

Year 8 Curriculum Overview 2024-2025

Subject	Overview	Autumn 1 (Weeks 1 – 7)	Autumn 2 (Weeks 8 – 14)	Assessment	Spring 1 (Weeks 15 - 20)	Spring 2 (Weeks 21 - 25)	Summer 1 (Weeks 26 - 32)	Summer 2 (Weeks 33 - 38)	Assessment
English	Exploring – Year 8 students build upon their Year 7 English skills by exploring more complex texts and ideas. They enhance their writing skills by exploring how texts are transformed, develop non-fiction skills (Discovery & Exploration) and become able to write in the genre style of Gothic Literature. Pupils also explore more complex literature texts; Sherlock Holmes or Stone Cold (prose), Shakespeare - Richard III or Macbeth (plays) and Other Cultures (poetry).	Exploration of Creative Writing: Students enhance their previous Year 7 creative writing skills by exploring texts of different genres.	Prose Study: Sherlock Holmes Students study Sherlock Holmes short stories such as The Speckled Band. They develop their reading skills gained in Year 7 by looking at key themes, writers’ methods, and effects created on the reader.		Shakespeare Study: The Tempest Students are introduced to the first Shakespeare text of KS3. They begin to develop an understanding of Elizabethan/Jacobean context and build upon their analysis of drama learnt in Year 7.	Non-Fiction: Power of Discovery Students enhance their previous Year 7 non-fiction writing skills by examining texts based around discovery and exploration – looking at both travel and historical moments.	Poetry Study: Culture and Identity Students study a range of poetry from a variety of different cultures. They expand on their poetry skills learnt in Year 7 and develop an understanding of the wider world.	Genre Study: Gothic Students study a range of Gothic Literature and develop an understanding of the narrative arc. Pupils learn the style and key conventions found in Gothic texts and employ these into their own piece of Gothic creative writing.	

<p style="text-align: center;">Mathematics</p>	<p>Year 8 students extend and develop their knowledge from year 7 by revisiting and extending their knowledge of algebra. This leads into graphical techniques, which is seen later in the year as well.</p> <p>Students will then begin to develop an understanding of different unit bases, and how the number system can be manipulated to best support us. Furthermore, students begin to look at statistics and statistical representations.</p> <p>Concluding the year, students look at area, perimeter, and volume, with a transformation of geometric figures.</p>	<p>Brackets, Equations, and Inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand, and factorise into, single brackets. Form and use expressions, formulae, and identities. Form and solve equations and inequalities with and without brackets. Distinguish between equations, expressions, formulae, and identities. <p>Working in the cartesian plane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot and interpret straight line graphs. Understand and use the equations of a straight line, including lines parallel to the axes. Make links between direct proportion and straight lines of the form $y = kx$ Model situations by translating them into expressions, formulae, and graphs 	<p><i>Conclude Working in the cartesian plane, then move to the next unit)</i></p> <p>Straight line graphs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret straight line graphs. Find and use the equation of a straight line. Reduce equations to the form $y = mx + c$ Compare to linear sequences and finding the rule for the n^{th} term. <p>Forming and solving equations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit and extend to equations and inequalities with unknowns on both sides using all previous contexts: angles, probability, area etc. Change the subject of a formula. <p>Developing number sense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental arithmetic strategies Use known facts to derive other facts, Evaluate an algebraic expression given a related fact. Use estimation. 	<p><i>(Conclude Developing number sense, then move to the next unit)</i></p> <p>Number sense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental strategies Convert between metric measures and units. Estimation, including rounding to a given number of decimal places. Use the order of operations. <p>Multiplicative change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use scale factors, linking to ratio, to solve simple direct proportion problems. Convert between currencies, including using graphs. Draw and interpret scale diagrams and maps. <p>Fractions and percentages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop understanding of fractions, decimals, and percentages Evaluate percentage increases and decreases. Use multipliers to solve percentage problems. Express one number as a percentage of another 	<p><i>(Conclude Fractions and Percentages, then move to the next unit)</i></p> <p>Representing Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw and interpret scatter graphs. Understand correlation. Draw and use lines of best fit. Understand grouped and ungrouped, discrete, and continuous data. Design and use one and two-way tables. <p>The Data Handling Cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and use primary and secondary sources of data. Collect data, including using questionnaires. Interpret and construct statistical diagrams, including multiple bar charts. Construct and interpret pie charts. Compare distributions using charts. Identify misleading graphs. 	<p><i>(Conclude The Data Handling Cycle, then move to the next unit)</i></p> <p>Measures of Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit the median and mean, including finding the total given the mean. Find the mean of grouped data. Work out the mode and modal class. Choose the appropriate average. Comparing distributions using measures <p>Angles in parallel lines and polygons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Y7 angles rules Understand and use parallel lines and angles. Revisit geometric notation Work out angles in special quadrilaterals. Find and use the sum of interior and exterior angles of a polygon. Prove simple geometric facts. 	<p>Area of trapezia and circles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review area of shapes covered in year 7. Calculate the area of a trapezium. Calculate the area of a circle, and the area of parts of a circle. Use significant figures. Calculate the area of compound shapes. <p>Three dimensional shapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the language of faces, edges, and vertices. Know the names of common prisms and non-prisms. Identify 2-D shapes within 3-D shapes. Work out the volume and surface area of cuboids and cylinders. Work out the volume of any prism. Work out missing lengths given area and/or volume. <p>Line symmetry and reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise line symmetry in polygons and other shapes. Reflect shapes in horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines.

Science	Year 8 students explore key aspects of the 3 different Sciences: Building upon foundations and of previous knowledge in year 7 and introducing new key concepts that the develop and help question our student's curiosity.	Biology: Genetics and evolution and exploring why organisms evolve and introduced to Darwin's theories Chemistry: Earth structure and rock cycle – Focus on 3 types of rock (Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic) and how they are weathered and eroded. Physics: Waves – light and sound - Exploring the properties of light and sound.	Biology: Genetics and evolution and exploring why organisms evolve and introduced to Darwin's theories Chemistry: Earth structure and rock cycle – Focus on 3 types of rock (Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic) and how they are weathered and eroded. Physics: Waves – light and sound - Exploring the properties of light and sound.		Biology: Variation and Reproduction – Understanding the biological processes of reproduction and variation. Chemistry: Earth – Climate change and resources – Reflecting upon humans' impact upon planet Earth and the consequences of our actions. Physics: Space - The importance of the moon, stars and how planets orbit	Biology: Variation and Reproduction – Understanding the biological processes of reproduction and variation. Chemistry: Earth – Climate change and resources – Reflecting upon humans' impact upon planet Earth and the consequences of our actions. Physics: Space - The importance of the moon, stars and how planets orb	Biology: Ecosystems – respiration and photosynthesis - Exploring the processes of respiration and photosynthesis and how they are vital for life on Earth. Chemistry: Metals, acids and alkalis – Investigating the properties of metals, acids and alkalis. Physics: Electricity and magnetism – Describe the key properties of electricity and magnetism.	Biology: Ecosystems – respiration and photosynthesis - Exploring the processes of respiration and photosynthesis and how they are vital for life on Earth. Chemistry: Metals, acids and alkalis – Investigating the properties of metals, acids and alkalis. Physics: Electricity and magnetism – Describe the key properties of electricity and magnetism.	

Further reading:

English:

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle.
- Young Sherlock Holmes Series by Andrew Lane
- The House of Silk / Moriarty by Anthony Horowitz
- Royal Shakespeare Company:
 - <https://www.rsc.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>
- The Woman in Black by Susan Hill
- The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Mathematics:

- The Number Devil, by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
- The Code Book, by Simon Singh
- Alex's Adventures in Numberland, by Alex Bellos
- Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities, by Ian Stewart

Science:

- What If by Randall Munroe
- Curious Minds by Jordan Moore
- Ready Player 2 by Ernest Cline

Suggested family trips/activities to reinforce learning:

English:

- The Globe Theatre – London
- Theatre productions – Norwich Theatre Royal
- Reading a range of texts – newspapers/articles/letters/speeches

Maths:

- Science Museum London
- STEM Centre in York
- Bletchley Park
- Royal Observatory at Greenwich

Science:

- Natural History Museum