



DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
— DARE TO BE WISE —

Year 8

Curriculum Overview *Half Term 2*

Dear Parent/Carer,

In the following booklet you should find an overview of what your child will be studying this half term in school. We've included key details on what they will be looking at in each subject, how they'll be assessed and what they might do to further develop their understanding. The aim is for this to make it easier for you to work with the school supporting your child with their work.

All lessons last for one hour. In Year 8, students study the following subjects:

- **English, Maths and Science** – **three** lessons per week per subject
- **Geography, History, Physical Education, First language option and Second language option** – **two** lessons per week per subject
- **Art, Computing, Design Technology, Food & Textiles, Music and Religious Education** – **one** lesson per week per subject

The information for each subject is categorised as follows:

Topics / tasks: This is the overview of the topics Year 8 students will be covering this half term.

Content and skills: This explains what areas students will be looking at, and the skills they will be developing during the half term.

Assessment: This explains how students will be assessed on their understanding of this topic.

Stretch and challenge: This gives suggestions of how students can explore this area in more detail if they wish.

Art

Topics / tasks:	Portraiture, Drawing, Photography and Contextual Studies
Content and skills:	Summary of first half term: Pupils have been exploring how to create a traditional portrait drawing, learning about proportion and attention to detail. • Pupils will continue with portrait drawing, spending time creating a refined, shaded outcome aiming for realism. • During this term, pupils will also explore other styles of portrait drawing and will investigate what makes a 'successful' drawing. • Pupils will start using their phone/camera to record and create fine art style photographic portraits. Learning how to capture a mood, atmosphere and strong narrative. Editing images to create a range of effects in relation to the work of other artists. • Pupils will learn to analyse and comment on the work of artists, referencing the elements and principles of art and design.
Assessment:	Pupils will receive feedback throughout the lesson with teacher/pupil conversations. Positive developmental comments will be shared as the work progresses. Work uploaded to Teams will receive acknowledgement and developmental comments when appropriate. Basic technical skills will be assessed, but not over the imaginative and creative. Control of materials and understanding of the formal elements will be mapped and used in relation to feedback. During any absence, pupils are encouraged to send images of their work for feedback via MS Teams.
Stretch and challenge:	Creating a more extensive portfolio of work, challenging themselves in the subject matter drawn. Taking greater risks and exploring the use of texture and space through more creative drawing techniques. Examples provided. Further reading by exploring art museum websites and identifying artists the student likes. To then create outcomes and annotation based on these new artists without teacher direction.

Computing

Topics / tasks:	How to search for copyright free materials, how to recognise media files types and understand the legal implications of using resources created by others. How to edit sound and video, combining them for a specific purpose and audience.
Content and skills:	• Skills development: Audacity – Introduction to the software - Audacity Mix Tape. Show and try – editing and mixing tracks in audacity! Comply with copyright and patents act and creative commons (laws)! • Pupils will evaluate good and poor features of media creation – this is to help them in their design work and during implementation. • Skills development (SERIF, MS Video Editor or WeVideo) • Storyboarding and product planning • Students will create a Video aimed at other KS3 students on a topical issue. • Sourcing relevant and information free of bias (where relevant as this may be key to their topic). • Relevance of information & images • Quality of information & images (may depend on when set for example 1940's WW2) • Structure & layout • Evaluative skills – review and reflect (use of key terms)
Assessment:	Homework - Storyboard (hand drawn) Features of Video Editing MC Quiz in Teams /15 Teacher assessment of final product (movie) D/S/E
Stretch and challenge:	Create a comic strip of your choice – include your favourite character (real or fictional) using: plasq.com/downloads/comic-life-desktop/ - this helps with storyboarding and planning. Create a movie for a different audience / purpose, showcasing your skills and ability to adapt - www.howtogeek.com/355524/how-to-use-windows-10s-hidden-video-editor/ Film industry, learn about the key terms and key players- news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/find_out/guides/showbiz/film_industry/newsid_3523000/3523083.stm Marvel movies “behind the scenes” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jdq-Grx4muk

Design Technology

Design Technology projects depend on the rooming and class rotation. Over the year, students will cover all of the following:

Topics / tasks:	Small scale storage / Mechanical systems and sustainability / Phone holder		
Content and skills:	Depending on rooming, students will complete one of the following units:		
	Unit 1: Small scale storage Students will design and develop a small scale storage device through sketching, modelling and CAD. Once laser cut, students will use a hot wire strip heater to bend it into shape. Students will also explore polymers and different ways in which they can be processed.	Unit 2: Mechanical systems and sustainability Students will investigate, levers, linkages and mechanisms. They will produce a variety of mechanical iterations to solve problems. Students will then explore non-renewable and renewable energy sources and use this information to design and develop a sustainable toy	Unit 3: Phone holder Students will use a variety of workshop tools to cut and shape acrylic by hand. They will also cut aluminium rods and cut internal and external threads so that the phone holder can be assembled.
Assessment:	• Unit 1: Work in booklets will be assessed once every 6 weeks with consistent verbal feedback given in lessons. Students will also complete a 50 question test at the end of the unit. • Unit 2: Work in booklets will be assessed once every 6 weeks with consistent verbal feedback given in lessons. Students will also complete a 50 question test at the end of the unit. • Unit 3: Correct use of tools and equipment is assessed through verbal feedback.		
Stretch and challenge:	• Find a metal product and a plastic version of the product (i.e. a spoon) Investigate the environmental impact of both. Which is more sustainable? Why? • Students could visit www.technologystudent.com to investigate the content from the unit they are studying.		

English

Topics / tasks:	<i>Journey's End</i> by R.C. Sherriff	Dystopia Writing
Content and skills:	Reading • Social, historical, political and literary contexts of WW1 through the play <i>Journey's End</i> and the poems 'Who's for the game' by Jessie Pope and 'Dulce et Decorum Est' by Wilfred Owen. • Studying the character development of key characters: Osborne, Raleigh and Stanhope. • Studying the dramatic genre and methods used to create tension. • Inferring and deducing meaning and viewpoint in a text • Selecting and applying relevant evidence • Communicating clearly and structuring written responses	Writing • Writing to describe and narrate within the dystopian genre. • Studying extracts from a range of dystopian authors including George Orwell, Ray Bradbury, Aldous Huxley, and Suzanne Collins. • Using vocabulary, linguistic methods, sentence types and punctuation. • Developing and structuring a range of imaginative ideas.
Assessment:	Complete a comprehension style test on the play, answering a range of questions, assessing different skills.	Writing the opening to a dystopian story.
Stretch and challenge:	Studying a wider range of WW1 literature such as the following war poets: Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Edna St Vincent Millay, Harold Begbie, Robert Laurence Binyon.	Read dystopian novels by a range of authors for example: <i>The Hunger Games</i> trilogy by Suzanne Collins <i>The Maze Runner</i> series by James Dashner <i>Divergent</i> series by Veronica Roth <i>The Wind on Fire</i> trilogy by William Nicholson <i>Floodland</i> by Marcus Sedgewick <i>Exodus</i> trilogy by Julie Bertanga

Food & Textiles

Topics / tasks:	Development of further skills and knowledge in Food Preparation & Nutrition and Design Technology-Textiles	
Content and skills:	Depending on rooming, students will either start/have started a Food Preparation and Nutrition project or will begin/have begun a Textiles project, completing half a year in each subject by the end of year 8.	
	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Textiles
	- Recap students understanding of health and safety in the cooking and preparation of food - Specific dishes have been chosen for students to cook to build upon the skills gained in year 7, to challenge them and give them a wide variety of skills and to develop their independence of these skills - Students will learn a range of theory topics: hydration, food waste, scientific processes that happen during cooking e.g gelatinisation	- Recap on the safety of using the equipment in the Textiles room- students use a wider range of equipment in year 8, e.g. the iron - Design and create a textiles product for a specific target customer with consideration to our community. - Students will carry out an iterative project that explores forces applied to materials - Students will learn a range of theory topics: what is iterative design?, how to analyse and respond to a project brief as well as developing their research and product analysis skills
Assessment:	There will be a variety of assessments on written work and practical outcomes. After 8 weeks (approx.) students complete a written test on the knowledge covered. Students' work will also be monitored throughout each lesson, to ensure that students are working to the best of their ability.	
Stretch and challenge:	Students are encouraged to adapt projects and recipes using the knowledge gained throughout the completion of their projects. Student should also access additional Home Learning Tasks via their class team, to further their knowledge in this subject.	

French

Topics / tasks:	Describing a past holiday to a French speaking destination. This will include using vocabulary and grammar from the first half term to describe where they went, how they travelled and what they did.
Content and skills:	Learning regular verbs in the past and future tenses along with common irregular verbs in the past tenses. Students will be taught the past tense with regular avoir verbs along with using the past tense with être verbs. Students will revisit vocabulary to express opinions and learn some ways to do this in past tenses.
Assessment:	Students will be assessed by regular vocabulary and grammar tests. There will also be a formal listening, reading and translation assessment on the topics of holidays.
Stretch and challenge:	Learning more vocabulary on these topics and applying their grammar knowledge in writing tasks.

Geography

Topics / tasks:	Population	Urbanisation
Content and skills:	Students will examine population policies in China. Students will then examine the impact of humans on the environment and evaluate possible solutions to the challenges created.	Students will investigate the growth of urban areas around the world, examining the pattern and causes of urbanisation since the industrial revolution to today before focusing on a case study of a city in the UK. Whilst doing this they will develop their ability to use and interpret line graphs and cartographic techniques.
Assessment:	End of unit test on the topic of population.	Key terms definition test
Stretch and challenge:	Listen to 'Costing the Earth' podcast on BBC radio 4, episodes available at: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn Explore the topic further by researching other countries with a growing (e.g. Nigeria) or shrinking (e.g. Russia) population and examine the causes and impacts. The websites of the CIA world fact book and Gapminder are good places to start: www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/ www.gapminder.org/	Research an urban area that is growing rapidly e.g. Lagos in Nigeria. Examine the reasons why this is happening and the opportunities and challenges this creates for the people living there.

German

Topics / tasks:	Pets and Colours
Content and skills:	Students will study the topic of pets, including a good range of vocabulary linked to the topic. As well as learning nouns for different animals and pets, they will learn colours and revisit adjectival agreements in the accusative case. They will also learn simple forms of the imperfect and the conditional. Students will learn how to use clues to help their understanding, how to use qualifiers to improve their writing and how to use cognates.
Assessment:	Students will be assessed by regular vocabulary and grammar tests. There will also be a formal listening, reading and translation assessment on the topics of family and pets.
Stretch and challenge:	Learning more vocabulary on these topics and applying their grammar knowledge in writing tasks.

History

Topics / tasks:	The reign of Mary I	The reign of Elizabeth I
Content and skills:	Year 8 Historians will be learning about the succession crisis and Lady Jane Grey, the counter-reformation and whether Mary deserves the title 'Bloody Mary'. Students will develop their skills of factual recall. Students will practice using specific detail to support arguments and counter-arguments.	Students will be learning about the key events in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: the succession, marriage, her relationship with Mary Queen of Scots, and the relationship between England and Spain.
Assessment:	Students will complete a factual knowledge test on the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I. Students will also write an essay. They will answer the following question: Why did the English defeat the Spanish Armada? They must be able to use evidence and detail to explain why different events are significant and how they interacted.	
Stretch and challenge:	Researching the succession of Mary, her relationship with Phillip II of Spain and her changes to the Church. Reading <i>Mary Tudor: England's First Queen</i> by Anna Whitelock.	Watching one of the many films about Elizabeth's reign, such as <i>Elizabeth: A Golden Age</i>. Using BBC Bitesize resources to provide additional context and detail.

Latin

Topics / tasks:	The Forum; Theatre; Slaves & freedmen	Verb endings and the perfect & imperfect tenses
Content and skills:	How different types of evidence can be used together to build up a clearer picture of various aspects of Roman life; the role played by slaves in Roman life - how people became slaves and how slaves became citizens.	How to check endings to confirm the tense & person of a verb and the function of a noun in a sentence; how to learn and revise vocabulary.
Assessment:	An assessed task on Slavery and a language assessment, in addition to regular vocabulary tests.	
Stretch and challenge:	Reading about Roman society and entertainment. There is a selection of suitable books available for students to borrow.	

Maths

Topics / tasks:	Co-ordinates, drawing straight line graphs Scatter graphs Types of data and frequency tables Venn diagrams Probability, Sample Space Diagrams Two way tables
Content and skills:	• Revision and consolidation of previously learned skills • Extension of skills to unfamiliar contexts • Reasoning and problem solving skills
Assessment:	Half term assessment 2
Stretch and challenge:	• Complete extra work using www.sparxmaths.com and www.corbettmaths.com • Completing enrichment tasks on www.nrich.maths.org

Music

Topics / tasks:	Stage & Screen
Content and skills:	Exploring the use of music in stage productions (opera, musical) and film (themes, underscore, etc.) Analysing the music across the different film and theatre settings Performing film theme music at the keyboard
Assessment:	Performing fluently and accurately at the keyboard, developing and improving technique Completing assessed listening activities which will require pupils to respond to existing music for film and theatre, and make compositional suggestions according to a given theatrical setting
Stretch and challenge:	Listening to a wider range of music written for film and theatre using YouTube and other sources Watching a favourite film and analysing the type of music used and the compositional techniques

Physical Education

PE units take place over the course of an entire term; this overview is therefore identical to last half term.

Topics / tasks:	Fitness activities and invasion game skills.
Content and skills:	• Improving levels of cardio-vascular fitness, core strength and speed. • Developing games skills including movement with and without the ball.
Assessment:	A timed cross-country run and a conditioned game.
Stretch and challenge:	Attending extra-curricular clubs and participating in sports clubs outside school.

Religious Education

RE units take place over the course of an entire term; this overview is therefore identical to last half term.

Topics / tasks:	Making Ethical Decisions
Content and skills:	Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a range of ethical issues including the Trolley Cart Problem posed by Philippa Foot. They will learn about deontological and teleological ethical approaches, the meaning of conscience and other key ethical principles such as the Principle of Utility and the Sanctity of Life. Religious approaches to ethical decision-making will also be evaluated. Pupils will develop skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. The nature of the subject content will also develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness.
Assessment:	(a) A key concept vocabulary test. (b) A timed piece of extended writing.
Stretch and challenge:	Reading: <i>Introducing Philosophy of Religion</i> by Dilwyn Hunt (published by Nelson Thornes), <i>The Puzzle of Ethics</i> by Peter Vardy

Science

Topics / tasks:	Breathing and respiration, The periodic table, Sound	
Content and skills:	Knowledge Breathing and respiration • Aerobic respiration • Anaerobic respiration • Gas exchange • Effects of exercise on respiration The periodic table • Daltons Model of Atoms • Mendeleev and the periodic table • Physical trends • Chemical trends Sound • Making sound • Detecting sounds • How sounds move • Comparing waves	Skills • Calculating means • Identifying anomalous results • Understanding how scientific theories are developed • Spotting and explaining trends • Analysing data • Using scientific models • Drawing scientific diagrams • Graph skills
Assessment:	Synoptic test on all content from half term 1. Short end of topic tests.	
Stretch and challenge:	Working through relevant exercises on www.senecalearning.com and BBC bitesize KS3 science https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p Watching/listening to BBC CrowdScience podcasts https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04d42rc	

Spanish

Topics / tasks:	How to introduce themselves and say where they are from. They can now say where their home is located and describe it using adjectives. They should be able to say how many floors it has and describe a room in the house such as their bedroom using prepositions. They will then move on to describing what there is in their local area and what they can do there.
Content and skills:	Describing how the area has changed, what there used to be using imperfect tense; using simple future phrases to mention future developments to the area. Using HACER and weather phrases to describe life in their region but this topic will be explored further at the end of the year 8 course in the topic of holidays.
Assessment:	Listening / Reading & translation assessments will be used to assess progress and understanding of topic.
Stretch and challenge:	Using listening and reading materials on Claro interactive resources package as classwork and homework and using worksheets as homework to check grammar and strategies, translation, and written accuracy.