

Year 8 Curriculum T1

Subject	What we are learning in T1	How parents/carers can help
English	We start Year 8 with our Crime and Gothic unit, which looks at the features of detective fiction, focusing on extracts from Sherlock Holmes stories. Pupils will continue to work on annotation skills as well as writing in clear PEEL paragraphs in response to a text. We then move on to look at a range of examples of Gothic writing, examining the typical settings and characters. Pupils write their own Gothic piece at the end of this unit.	Support pupils to complete their homework and encourage them to read at home and record it in their planners.
Maths	We begin year 8 by looking at ratio; understanding ratio notation, simplifying ratios, writing a ratio in the form 1:n and then looking at sharing amounts into a ratio. After this we look at proportion and scale; converting between currencies, exploring “best buy” options when shopping and scaling up recipes before finishing with finding missing lengths in similar shapes. Finally, we explore some algebra; forming algebraic expressions, expanding brackets, factorising to single and finally factorising to double brackets.	Sparx homework will follow alongside lessons and so supporting students with this and encouraging students to watch the associated videos will help support classroom learning.
Science	Pupils will be applying their working scientifically knowledge to more complex practicals around the subject of forces and speed. We will then go on to the topic of fields and how forces can act at a distance. Before the half term we will start to look at nutrition and how nutrients are used in the body before moving onto the digestive system.	Please support pupils to complete their homework. Follow the link on Teams to the Carousel Learning platform. Pupils will find extra support on the BBC bitesize website. KS3 Science - BBC Bitesize
French	Vive les vacances - Où habites-tu? - Tu es où en vacances? Revising present tense - Saying what you did on holiday – the perfect tense er verbs/irregular verb with avoir	- Help revise vocab through Knowledge Organisers with student for weekly KO test (spares available from room 15 or printable from school website) - Duo Lingo - BBC bitesize KS3 - Ask Mrs Way for resources to take home or French games to borrow from MFL department
History	The history of black people in Britain up to 1558	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zym3n9g https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b082w9p9/black-and-british-a-forgotten-history-1-first-encounters
Geography	Why is China an emerging super power?	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zk9h6g8#z6j9cmn https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zt6cg7h#zkksp4j

Theology and Ethics	The refugee crisis and how it relates to religion.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48660079 https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zdrxbdm/revision/1_1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fKbtabAlqk
Food Technology	Pupils will be learning about the food and nutrition skills needed for life. They will practice their essential food preparation and cooking skills by developing and making dishes that involve more complex techniques.	Encourage your child to cook at home and practise the techniques learned in lessons including washing and drying up. Support their practical work by getting them bring in the ingredients that they will need to cook and develop their dishes.
Resistant Materials Technology	Pupils will be extending and applying previous skills and knowledge of hand tools and machines including the sander, jigsaw and pillar drill. They will be using PRIME and ACCESS FM to write an individual brief and specification. They will be learning about iterative processes to develop their drawing skills.	Collect and print images from online searches to help pupils develop their design ideas. Analyse products already on the market using ACCESS FM. What is ACCESS FM? - YouTube Find out more about ACCESS FM.
Art	We will be studying African masks to develop our tonal and mark-making techniques, such as stippling, hatching and contouring. Within this we will develop 'warm-up techniques' through speed and memory drawings. We will develop our skills of observation drawing looking carefully at African Masks in more detail using a range of media. Pupils will extend their knowledge and understanding about the life and work of focus artist Pablo Picasso.	Help to research the artist and produce a fact file about Picasso and his life. Provide a space for your child to enjoy creating artwork in the home. Watch the tutorials for project inspiration. Grade 4 Picasso African Mask Portraits Video 1 - YouTube Cardboard Picasso Faces - YouTube
IT	The pupils will be learning • how technology has changed and developed over time and the properties of these technologies. • Networking and how the Internet works • The Internet of Everything	To help with this discuss old technology tat you used to use and the properties of these compared to today e.g. what is now wired and wireless? What new technology exists in your home? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
Music	• Exploring the building blocks of songwriting, including melody, lyrics, chords, harmony and structure. • Constructing and performing triads and primary chords on keyboards. • Creating memorable melodic ideas using repetition, variation and hooks. • Exploring the origins, development and musical characteristics of Hip Hop, including rap, DJing and sampling	• Ask your child about the building blocks of songwriting they have been exploring. • Listening to music from different genres and discussing its lyrics, message and purpose can develop musical vocabulary and critical listening. • If your child is taking instrumental lessons, encourage regular practice and continued musical exploration.

PE	Pupils will either be developing their learning about Netball (7-a-side), contact Rugby (specifically Rugby Union), basketball or learning about street dance. • How to perform skills safely – how to protect yourself in a contact sport. • What are the movements and skills required? • What are the court/pitch markings? • What are the rules to the game? • Develop understanding of positions in basketball, netball and rugby. • Develop understanding of strategies in basketball netball and rugby. • Build on previous ideas from year 7 basketball, netball and rugby. • What is Street Dance and what dance techniques can be used. • How to put together a sequence.	Provide appropriate PE kit, for example: non slippery footwear for rugby (boots) and a mouthguard – good practice. Reinforce safe practice expectations – no jewellery and earrings must be taped up for PE lessons. Long hair must be tied up. Look up the rules to Netball - Netball Rules: How To Play Netball Rules of Sport. Look up the rules to Rugby Union - Rugby Rules: How To Play Rugby Rules of Sport. Explore extra-curricular opportunities, both inside and outside of DMS.
PSHE	Our overarching topic will be 'Emotional Wellbeing', but we will start by looking at the transition into year 8 and goal setting. We will move onto managing emotions, managing distractions, developing positive thinking habits, and managing tension, worry and stress.	Ask your child about what they have learned in their lesson and discuss the different viewpoints.