**Year 8 Curriculum Map – Sept to Oct half term**

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| **Maths** | Students continue to build on the skills developed in year 7, and start to more fully utilise these to explore real-world scenarios whilst developing further knowledge and skills across a range of mathematics. Lower prior ability students look at functional number skills such as reading scales and working with money, before starting to explore the terminology and application of probability. Students with average prior ability develop skills in working with and converting between fractions, decimals and percentages, before moving on to solving equations and linear inequalities. Those with high prior attainment levels will begin to work with factorising and solving quadratic equations, then investigate ratio and proportion in a range of real-world contexts. |
| **English** | Building on their knowledge of other cultures developed in the last term of Year 7, students explore the culture and experiences presented by John Steinbeck in ‘Of Mice and Men’. Students explore Steinbeck’s use of language to create characters and setting. They will develop some contextual understanding and build on their skills to explore the writer’s ideas developed in Year 7 whilst studying ‘Macbeth’. |
| **Science** | Students begin topic 5 for biology (photosynthesis), chemistry (simple chemical reactions) and physics (magnetism). Each topic takes two weeks and cumulates to a tri-test, covering all three topics, in the week before the half term break. The topics add to learning from year 7, developing understanding of chemical reactions in living things, scientific method and how objects work. |
| **Geog** | Students study ‘Our Extreme World - Africa’. This unit will help students to understand the physical and human geography of Africa. They will deepen their spacial awareness of the world’s countries by using maps of the world to focus on Africa. They will study the different environmental regions within Africa, including hot deserts, countries and major cities. |
| **Hist** | Students will develop their chronological understanding of the period 1485-1700. They will identify key turning points in British history and understand how they helped to shape the country and the area in which they live. They will study the Reformation, the Elizabethan period, the Civil War and the Restoration. Students will develop their understanding of how and why change happens and source skills. |
| **RS** | Students will study religion and culture in Britain. They will be able to answer the following questions:  What is Religion?  What is British Culture?  What religious and cultural influences have created modern Britain?  How has immigration and migration over time changed British and local culture?  This will enable them to have a greater understanding of other cultures and religions and further develop their empathy skills. |
| **Graphics** | In year 8, for 10 weeks, students will examine the link between graphic design and activism. They will gain an understanding of how images have been used throughout history to affect political and social change. They will look at how a contemporary climate activist group has used techniques such as block printing and screen printing to create engaging images. They will then design and develop images and slogans using similar printing techniques and will have the opportunity to create their own climate rebellion banners, posters and clothing. Homework will be set every 2 lessons. This will typically reinforce work covered in lessons or will be designed to prepare students to make progress in lessons. |
| **DT** | Students spend ten weeks in the materials area of technology. The major project is a design and make practical tasks that builds on the basic skills covered in year 7. If time permits an extension activity will use CAD/ CAM in order to introduce modern manufacturing techniques. Homework that relates to the topics currently being covered is set every two lessons. |
| **Food** | Students spend ten weeks in the Food area of Technology. Students are given a cookbook for the ten weeks in Food. Students can now build upon their making skills and use a variety of different cooking methods from bread making to sauce making. Safety and hygiene is taught alongside the practical tasks in more depth than year 7. Nutrition is also taught in more depth during the focused practical tasks. Homework is for students to bring ingredients for the following weeks practical lesson. |
| **Textiles** | Students spend ten weeks in the textiles area of technology. The major project is a design and make practical tasks that builds on the basic skills covered in year 7. If time permits an extension activity will use embroidery to introduce students to a number of decorative techniques. Homework that relates to the topics currently being covered is set every two lessons. |
| **French** | Students continue to develop their skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.  They study topics related to:   * Sports and games * Musical instruments * Likes and dislikes * Holiday plans, using the future tense * Holiday activities, including the future tense * Leisure activities including the past tense   They add to their knowledge of French grammar, with a specific focus on the future and perfect tenses. |
| **German** | Students develop their skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.  They study topics related to:   * Self and Family * Numbers * Alphabet * Classroom language and related vocabulary   They start to gain an understanding of German grammar, including noun gender, cognates, basic verbs, adjectives and adjectival agreement, definite and indefinite articles |
| **PE** | All students start Physical Education with two weeks of cross-country. Following on students will take part in activities listed below depending on their group. Netball, Gymnastics, Football, Hockey, Table Tennis and Badminton. At the end of the half term students will undertake the PFL (Personal Fitness level) along with an assessment with the activity. Students are tracker and monitored against their own baseline score only. |
| **Art** | In the first two weeks of this half-term students will complete an Art assessment for the department to determine student ability in the formal elements of line, shape, form, texture, and tone.  Project 1. Islamic Art – This project gives students the opportunity to explore the culture and designs of Islamic art. In Half-Term 1 students will focus on the history of Islamic artwork and show their understanding of this through research and their own intricate 2D design work. Students will mainly create geometric patterns on squared paper and use previous knowledge of colour combinations to create impressive and striking colourful patterns. |
| **Drama** | During this first term students will begin to explore the characteristics of Slapstick Comedy and how these can be used on stage. They will devise and develop stock characters based on key scenarios demonstrating skills such as mime, freeze frame and exaggeration. They will work from an original script based on the theme of Superheroes. Students will further explore gesture, movement and facial expression and their use of body language in a comedic role. |
| **Music** | In unit 1 year 8 students will develop their knowledge of chords and chord progression in a piece of pop music. Students will use their keyboard skills learnt from year 7 to develop their understanding of how to build a chord and learn its role within a song. The students will further their knowledge by adding a melody line, thus furthering their understanding of pulse and rhythm within an ensemble. Other instruments may be explored to perform chords, melody and drums to assist the ensemble work. The ensemble work and the experimentation of different instruments helps build their skills to become a musician In KS4. |
| **ICT** | Students will spend this half term studying Unit 8.0 My Digital World. The skills learned from these projects teach new perspectives and understanding on the world of technology and enhance the student’s digital capability ready for the next Key Stage in ICT, Enterprise and Computing. The units supplements the more traditional Office and ICT skills focused on in previous years blends the theoretical knowledge covered with practical activities. Homework that relates to the topics covered is set on Doddlelearn.co.uk online homework platform every two lessons. |