



ABINGDON  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Curriculum Overview  
**Year 8R (Scholarship) Spring Term**  
*January - March 2020*

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Academic Scholarship information Key Dates
<p>Term begins: Tuesday 7th January</p> <p>Mock exam week: Monday 13th to Friday 17h January. Parents' Evening: Tuesday 21st January</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February (4.10pm) Half-term ends: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 5th March.</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March (12.00pm)</p>	<p><b>Abingdon School</b> Mock exams (at APS): Monday 13th to Friday 17th January 2020. Academic Scholarship assessment week (at Abingdon School): Monday 2nd March to Wednesday 4th March 2020.</p>
English	Science
<p>The main focus of this term is to revise the following topics in preparation for the Scholarship examinations. They will be revisiting important areas covered in Year 8 so far and have practice at completing past papers under timed conditions:</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Pupils will revise how to understand, analyse and evaluate meaning from a range of poetry, prose, and non-fiction. They will recap key skills including: understanding and vocabulary; use of text to illustrate answers; drawing of inferences; evaluation of style, language and purpose; delivery of arguments based on material; awareness of how grammar, syntax and punctuation affect meaning and capacity to make comparisons and evaluate contrast. Pupils will continue to recognise and comment on the effectiveness of key literary features, such as: metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, irony, alliteration, assonance, rhyme, rhythm and metre.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Pupils will consolidate how to write both creative and discursive compositions. They will also write revise how to bring out the poetic features of a piece of prose by arranging it as a poem. Pupils will explain their choices in a piece of continuous writing.</p> <p><b>Studied literature:</b> Pupils will continue to study a number of challenging texts, across genre and period, to acquire the skill of discriminating reading and develop their own imaginative and personal responses to literature. The main literary focus will be on Shakespeare's play, Romeo and Juliet.</p>	<p><b>Physics</b></p> <p><b>Waves:</b> Boys will continue to learn about waves at the start of term, moving on from light to sound.</p> <p><b>Energy:</b> They will then study energy, identifying the types of energy, considering the law of conservation of energy when looking at examples of energy changes. They will then consider renewable and non-renewable energy resources and how they can be used to generate electricity.</p> <p><b>Electricity and magnetism:</b> The boys will review these topics, which will include a look at static electricity.</p> <p><b>Revision:</b> They will then have finished the syllabus and we will revise any areas that the boys feel less confident about. The pupils will continue to practise scholarship questions.</p> <p>After the scholarship exams the pupils will work towards their Bronze Crest Awards. Here they will do an investigation into a topic of their choice. The aim is to develop their independent scientific enquiry skills.</p>
Maths	Religious Education (RE)
<p>This term the pupils will revise and practise skills and questions in a variety of topics in preparation for the upcoming scholarship examinations. Particular emphasis will be on the detail and logic of working.</p> <p><b>Algebra:</b> They will reinforce their knowledge of all algebra techniques that have been covered. Extend the work on simplifying to include fractions and indices. Use simultaneous equations to solve word problems.</p> <p><b>Graphs:</b> They will investigate straight lines, quadratics, cubics and reciprocals.</p> <p><b>Number work:</b> They will recap calculating with decimals, fractions and negative numbers. They will use standard index form to write large and small numbers and look at the rules for indices. They will solve equations by trial and improvement. They will explore sequences and find the nth term. They will recap finding percentage amounts and use the multiplying factor to find percentage increase and decreases.</p> <p><b>Shape and space:</b> They will recap volume and surface area of cuboids and cylinders. They will practice problems involving circles. They will calculate speed, distance and time on single and multiple journeys. They will recap rotating, reflecting and translating shape and learn to accurately enlarge shapes.</p> <p>Following the examinations they will hone their mental arithmetic skills and prepare for the UKMT team and Individual Mathematics challenges.</p>	<p>This term the pupils in 8R will receive further practice in tackling evidence questions, in readiness for the mock examinations and the upcoming scholarship assessments. Topics will include The Vietnam War and the civil war in Syria.</p> <p>Similarly the mock examinations will give them another opportunity for refining their exam essay technique. They will also be studying the major events of the 14th Century, including: famine; causes of injury; death and warfare; The Black Death and The Peasants' Revolt, and assessing its legacy as arguably the worst century to have been alive in England.</p>
Geography	History
<p>The pupils will continue to study the causes and patterns of <b>Population distribution</b> at different geographical levels, both globally and in the UK. They will consider the reasons for population growth and decline, and how this influences the population structure of different societies, including that of the UK.</p> <p>This will be followed by a study of <b>Weather and Climate</b>. They will recognise the difference between weather and climate and the main influences on weather, including in the UK. They will study how to measure weather and to interpret weather and climate data.</p> <p>The pupils will continue to receive guidance in preparing for their exams in March. They will practise map reading and interpreting patterns and data in</p>	<p>The pupils will continue preparatory work for their scholarship examinations. The topics covered this term will include how the Bible is interpreted by different Christian traditions, Christian approaches to ethical issues, comparative religion and the relationship between religion and politics.</p>

different geographical contexts. They will continue to receive focused revision on possible topics in the long answers section.	Following the scholarship examinations pupils will complete a case study on Richard III and the princes in the Tower. They will examine sources and answer evidence based questions.	
<b>French</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>Core Skills</b>
<p>The pupils will receive <b>regular grammar lessons</b> in which they will revise the grammar they have covered thus far and will continue to develop their ability to read longer passages in french. They will continue to practise writing and recognise the <b>key tenses</b>, including the conditional and pluperfect. After their mock examinations, there will be further practice of reading, writing and listening papers, as well as preparing for the speaking exams which will be based on the topics they have covered last term (School, Family and Free-time).</p> <p>Post scholarship exams pupils will begin to learn some <b>Spanish</b> using the following topics: greetings, numbers and birthdays</p>	<p>This term the pupils will continue their preparation for the scholarship examinations. Particular focus this term will be on participles, the formation of the subjunctive mood, vocabulary building and translation skills.</p>	<p>No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	<b>Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)</b>	<b>General Studies</b>
<p>Pupils will learn about the digital photograph editing software <b>PhotoShop</b>. They will gain a working knowledge of this package and develop their skills in editing and altering photos through a basic understanding of the tool bar, layers, and the adjustments panel. Pupils will then undertake their own project whereby they create their own digital images using the skills learnt in lessons.</p>	<p>Boys will continue to develop their <b>study skills</b>; learning different revision techniques and gain plenty of exam writing practice.</p> <p>Boys will then look at different types of <b>relationships</b>; this will include <b>cyber safety</b> and <b>communication skills</b>.</p> <p>All pupils in Year 8 will have the opportunity to show leadership and responsibility through the class pairings sessions, lunch monitor duties and other section events.</p>	<p>In 8R General Studies will be taught discretely to PSHCE. As part of their preparations for the General Studies Scholarship exam, the pupils will focus on likely topics of essay writing and interview discussion which intentionally cover aspects of the PSHCE programme, including themes of citizenship, social diversity and Fundamental British Values. The pupils will continue to develop the skills required to answer questions on the General Paper in Abingdon School's and Magdalen College School's series of scholarship examinations.</p>
<b>Art</b>	<b>Craft, Design Technology (CDT)</b>	<b>Music</b>
<p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or CDT sets for the first half of the year. The Art students will explore Architecture . They will experiment with a variety of media ranging from acrylic painting, collage and clay.</p> <p>The main topics this term will be:</p> <p><b>Recording from observation:</b> The pupils will complete large observational drawings of architecture looking to international and local established artists for inspiration.</p> <p><b>Clay:</b> They will complete the architecture project exploring structural embellishments, and create a 3d clay gargoyle.</p>	<p>This term those pupils in the Year 8 CDT set will study the following topics:</p> <p><b>Electrical control:</b> They will produce a fan powered boat which will be tested in the swimming pool.</p> <p><b>Woodwork:</b> The pupils will make a set of laminated salad spoons of their design. They will also make a wooden treasure box with a sliding lid.</p> <p><b>Food Technology:</b> Tossing pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and Easter biscuits will feature in this term's syllabus.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will study the following topics:</p> <p><b>Film Music:</b> Pupils will learn to identify musical features in pieces of music designed for films, and explore how composers use different compositional devices and the elements of music to create emotions and feelings in films, and how changing music to film scenes can change the nature of the scene itself. Pupils will create their own film storylines and compose music that effectively represents their storyline.</p> <p><b>Performing Arts:</b> The pupils will be learning the songs for the Senior Production of The Lion King. There will be acting and dance involved too.</p>
<b>Games</b>	<b>Physical Education (PE)</b>	<b>Swimming</b>
<p>This term's major team sport will be <b>football</b>. They will train for and play 11-a-side games. They will practise the following skills: kicking, passing, dribbling, shooting, throw-ins, free-kicks, penalties, tackling, positional play,tactics, and reading the game. They will have the opportunity to</p>	<p>Year 8 pupils will develop their knowledge and skills in the following areas this term:</p> <p><b>Hockey:</b> They will develop their skills in dribbling, passing and shooting, and taking short corners.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills:</p> <p><b>Breaststroke:</b> Pupils will further develop their arm action, leg action, breathing and timing.</p>

participate in inter-school and house matches. Pupils will follow the ISFA and FA Junior Football Guidelines.

**Basketball:** The pupils will practise their passing in small groups using the pivot. They will improve their shooting and be introduced to the lay-up.

**Butterfly:** They will be taught and given opportunities to develop how they kick, use their arms, start races and improve their turns.

**Assessment:** Pupils will be assessed in their ability to swim both strokes.