



Parents Curriculum Information

Year 8

Half Term 1 2021-22

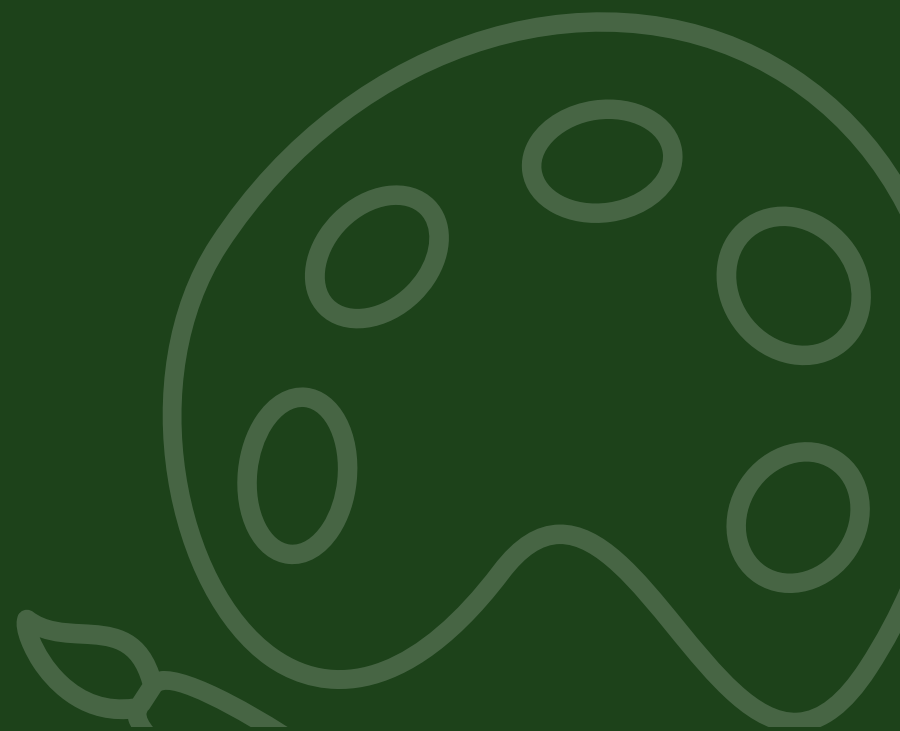




Art

This half term students will be focussing on observational drawing using the genre of still-life. They will learn how to draw ellipses, then cylinders and then bottles and study a range of still life artists, learning about their techniques and ideas.

They will make improvements to their work through ongoing assessment and learn to speak like experts using the subject specific vocabulary associated with this topic.



Citizenship

This half term students will look at the pressures and influences they may face in the wider world and how to avoid peer pressure in these circumstances.

Students will look at internet safety, healthy relationships, and harmful substances. Students will also study the law around these issues and the law is applied throughout the British legal system.





Computing

This half term students are coding BBC Micro:bits. They are coding with blocks in 'makecode' and are producing a wide range of retro style games including a magic 8 ball, coin toss, hot potato and many more.

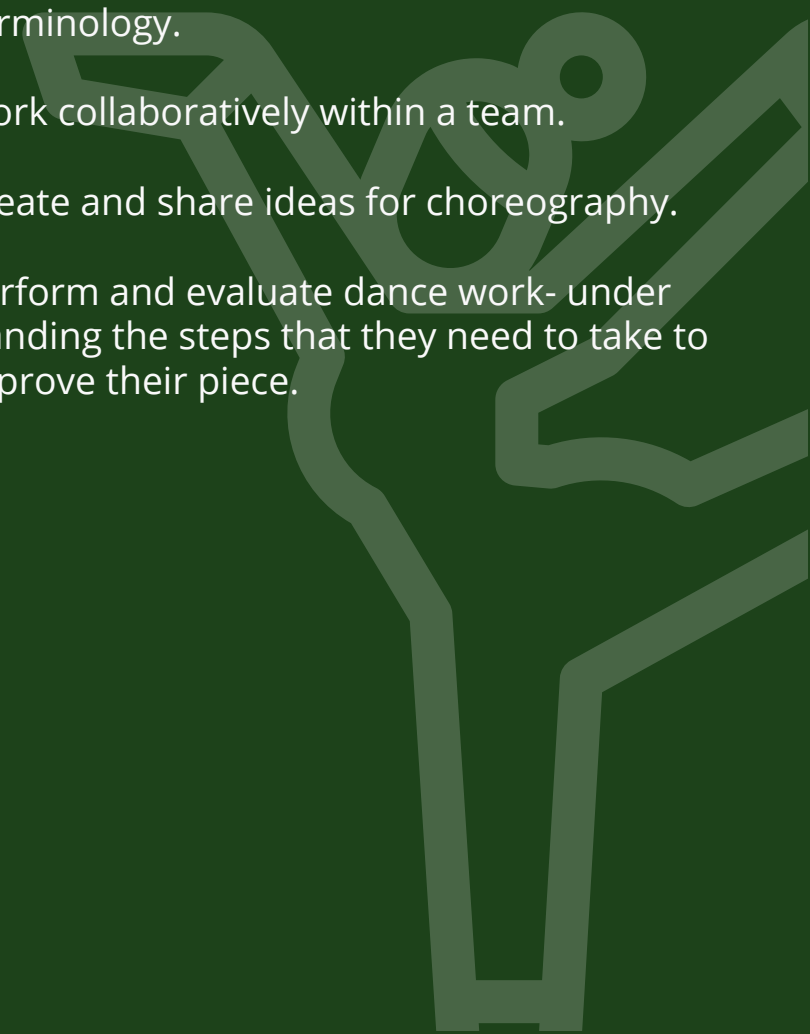
In this project they will further develop their data representation knowledge, problem solving and logical thinking skills.



Dance

This half term students are beginning to explore how a range of Stimuli can be used to create Dance work. Students will create work from a range of different starting points and will learn how to use the main components of Dance and Choreographic devices to form pieces that reflect their theme. Students will:

- Learn and perform short sequences of movement.
- Plan and share ideas for movement based on a range of Stimuli.
- Understand how a Dance can be created from a range of starting points.
- Develop their use of correct Dance terminology.
- Work collaboratively within a team.
- Create and share ideas for choreography.
- Perform and evaluate dance work- understanding the steps that they need to take to improve their piece.





Design & Technology

This half term, students are continuing their carousel of the Design & Technology specialist subjects. They will either be working in Engineering, Textiles, Graphics or Hospitality & Catering.

- **Engineering** – Students will be learning about materials and tools & equipment we use in Engineering and making a mobile phone holder. They will also learn a range of presentation techniques in order to produce an Engineering drawing.
- **Textiles** – Student will be learning about the materials, techniques and equipment we use in Textiles and using this knowledge to design & make a cushion inspired by the work of Holly Levell.
- **Graphics** – Students will be learning about the theory of graphic design in order to design and make a Paper Dude desk character. They will also learn the basics of soldering in order to add a night light to their character.
- **Cooking & Nutrition** – Students will be learning the theory of cooking and nutrition. This will involve looking closely at the macro and micronutrients and associated recipes. Students will go on to design their own healthy main meal.



Drama

This half term our Drama students are studying the play Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. Whilst exploring this piece they will be involved in the following tasks:

- Watching extracts from the Baz Luhrmann film version and using the PIE technique writing framework to analyse their response to it.
- Learning about the complexities of using the Shakespearean language and how director Baz Luhrmann has applied his own unique style to the piece.
- Reading, and rehearsing script extracts from the play, using skills in team work.
- Learning how to apply techniques in vocal and physical acting skills.
- Performing scenes from the play for assessment, demonstrating acting skills.
- Using a range of dramatic conventions to improvise and devise their own scenes.
- Evaluating performance work by themselves and their peers and setting targets for improvement.



English

In the first half term of the year, students will be learning about three topics, spread across skills in reading, writing and spoken language. These are:

Slam Poetry - Students start the year by exploring the medium of Slam poetry to develop their understanding of poetic techniques and performance attributes.

Spoken Language - This will be an opportunity to build on the spoken language and oracy skills from Y8. Students will explore the role that oracy and spoken language plays in everyday life.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time - Reading and analysing this thought-provoking text by Mark Haddon, students will analyse the themes of honesty, trust and social interaction.



French

This half term Year 8 linguists begin by exploring further into towns in France, learning about their geographical characteristics and how to describe them and transfer this knowledge to be able to describe places they know themselves in England.

Over the course of Year 8, students are equipped with transactional language to use in practical situations starting with directions in this topic.

Students then consolidate the grammar covered in the topic of town by transferring this to a different, but similar context, of describing their home and what they like to do there. Students are also introduced to describing their TV and film preferences. The topic will be revisited to support retrieval at the end of Year 8 when the conditional tense is introduced enabling students to build upon this half term to describe their dream home.



Geography

This half term Year 8 geography students will be studying the Hazardous World.

Here, a range of natural disasters are studied including earthquakes, volcanoes, extreme weather and wildfires.

Students will consider the influence that wealth has on natural hazards through a range of case studies including the Haitian and New Zealand earthquakes.



History

This half term the students have started the topic of the English Civil War.

The focus of this topic is historical significance, with the enquiry question "If the English Civil War is not remembered, why is it significant?" We will be studying the causes and consequences of the Civil War, along with the events of the battles and execution of King Charles I.

The students will be developing their analysis of historical interpretations of historians as well as evaluating the significance of the Civil War and its impact on our society. The key areas we will study are:

- Political, economic and religious causes
- Execution of a king
- Interregnum
- Restoration of the monarchy





Maths

The year 8 students are taught three topics this half term.

Types of Number – this includes using factors, multiples, primes, square and cube numbers. The students are also taught to work with higher order indices.

Algebraic Expressions – this topic builds on their work on indices but applies the index laws to algebraic terms. We also teach the students to manipulate algebraic expressions with brackets.

Proportion – this is the students first formal introduction of proportion. This topic demonstrates where proportion is used in real life contexts such as exchanges rates, converting units and identifying what makes something value for money.



Music

Students currently attending music as part of their performing arts rotation are learning to sing, play the keyboard and compose their own piece.

Students will start by learning how to read treble clef notation and apply this knowledge to learn to play Ode to Joy on the keyboard. They will then develop a variety of composition skills in GarageBand, creating a portfolio of short composition tasks to demonstrate their understanding. They will also sing as a class throughout this topic, which will be done alongside listening activities to help develop their understanding of key concepts.





Physical Education

Students are currently will undertake a wide variety of activities in a rotation, where we will give students a secure understanding and knowledge of skills and tactics that underpin performance.



Religious Education

This half term will introduce students to Dharmic faith, students will be studying Hinduism in depth looking at beliefs and teachings.

Students will cover an introduction to Hinduism looking at the beginnings of Hinduism, the creation story and progressing onto religious practices such as Puja.





Science

Sets 1-4

This half term students will learn about what living organisms are made from. They will have the opportunity to observe real life cells using microscopes and extract DNA. Students will also investigate the fundamental concept of diffusion and its importance in living organisms.

Sets 5-8

This half term students will learn about the structure and format of the periodic table, looking trends in reactivity, boiling point, colour and density, using their knowledge of trends to predict unknown elements. There are a number of different practical's that students can take part in, testing their knowledge & understanding of what they have learnt within the lesson.



Spanish

This half term Year 8 linguists begin by exploring further into towns in Spain, learning about their geographical characteristics and how to describe them and transfer this knowledge to be able to describe places they know themselves in England.

Over the course of Year 8, students are equipped with transactional language to use in practical situations starting with directions in this topic.

Students then consolidate the grammar covered in the topic of town by transferring this to a different, but similar context, of describing their home and what they like to do there. Students are also introduced to describing their TV and film preferences. The topic will be revisited to support retrieval at the end of Year 8 when the conditional tense is introduced enabling students to build upon this half term to describe their dream home.

If you have any further
queries please
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