

Year 8 Subject Content

Art

In Year 8, pupils explore a variety of artists, disciplines and techniques over three projects. In the 'Objects and Viewpoints' project, pupils study Cubist drawings and paintings alongside observational still life drawing and relief painting to develop their own group relief painting. In the Pop Art project, students explore the work of Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg, referencing popular imagery from contemporary culture and printmaking techniques to develop their own printed repeat patterns. In the latter half of the project pupils explore ceramics and textiles techniques to create their own 3-dimensional sculptures - which are then photographed as subjects of the pupils own digitally manipulated imagery. In the final project, pupils explore the design process involved in the planning and creation of an illustrated record cover and tour poster for a new band or solo artist.

Chinese

The Year 8 Chinese covers many topics such as family, food, education, transport and hobbies. The course is presented through the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The content that pupils have learned includes characters, sentence patterns, dialogues and exercises. Students also improve their knowledge and skills by doing Chinese cultural research, performances and presentations.

Drama

Drama in year 8 builds on the foundation skills learnt in year 7 to reinforce various dramatic techniques and explorative strategies. During the year students explore a variety of dramatic genres, playwrights and performance styles such as Shakespeare, Greek Tragedy and Character Mask work and Harold Pinter. In the Shakespeare unit they focus on an extract from a play script, this year 'Romeo and Juliet' and develop their understanding of the structure of blank verse, iambic pentameter, and how to deliver it from a performance aspect whilst creating a credible character. They are also encouraged to find and use the hidden stage directions to perform a scene.

They explore the dramatic context of an unnamed 20th century text which they use as a stimulus to create their own characters and drama, focusing on their own interpretation. In this unit they are introduced to the pioneering practitioner Constantin Stanislavski's dramatic technique of emotional memory, which helps the students add subtext and dramatic irony to the unseen text. They also consider the text from the point of view of the director and how this influences the way characters are performed and text interpreted.

The students also work with masks in two particular styles of performance – Greek Tragedy and Comic Characters. The emphasis here is on vocal work and physical skills. The character mask project provides the opportunity for the students to create drama from a physical perspective focusing on use of gesture, posture, movement and reaction with fellow performers and audience. With Greek mask unit they explore the transformation and ritualization of character in the Greek Chorus tradition as well as developing their physical and vocal skills to communicate meaning.

English

In Year 8 students continue to develop their skills in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. They study a novel, poetry, a modern play and a range of pre 20th Century fiction extracts. They also study non-fiction and continue to develop their writing skills with an ongoing emphasis on accuracy, fluency and creativity.

French

Year 8 are continuing to develop and strengthen their knowledge of grammar, consolidating the present tense and learning the perfect tense. They are learning to communicate about themselves, their daily lives and their environment. They have learnt through the mediums of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Geography

In Year 8 students study issues with global significance, such as deforestation in the Amazon and the world's growing population. They study the evidence for Climate Change and assessed the challenges for the UK of moving away from fossil fuels. They will also start to understand the age of the earth, its rocks and how they shape our landscape.

German

In Year 8 pupils are taught to communicate about themselves, their family, their school, their home and their surroundings through the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. They are introduced to the basics of German grammar, including the present, imperfect and perfect tense, word order and the case system.

History

Pupils have followed a course on the Making of the UK, 1495-1700, and a course on Expansion, Trade and Industry, 1700 – 1900.

The examination was based on the courses taught.

ICT

In Year 8 pupils learn the basic elements of Information Technology:

- Finding things out
- Developing ideas and making things happen
- Exchanging and sharing information
- Reviewing, modifying and evaluating work as it progresses

They also learn how to produce web pages using HTML and FrontPage, develop their skills using Microsoft Office and Economatics applications and create Apps using Web Based applications.

Maths

In Mathematics this year pupils continue to develop their techniques alongside language, reasoning and problem solving in number, ratio and proportion, algebra, geometry and measure, probability and statistics.

Music

This year, the curriculum continued to be underpinned by the Elements of Music. As well as the introduction of Critical Listening this year, there has been a larger emphasis on group work composition and performance. The children are learning how to use the Music software package, Logic Pro. This software opens up a huge creative potential for the students. They will be using the IT resources much more in Year 9. The end of year exam was in the form of a listening test.

PE

During Key Stage 3, students will take part in a wide variety of activities in PE lessons. Progress is made through the development and improvement of a wide variety of skills (Hands); the application of these skills in a variety of contexts (Head); and a wider understanding of the role of sport and physical activity for a healthy lifestyle and the role of collaboration, teamwork and leadership in our lives (Heart).

Activities covered are: Hockey, Football, Rugby (boys), Netball (girls), Gymnastics, OAA, Badminton, Short Tennis, Basketball, Fitness, Trampolining, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Rounders

RE

The Year 8 course concentrates on the principle religion of Britain, Christianity. Use is made of the Bible to learn from and discuss the origins of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The fundamental beliefs, moral codes and teachings of these religions are studied.

Science

- Energy for Life Part 1: Plants
- The Earth and Beyond
- Elements and Compounds
- Energy for Life Part 2: Animals
- Acids and Alkalis
- Forces and Pressure
- Metals and their Reactions
- Living Things and their Environment
- Energy Resources
- Geological Changes

Spanish

In Years 8 and 9 pupils are taught to talk about themselves and to undertake simple tourist transactions through the mediums of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. They are also taught the basics of Spanish grammar.

DT

In DT pupils will build upon their Year 7 work with more ambitious projects. A more in-depth response will be needed in research and design. A wider range of materials, equipment and processes will be experienced.

Citizenship

Pupils have looked at issues concerned with Government and ideas to do with Democracy. Aspects of drug education and healthy relationships have also been discussed in class. The value of the school community and the role of the police within society have been looked at during the year.