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Date 24 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter- Autumn Term

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our Year 8 students back to school for the start of a successful year. I hope that they have settled back in well, maintaining good habits, engaging in their studies and also extra-curricular clubs.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is taught over three years and aims to be ambitious and engaging. The content in each subject is coherently planned and carefully sequenced to allow students to acquire a deep knowledge, develop skills and build solid foundations for future learning. We are extremely proud of our school, staff and students who continue to exceed year on year. This is due to our high expectations, a commitment to constantly improving achievement for our students and our belief that all students are entitled to the best education possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to launch our first Curriculum Newsletter to share the topics and content your child will be learning this Autumn term. Please visit our school website in the Curriculum section for all other information.

If you have any queries regarding your child's curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum, Mrs L Baty

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Baty
Assistant Head Teacher

English	Students will study a fiction text, further consolidating key concepts and key threads of learning; students are constantly being up-skilled in their analytical craft, whilst refining their portable knowledge. Students explore either “Abomination” by Robert Swindells or “Coraline” by Neil Gaiman with a keen focus on sharpening their skills in evaluating the impact of language, whilst re-awakening their creative writing abilities.
Maths	Students will be exploring ratio and scale. This unit looks at fluency in proportion. Students will look at conversion graphs, swapping between currencies, maps and scale and proportion graphs. Students will move on to multiplying and dividing fractions. This involves exploring multiplicative relationships. We explore the reciprocal. Gain a deep understanding of calculations with fractions.
Science	Students will revisit the scientific skills that were introduced to them last year. They will continue to study topics which cover all three specialisms of science, biology, chemistry and physics. Students will develop their knowledge of how to use the periodic table. They will also study healthy lifestyles as well as energy.
PSHE/RSE/Careers	<p>Students will begin the year by completing their dedicated CEIAG unit of work. (Please see careers). In The second half term students will study the topic of ‘health and well-being’. They take a closer look at Drugs and alcohol, Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use. They will cover issues such as the over-consumption of energy drinks and about the relationship between habit and dependence.</p> <p>Link to Careers: Students will learn how employers recruit people, and identify information that goes into each section of a CV. They will draw connections between their skills, abilities and interests to visualise ideas for the future, and define what having a growth mindset means. All teachers will link curriculum learning with careers so that every student will have the opportunity to experience how their subjects help people to gain entry to a wide variety of occupations.</p>
PE	Students will be expected to show good control and precision when performing skills. Students will lead a warm up with a large group and try to link exercises to major muscle groups. Students will also confidently and consistently implement basic rules and regulations as some form of official. This is part of their Heads, Heart and Hands assessment, explored in a range of activities including: basketball, badminton, rugby, swimming, netball, benchball, health-related exercise, football and trampolining
ICT	Students will develop skills and further understand cyber security issues and solutions. Students will also develop their skills and knowledge in the area of digital safety. Students will develop their computational thinking skills through programming using Scratch.
RE	Students in Year 8 will begin the academic year looking at Life after Death. Students will develop an understanding of different beliefs surrounding the afterlife. They will begin the term by looking at ideas surrounding the soul and will debate its existence. Students will end this term looking at the funeral traditions around the world. Diving into the differences and creating a comparison between countries.
History	Students in Year 8 begin the year by studying the British Empire and its impact on the globe. Pupils will look closely at certain aspects of the empire, including key locations and particular actions undertaken by the British during the time such as the trading of slaves. The topic will be rounded off debating whether the empire had an overall positive or negative impact on the globe. Following the empire, pupils will focus on Britain’s transformation into a modern nation,

	as attention turns to the Industrial Revolution and the development of Victorian society (1750-1900), before lastly investigating two case studies in 'Jack the Ripper' (1888) and the Titanic disaster (1912) and the impression they leave on Britain.
Geography	<p>Students will cover the physical and human geography linked to tectonic activity as part of Our Restless Earth. This includes plate tectonic theory, living in tectonic areas and management of tectonic hazards. The impact and responses to volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis will also be a focus.</p> <p>Through focus on The Almighty Dollar, students will investigate globalisation and its positive and negative impacts in HICs, NEEs and LICs. This will include focus on the U.S.A., China, Nigeria and India as well as the factors that influence global trade and the effects on people and their quality of life.</p>
French	In French this term, students are talking about the clothes we wear and style. They are also describing the weather and saying what clothes are suitable for different weather conditions and activities. In addition, they use time expressions with leisure activities as well as the verb 'porter'
Spanish	In Spanish this half term, the focus is on sports and free time. Next half term, students will investigate famous Spanish people and talk about their house.
Art	Students will be looking at portraiture with emphasis on developing the drawing of individual features. They will then develop their skills through the study of existing artists. Their main focus will be on Julien Opie and Luke Dixon, examining their specific styles in order to create their own pieces.
D&T	<p>Students work on a 11-week rotation and will be completing one of the units below.</p> <p>FOOD TECHNOLOGY - Developing dishes for all life stages</p> <p>Students will build upon the skills developed within year 7 and recap on the importance of good safety and hygiene practices within a kitchen. They will make dishes that are of a higher skill level than last year- these include fruit muffins, pasta bake and lemon drizzle cake, pizza, quiche and cheesecake. Students will look at the nutritional values of the dishes they are producing as well as learn about the nutritional requirements needed through different life stages. They will understand the different nutrient groups and spend time developing knowledge on allergies and dietary requirements.</p> <p>Automata - Wood</p> <p>Students design and manufacture a wooden moving toy. They further develop their analysis skills by working from a brief. Students design iteratively and use various sources for inspiration. They develop their drawing skills and presentation skills and justify design decisions. They research different mechanisms and gain an understanding of how they work in order to make informed decisions about their product. Students learn about different classifications and types of woods, investigating the environmental effects and raw sources. Students will develop a wide range of woodworking skills using tools and machines within the workshop. They then investigate ways to finish wood.</p> <p>Photo Frame - Wood and Plastic</p> <p>Students design and create a photo frame using CAD/CAM alongside using a range of specialist equipment. They will use tools including a tenon saw, bench hook, pillar drill, strip heater, laser cutter and hand drill.</p>

	During this scheme of work, students learn about the origin and theory of acrylic and how different fixings are used to join materials.
Music	<p>Students will spend the first half term further developing the singing skills that they learned in Year 7. They will listen to more complex music and consider lyrics which have more detailed meaning. They will also further investigate the timbre of voice and develop their own singing style.</p> <p>In the second half term, students will be introduced to music software through the use of an online sequencer. They will recap their knowledge of notation and use musical instruments in experimentation. Students will also learn how to respond to a specific brief when creating music.</p>