



Whytrig Middle School

Year 8 Autumn 1– What are we learning?

Art - We are studying the technique of mono printing using oil pastels and learning to mono print in more than one colour.

DT – We are starting a project to design and make Automata (a self-operating mechanical device), focussing on exploring properties of wood, and generating initial designs.

Food Tech – We will be learning about the Government's healthy eating guidelines and modifying recipes to make them healthier. We will be developing our knife skills to dice and julienne vegetables, and cooking a pasta salad, rock buns and fruity frozen yoghurt.

French- 'Vive les Vacances'- We will be learning to talk about school holidays in French. Talking about what you did during the holidays, focussing on the perfect tense of regular er verbs.

Geography- We will be focussing on the concept of 'Development', learning how to measure development and compare development around the world.

Music- We will be developing our keyboard skills, focussing on the C major scale and correct finger placement. We will learn to play both the chords and riff of 'Stand by Me' on the keyboard and perform this incorporating a drumming bass, keyboard chords and riff and singing.

PE- our focus this half term will be on developing our skills in invasion games such as football, netball, basketball and rugby.

Computing – We will be in learning about computing systems and hardware, focussing on input and output devices, storage devices and CPUs and motherboards.

English - We will be reading 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo; looking at the context of the novel, narrative structure and character analysis. In writing, we will be focussing on descriptive writing and persuasive writing.



History- We will be learning about The Reformation- from the start of the Tudor reign, Henry VIII's motivation to break away from the Roman Catholic church, and its impact on England.

Maths- We will be developing our skills in number, area and volume.

Science- We will be studying physics, with a focus on energy transfer, particularly the movement and behaviour of light, heat and sound energy.

SMSC- We will be focussing on Relationships and Sex education (RSE), learning about discrimination and stereotypes, diversity, gender and sexual orientation.

How can I support the curriculum at home?

Encouraging daily reading is one of the most effective ways to boost your child's academic progress, as it strengthens skills that benefit all areas of the curriculum. Staying up to date with current events also helps your child develop critical thinking and enhances their understanding of the world around them. Additionally, talking to your child about what they are learning further supports their development by encouraging them to reflect on and engage with their studies. The following websites are useful sources of revision and extra information about the KS3 curriculum:

- [BBC Bitesize KS3](#)
- [Study Smarter](#) - create a free account to produce flash cards and summary sheets of all topics in the curriculum.
- [Quizlet](#) – download the free app to access interactive revision quizzes and flash on all KS3 curriculum topics