

WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE LEARNING ABOUT IN SCHOOL?

YEAR 8

SUBJECT	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	'EXTEND LEARNING' OPPORTUNITIES	RECOMMENDED READS
ENGLISH	Reading: Gothic extracts Students will read a range of Gothic extracts, from traditional stories (such as "The Red Room") to modern reinterpretations (such as "Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror"). As they read, students will not just encounter gripping narratives, but they will develop inference and analysis skills. Writing: Gothic Having studied a range of Gothic extracts, students will write their own. They will develop their ability to craft language methods, structural methods, and develop technical accuracy.	Reading: I am Malala Malala is one of the world's best-known activists and writers. Students will read her autobiography, exploring the challenges she faced and how she overcame them. Students will develop inference and analysis skills. Writing: Persuasive Writing about Social Media Social media is a topic that students often discuss, and in this unit they can harness their ideas to write either a persuasive speech or article expressing their views. They will further develop their ability to craft language methods, structural methods, and develop technical accuracy.	Reading: Much Ado About Nothing Students will read extracts from Shakespeare's iconic comedy, developing their ability to understand the complexities of his language. Students will also hone their inference and analysis skills. Oracy: Performing Poetry Students will read a wide range of poems on the theme of relationships. Alongside developing inference skills, they will use these texts as a starting point for their own poetry. They will then perform their poems in front of a small audience.	The Gothic British Library article: www.britishlibrary.cn/en/articles/video-the-gothic BBC Radio 4 'In Our Time' episode on the Gothic: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0054792 RSC Learning Zone - Much Ado About Nothing - https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/much-ado-about-nothing	There is a wealth of books for young people in our school library; students can pop in at lunchtime to browse the shelves and speak to our librarian (Mrs Morgan) about her recommendations. For Year 8, our top picks are: Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror (Chris Priestley) The Woman in Black (Susan Hill); Black Star (Kwame Alexander) The Boy Lost in the Maze (Joseph Coelho).
MATHS	Percentages Money Indices Equations Sequences Ratio	Rounding Coordinates Area Circles Standard form Venn diagrams 3D shapes Surface area and volume	Linear graphs Transformations Angles Statistical diagrams Inequalities Brackets Algebraic fractions Recurring decimals	Life Science Centre - Newcastle: STEM exhibitions, coding workshops, interactive maths shows. Discovery Museum - Newcastle: Engineering, invention, and problem-solving exhibits. Locomotion - Shildon: Railways, forces, mechanics – great for maths in motion. Kielder Observatory - Nothumberland: Astronomy meets maths: orbits, distance, scale. Hopetown - Darlington: rich and engaging maths and STEM learning environment through observation, interaction, creativity, and real-purpose context.	Alex's Adventures in Numberland - Alex Bellos Can You Crack the Code? - Ella Schwartz The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets - Simon Singh Maths on the Back of an Envelope - Rob Eastaway Why Pi? - Johnny Ball
SCIENCE	8.1 Ecology: Aerobic and anaerobic Respiration; Effects of exercise; Photosynthesis; Structure of a leaf 8.2 Matter: Atoms, elements and compounds; Periodic table 8.3 Electromagnets: Magnets; Magnetic fields; Electromagnets 8.4 Energy: Simple machines; Energy stores; Work done; Heat transfer	8.5 Organisation: Breathing and gas exchange; Healthy diets; Digestive system 8.6 Forces: Resultant forces; Hooke's Law; Pressure 8.7 Genetics: Variation; Natural selection; Extinction; Biodiversity; Inheritance Earth chemistry.	8.8 Reactions: Combustion; Thermal decomposition; Displacement; Catalysts 8.9 Waves: Transverse and longitudinal waves; Sound; The Ear; EM waves 8.10 Earth: Earth's atmosphere; Carbon cycle; Greenhouse effect; Reduce, reuse and recycle; Life cycle assessments	The Great North Museum (Hancock) – Ecology Life Museum – Genetics; Space; Discovery Museum Botanical Gardens: Flowers and biodiversity Cragside - Hydroelectricity Planetarium - Space Farms and Zoos At home science experiments: https://www.iop.org/explore-physics/at-home Documentaries: David Attenborough, Brian Cox,	Horrible Science book set Fairy Tale Physics by Sarah Allen Science you can eat by Stefan Gates What a waste by Jess French How to be an engineer by Carol Vorderman Kay's Anatomy by Adam Kay Kay's Marvellous Medicine by Adam Kay A Life on Our Planet by David Attenburgh
FRENCH	Holidays Students will learn to talk about past holidays. They will be introduced to vocabulary to talk about countries they have been to, modes of transport, different types of accommodation, holiday activities, and types of weather. The grammar focus will be the formation of the perfect tense using the S.A.P. structure, using different prepositions with countries or modes of transport, and forming longer sentences using quand.	Music, TV and film Students will learn to talk about what music they like to listen to, and the types of TV programmes and films they like to watch. They will learn how to express more complex opinions alongside the topic vocabulary. The grammar focus will be forming comparative structures using meilleur/pire ... que and the use of direct object pronouns to give opinions (je le/la/les trouve). Film study Students will watch the film Les Choristes and do a short film study, where they will describe what type of film they have watched and give a brief overview of its plot. They will also look at the characters and make comparisons between them, retrieving vocabulary to describe their personality and physical characteristics.	Customs and festivals Students will learn about the wider Francophone world and traditional customs and festivals. They will learn which countries around the world speak French and learn about their culture, including food and drink from these areas. The grammar focus will be the use of the partitive article after on mange/on boit, and the formation of the conditional form using je voudrais + infinitive verb.	Les Choristes, The Illusionist, Savages (2024), Asterix: The Secret of the Magic Potion(2018), The Jungle Bunch 2: World Tour(2023), Kirikou et la sorcière (Kirikou And The Sorceress)(1998), Boule Et Bill (Boule & Bill)(2013)	Le Petit Nicolas - René Goscinny, Les Sisters (Graphic Novel Series), Détective Prout: L'énigme de la dame en violet, Comment dresser votre dragon Tout savoir sur Harold Et Les Dragon - Cressida Cowell (Auteur)
GEOGRAPHY	North America - Students study how tectonic hazards can cause problems for people and the environment with a focus on the San Andreas Fault. They explore how the world has become more connected through globalisation and what this means for different employment sectors. They look at how companies such as Apple and McDonalds have grown as a result and their impacts both positively and negatively on surrounding areas.	South America: Students explore the diverse biome of the Tropical Rainforest with a focus on the Amazon Rainforest. Here they look at how plants and animals are adapted to this climate, how the Yanomami tribes live as well as the present day issue of deforestation. Following this, they explore one of South America's key feature - the Amazon River. Following this from source to mouth they study how meanders are created along the river.	Local dimensions: Geography returns to our doorstep when students study how the local area is shaped by human and physical processes. We start along Durham's Heritage coastline and study the erosional processes that shape our land and how this area is at risk to increased flooding and erosion in the future. We then explore non-renewable energy and how a local village has developed due to coal mining before considering the need for renewable energy in the future. Students are then able to see geography in the field when we do a fieldwork project exploring microclimates around the school site.	Documentaries North America - (Earthquakes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1b9MpGUcs8 South America (Our Planet - Jungles) https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0074tgb/planet-earth-8-jungles Local Dimension - (The UK's disappearing coastline) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNXGqCCajhQ Research Task To widen and develop your geographical understanding of processes and your place based knowledge of the world create a case study of a recent earthquake event.	Earth shattering earthquakes Swimming against the storm Life of Pi
HISTORY	The Industrial Revolution c1760 - c1840 Economic transformation Life in Victorian England 1837 - 1901 Social consequences of industrialisation	The Era of the First World War c1900 - 1918 Causes of war and impact Inter-war years 1918 - 1939 Rise of dictatorships, backdrop to World War 2	Second World War 1939 - 1945 Impact of war, key turning points The Jewish Experience and the Holocaust 1933 - 1945 Escalation of persecution	Site visits that relate to our curriculum. 1. Durham Castle and Cathedral 2. Free museums such as The Discovery Museum in Newcastle, Durham Story or Locomotion in Shildon. 3. Paid for museums such as Beamish or Hartlepool Historic Quay. There is a vast array of documentary series to watch on iPlayer or YouTube, on almost every era of history, including ones which focus on the Industrial Revolution, the Victorian Age, the First World War, the Second World War and the Holocaust.	Historical Fiction for each era / term 1) 1. Victorian England: Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens 2. First World War: Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo 3. Second World War / Holocaust: Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Philosophy Students will study the works of Plato and Aristotle to provide them with an alternative way to view the world. This topic will build on their knowledge from Year 7 where they will be able to advance their philosophical thinking.	Who was Jesus? In this topic we explore the early Church and the role of the earliest apostles in shaping what is now the world's biggest religion. Students will be able to challenge the work of Jesus and look at whether his actions were criminal, modern or controversial. Students will learn and understand the significant role Jesus had in creating a religion but also the different ways in which his actions can be interpreted.	How influential was St.Paul Students will learn about the role of St. Paul after Jesus' death. This topic shows students how St. Paul converted to Christianity and the different ways in which people could be converted to a religion through miracles and speaking in tongues. Students will also look at the opposing views of the role of women within Christianity, questioning whether the Church viewed them as equal.	1. Oriental Musuem in Durham (throughout the year they have exhibitions and activities celebrating different religious festivals) 2. Durham Cathedral 3. The Auckland Project (Bishop Auckland) 4. Hexham Abbey	'I am Malala' by Malal Yousafzai 'Hope in a Ballet Shoe' by Michaela and Elaine DePrince
ART	Artists record their observations: Developing observational drawing skills and use of colour with inspiration from Michael Craig-Martin.	Artists try to change the world:The work of Bob and Roberta Smith inspires experiments with typography and colour to share a personal message.	Artists develop ideas: Personal research into their chosen 'trailblazer' leads to portraits and designs inspired by the work of Sofia Barton.	https://thisisfsdartanddesign.weebly.com/independent-learning---you-are-a-graphic-designer.html	https://thisisfsdartanddesign.weebly.com/ks3-reading-list.html
MUSIC	Programme Music Pupils listen to, analyse, perform and compose music which tells a story or describes things.	Blues, Ragtime, Jazz, Pop & Dance Pupils study the core elements of music, keyboard skills and popular music history through these genres. Now! That's What I Call Music Students study current chart/ Top 40 music with a focus on reading notation and keyboard skills.	Modern Music Pupils study modern 'classical' music by composing aleatoric pieces.	a) The Glasshouse Weekend School (Durham) Held at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, this flexible weekend program offers pupils and families interactive workshops spanning singing, notation, drumming, and composition. It's a great way to extend Year 7 learning in a relaxed, hands-on environment. b) Explore Gala Theatre Durham listings Keep an eye on the Gala Theatre's events page for family-friendly music workshops and performances, such as community drumming sessions, live electronic music showcases, seasonal singing events, and more. These are excellent for reinforcing school topics in a real-world setting.	1. "The rise of bedroom producers: how youth shape music's future" Publication: The Independent Summary: Young artists create hit music from home studios worldwide. Link: https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/bedroom-producers-youth-music-industry-b2319887.html 2. "How TikTok is changing the music industry" Publication: BBC News Summary: Viral TikTok clips reshape music discovery and artist success. Link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-60443399
DRAMA	Developing drama - status, subtext and tension	Exploring empathy - showing how we feel	Using drama - from social media to slapstick	Theatre visits Joining extracurricular drama groups	The Tempest by William Shakespeare
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Inside Your Computer Binary number Computer components User interfaces Computing careers Threats against a computer system Encryption Designing an app	Analysing Data Real world data Spreadsheet data analysis and graphs Boolean logic Databases Advanced flowcharts Flowgorithm software	Python Programming Syntax Functions Iteration Indentation Working with numbers	LEGO Spike Tournament https://hourofcode.com/uk VEX Robotics https://electronics.howstuffworks.com/tech https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f	Terror Kid by Benjamin Zephaniah Girl Code by Andrea Gonzales
FOOD & NUTRITION	Food, Nutrition and Health - Proteins, carbohydrates, fats, life stages, energy balance Food Science - shortening. Food safety	Food Nutrition and Health - vitamins, minerals, nutritional analysis Food choice - costing, allergies and intolerances Food Science - aeration. Costings and time planning	Food Choice - Sensory evaluation and testing. British cuisine project "	1. Cooking at home 2. Visit Newcastle Grainger market (lots of different food from around the world to try) 3. Watching food programmes such as Masterchef and Bake off 4. Food festivals such as Seaham	1. Pizza, love and other stuff that made me famous - Kathryn Williams 2. Hungry Hearts : 13 tales about food and love edited by Elsie Chapman 3. Cook books 4. Magazines such as Good Food and Olive 5. How food works: Publisher DK
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Drawing Skills Single Point Perspective Two-Point Perspective Cross Sections Exploded Drawings Working with Timber	Materials and Processes New and Smart Materials; Metals; Scales of Production 3D Printing: Vacuum Forming Working with Timber continued	Travel Game (design and creation) Packaging: 2D Design; Design Skills	1. Discovery Museum 2. Grand designs TV programme 3. The repair shop TV programme 4. Locomation - Shildon	1. Engineers making a difference - Dr Shini Somara 2. The Design Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained (DK Big Ideas)- Publisher DK 3. 20th Century Design - Catherine McDermott
PE	Sports covered across the year: Orienteering, Badminton, Rugby, Netball, Football, futsal, Table Tennis, Rounders, Cricket, Athletics, Climbing, Fitness, Fitness testing & Sports Leadership. All classes will follow a core PE curriculum which covers a range of sports looking at a range of tactics and benefits. Students will also learn about some key elements of sport, including the importance of a warm up, basic sport psychology, and understanding how our body works. There is a full array of Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs to get involved with throughout the year. After school clubs run from 3:3-4:5 every day, all students need a PE kit and a drink. Clubs will focus on participation and introductions to the sport, while training or teams will focus more on competition and tactics.			While we have strong links with a range of local sports clubs and teams, students are encouraged to find a local club to them for whatever sport they are interested in. PE staff can help guide students where needed.	



FRAMWELLGATE
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