



EVENTS & UPDATES

Monday 29 January - Friday 2 February; Wellbeing Week

Monday 5 - Sunday 11 February; National Apprenticeship Week

Friday 9 February; End of term

Monday 19 February; Return to school

Monday 4 - Saturday 9 March; National Careers Week

Monday 18 - Thursday 21 March; Wellbeing Week

Thursday 21 March; End of term

Friday 22 March; Training day, school closed to pupils

Monday 8 April; Return to school

ART

This term your child will be focusing on creature concept. They will begin to understand what creature concept is, how artists develop their own creature concepts before starting to develop their own creature concept. This will be done through a range of media such as pencil, collage, coloured crayon and pen. Pupils will be encouraged to really push their own ideas linking to one of the artists they have focused on.

COMMUNITY & PERSONAL

Pupils in Year 8 will look at different types of relationships include sexuality and attraction. They will discuss consent and how it can be given but also how it cannot be given. They will be made aware of the choices around sex including the age of consent and readiness. They will learn about the law on pornography, types of contraception and the stigma around HIV.

The next topic this term will be Risks and Safety. The topic will focus on keeping safe online and in person. Pupils will look at the dangers of grooming and county lines. Pupils will also discuss the risks associated with knife crime and how to keep safe. They will learn about child sexual exploitation and how to report it. Finally, they will study lessons on the dangers of illegal drugs, smoking, vaping and drinking alcohol.

COMPUTING

This term your child will start off with a recap on their computing essentials, so they are prepared for the rest of the term ahead. We then cover online safety, looking in detail at hacking, malware and methods to minimize the risk they face while online. The second unit pupils will look at is text-based programming. In this, pupils are taught the fundamentals of the Python programming language including inputs, outputs, variables, data types and selection.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

In Design and Technology pupils rotate each term of the year to a different specialist area and this term will study one of the following:

Workshop Rotation: Pupils will develop their manufacturing skills from Year 8 and will work with metals and timbers to manufacture functional prototypes. They will use CAD/CAM to design and laser cut a mould for a metal casting as well as using a range of different tools and pieces of equipment to manufacture a small jewellery box to store their casting.

Design Studio Rotation: Pupils will learn how sustainability influences the world of Design and Technology and how we can look at alternative energy sources to the traditional generation of electricity from finite resources. Pupils will build and test a solar car as well as looking at how nature can influence design and engineering through biomimicry.

Pupils will also learn about a range of different types of movements and mechanisms and how they are used in engineered products. They will manufacture card prototypes to visualise and test some different mechanisms that they learn about.

Food Preparation and Nutrition Rotation: Pupils further develop their knowledge of nutrition and health by learning about macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins and fats), their structure, functions a sources and the effects of deficiency and excess of these

in the diet. Pupils build upon their knowledge of staple food ingredients, considering the primary and secondary processing of milk and wheat and how these are used in food products as well as biological raising agents.

Pupils continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of safe working routines, further developing their knowledge of microorganisms and temperature control. They apply this knowledge to their practical work as they begin to safely work with high-risk foods and combine skills, they have acquired in Year 7 to make more complex food products such as garlic dough balls, savoury scones and cheesecake.

DRAMA

During the first half term, Year 8 pupils are exploring Theatre of the Absurd. They will engage with a range of extracts of absurdist plays and consider how they can bring them to life in a way that feels strange and confusing to the audience which links to the aim of this particular style. During the second half term pupils will learn about the devising process and gradually work towards developing their own performance that links to an image they are given as a stimulus.

ENGLISH

In term 2 our pupils study the play-text of Lord of the Flies in their reading lessons, where they explore the art of characterisation and storytelling for the stage. In these lessons they develop their ability to discuss and debate the key concepts of power, morality, justice, law and democracy. They will also develop their analytical skills as they explore the decisions the playwright has made in their choice of both language and structure.

In their writing lessons they will be focusing on Dystopian writing, where they will read extracts from novels such as Orwell's 1984 and use the writer's use of ideas, language and structure as a springboard to create their own dystopian writing.

GEOGRAPHY

Pupils will continue studying weather and climate; considering how we as humans use these environments and the challenges which we face. We will consider the growing impacts of sea level rise around the world and also modern day issues such as piracy and plastic pollution. Pupils will then move onto begin studying globalisation, why and how are world is interconnected and the benefits and challenges this brings for us.

HISTORY

Are beginning their study of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries. Year 8 will discover how new technologies and innovations impacted Britain and focus on the reasons for, and campaigns against child labour in factories. Year 8 will then explore how people's attitudes changed during this period including Enlightenment thinking, changing attitudes to medicine, crime, and punishment. Pupils will study notable individuals including Mary Wollstonecraft, Anne Lister, John Snow and Louis Pasteur. Finally, pupils will evaluate what society was like by 1900.

MATHS

Pupils in Year 8 will spend the Spring term continuing to learn about angles and constructions. They will learn how to find unknown angles in triangles, quadrilaterals and polygons and investigate angles on parallel lines. They will also learn how to construct perpendicular and angle bisectors using only a ruler, compass and pencil. Later this term, they will develop their algebraic skills by revisiting coordinates and through plotting graphs. This unit will also cover calculate a gradient from a linear graph and being able to interpret the equation of a line.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In Languages, pupils will learn vocabulary and structures about festivals and celebrities. They will use the present and past tenses.

MUSIC

In this unit, Year 8 pupils will be exploring the exciting world of African drumming. They'll be discovering the cultural richness behind traditional rhythms and beats from various African regions. Your child will get hands-on experience, learning different drumming styles and techniques. This immersive journey will involve both playing and creating their own drumming pieces.

Throughout this unit, Year 8 pupils will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the traditions that have shaped African music.

It's a lively and engaging exploration that promises to be both educational and fun for your child.

Pupils will get to use Djembe, Cajon, Shaker, DounDoun, Cowbel and a range of other world instrument percussion.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Pupils in Year 8 will take part in several PE/Games rotations during the academic year. PE activities such as badminton, gymnastics, fitness, athletics, tennis and the addition of rock climbing will be participated in during the academic year. In addition, there are several games activities that pupils will take part in such as rugby, football, netball, hockey, basketball, cricket, rounder's and softball. Pupils will develop more advanced skills during their lessons and take additional roles within each sport, to demonstrate a thorough understanding of each sport. Pupils will also get the chance to be a part of the sports captains and even be nominated for a sports award at the annual rewards evening in June.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Pupils will begin this term by learning about how we should treat others. This will be a topic they covered last term and lessons will focus on homophobia, Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. It will include religious responses to these issues.

Next pupils will be looking at the ultimate question 'Is death the end?'. This will be explored through paranormal claims; considering if you can believe in life after death even if you are not religious; Christian and Islamic beliefs as well as the Mexican festival of the Day of the Dead

SCIENCE

With one of their teachers this term, pupils will be learning about Genetics and Evolution, whilst also developing the skills of handling and presenting data. Pupils will then be learning about the Earth, its structure, rocks, the atmosphere and the impacts of humans on the earth.

With their second teacher, pupils will be learning about Acids and Alkalis and their reactions before moving on to look at Energy, how it can be transferred and some practical uses of energy, such as the energy from food.