. Our Year 8 pupils will also develop their knowledge of key political events of the British Isles such as the English Civil War, creation of the United Kingdom and the growth of democracy and power of Parliament.

How, when and what pupils will be assessed on

Pupils have four assessments throughout the year. Each assessment consists of four questions: 2x 4-mark knowledge questions, a set of definitions of subject / topic words and an 8-mark question which will be either a consequence question (assessing pupil's knowledge of cause and consequence) or a narrative question (assessing pupils understanding of chronology and significance). To support pupils with this, each pupil is supplied with a booklet that breaks down how to approach each question and what the marker is looking for in the answers. These 8-mark questions are also practiced regularly in class so that pupils can develop an awareness of how to approach these and develop the skills needed for success.

How home learning (homework) supports learning in class

Homework is set once every two weeks through Satchel One and takes the form of a multiple-choice quiz. This is based on either work they have covered in class or subject key terms. The intent behind this is that the pupils attempt the quiz three times with an aim of either improving their score or achieving 100%. Between each attempt, we encourage the pupils to review which questions they got wrong so that they can improve on their next try. This supports pupils by building up their knowledge and understanding of both the topic and subject-specific skills as well as supporting their development of revision skills. Before each assessment point, pupils will be given revision homework on the topics that will appear in the assessment. This is supported by a dedicated revision lesson in class on how to approach revision.

CREATIVE ARTS

Year 8 pupils will experience our Creative Arts subjects on a termly rotation basis, with the exception of Art, which they will study all year. Pupils will experience lessons in Food Tech, Design Technology & Textiles for a term at a time, engaging in exciting practical lessons taught by our subject specialist teachers.

ART

Ordinary/Extraordinary

Year 8 pupils will be looking at the theme of 'Ordinary/Extraordinary'; initially revisiting their understanding of tone and visual texture with pencil, charcoal and chalks. Pupils will apply these skills to create a drawing of a shoe for their drawing exam. They will study the work of Michael Craig Martin, expanding their understanding of colour theory through paint.

Pupils will look at the Surrealist art movement, in particular the work of Magritte and Dali; experimenting with creating the extraordinary from the ordinary. Developing their understanding of the surreal, pupils will experiment with graphic collage.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (cont....)



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

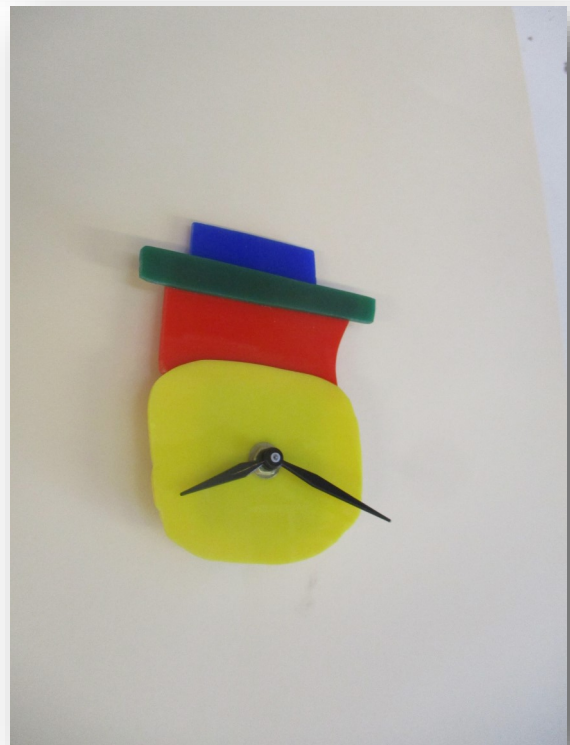
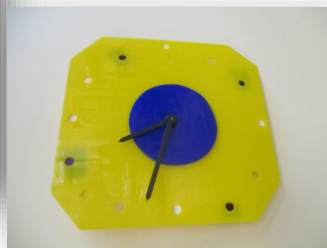
Pupils will enjoy a term of food technology. Throughout this term, pupils will be cooking for double lessons on a fortnightly basis. It is important that you check Satchel One to access the ingredients every week. **Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require financial support with this.** Pupils can look forward to making healthy, home cooked meals that can be shared at home with their family for dinner. For example, apple pie, quiche, lasagne, Thai curry, macaroni cheese and Victoria sponge.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Pupils in Year 8 will be exploring the following over the Spring term:

- The application of iterative design
- Write a design brief and specification
- Create designs and a prototype model
- Develop practical skills on workshop equipment
- Make a functioning prototype for a time keeping product.



DRAMA

In Year 8 drama, pupils will be reviewing and analysing a production. The production we will be reviewing is 'Newsies'. We will watch the production recording in lessons and explore the script and production of the piece through both practical and theoretical study. The focus for this term will be to understand the wide variety of roles in the theatre (onstage and backstage).

To support your child at home, you may wish to take them to the theatre. The Place Theatre and Quarry Theatre - both local - offer a wide variety of productions at an affordable price.

MUSIC

Be in a Rock band

In music, Year 8 will be learning what makes up a typical Rock band and the roles of the instrumentalists. They will then use this knowledge, and knowledge gained from the previous Ukulele scheme, to form a band. Within this band, they will be able to choose from a set of songs that they will then independently work on learning, with the final goal being a performance in our studio stage space, with access to electric drums, piano, electric guitars and microphones.

Four Chord Pop Song

In music tech, Year 8 will take the knowledge that they gained during the music lessons and transfer this over to Garageband. They will learn the structural difference between each section of a Pop song and be able to write their own Four Chord song that follows the conventions of pop music.

MFL

What are we doing this term?

Pupils will begin by talking about a trip to Paris and learn the key landmarks in the city. The key language and grammar point for this unit of learning is recognising and forming the past tense in French (passé composé / perfect tense). They will then practise giving opinions in the past tense, before moving on to learn the French for different modes of transport and for describing a journey. Leading up to half term, pupils can expect an end of module test which will assess learning on the past tense and describing a trip in French. After half term, pupils will start the new module which talks about different aspects of their identity: they will learn a variety of adjectives for describing personality, verbs for describing how well you get on with other people, and words for discussing different styles of music and clothes. The key language and grammar points in this module are adjective 'agreement' and reflexive verbs (for example, saying that you 'get on with each other' or 'squabble with each other').

MFL (cont....)

This term we welcoming back Miss Vandeweyer who returns after having her baby girl. She is taking over teaching for 8SH and 8MA. We thank Mr Godber for teaching these two classes in the Autumn term.

What can you do to support your child?

Helping your child does not mean having to know French. Encourage them to become 'word detectives'; making links with English and other languages that they know will help them to guess what words mean. Ask your child to teach you something in French; having a skill that their parent does not have is a major confidence boost for pupils and can be very motivating.

Many of you are already supporting your child's learning at home and we can see the benefits in the classroom. Thank you for all your help behind the scenes, it makes a significant difference. The most effective way to learn vocabulary is by practising, little and often: we recommend a good starting point of about 30-45 minutes per week (this could be in three sessions of 15 minutes). Some pupils prefer to use a vocabulary sheet, whilst others prefer to use free language learning websites such as Memrise. All pupils in Year 8 should now have an account and be in their class group where teachers can track their progress This is an ideal resource for preparing for end of module assessments. Castle Newnham also subscribes to the Pearson Active Learn online resources: all pupils have an account and teachers will be sharing login details with their classes and starting to set homework on this site. In addition to these two learning platforms, we subscribe to the Linguascope website which is useful for more general learning and practice; pupils wanting to access this site at home should ask a member of the Modern Languages team for the username and password.

BPE

Beliefs, Philosophy and Ethics

For the first half term pupils will be moving onto a topic which considers the role that atheism and agnosticism has in Britain today. They will then be studying the topic 'Why is there suffering in the World?' Pupils will be considering both religious and non religious responses to the existence of evil and suffering and analysing the impact that the existence of suffering can have on faith. For both of these topics a good understanding of current affairs is very important because it will help your child to engage in discussions and evaluate opinions. Books to supplement understanding include *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder, *The Philosophy Files* and *The Philosophy Gym* both by Stephen Law.