



Curriculum Overview
Year 8A & 8M Spring Term
 January - March 2022

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)/Relationship and Sex Education	Computing
<p>Term begins: Wednesday 5th January</p> <p>RSE Information Evening webinar: Tuesday 25th January (18:30) Staying safe online workshop for parents: Thursday 3rd February (18:00) Inter-house cross-country competition (Parents invited): Friday 18th February (14:00)</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 18th February (16.10) Half-term ends: Sunday 27th February.</p> <p>Parents' evenings: 8M - Tuesday 1st March (17:20); 8A - Tuesday 8th March (17:20) Senior Section Drama Production (Dress rehearsal): Wednesday 30th and Thursday 24th March (16:10) Senior Section Drama Production (Final production: Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st March (19:00)</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 1st April (12.00).</p>	<p>The first unit will explore the theme of body image and self-esteem, considering the influence of the media.</p> <p>Boys will look at different types of relationships, covering issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, gender and how to negotiate social media effectively.</p> <p>During the second half of the term boys will develop their study skills; learning and practising different revision techniques.</p>	<p>Building on work undertaken in lessons at the end of Spring Term, pupils will work in pairs to use the programming language JavaScript to create a quiz on a topic of their choosing. Pupils will then evaluate, and where appropriate, debug and suggest improvements to, their fellow pupils' work. Pupils will also be introduced to the Applied Digital Skills series of activities provided by Google, which will help pupils to consolidate their ICT learning at Abingdon Prep.</p>
English	Mathematics	Science
<p>This term the pupils in Year 8 will study the following topics:</p> <p>Reading: Pupils will revise how to understand, analyse and evaluate meaning from a range of prose. Pupils will recap key areas 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. They will continue to recognise and comment on the effectiveness of key literary features.</p> <p>Writing: Pupils will revise the important skills needed to write for a practical purpose: to argue, persuade, explain, advise, and inform. They will also have opportunities to complete creative tasks which provoke imaginative, descriptive or narrative responses. In addition, pupils will have opportunities to write essays about the text which they have studied in class.</p> <p>Studied literature: The main literary focus this term is 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. Pupils will analyse the characters, settings, themes and historical context of this book. Pupils will also develop and express their own personal responses to the text both in their writing and discussions in class.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will be covering the following topics. (Topics are extended for Set 1 and further reinforcement is given in Set 2).</p> <p>Number: The pupils will recap the four rules of number for integers, decimals, fractions and negatives and apply BIDMAS. They will write numbers in standard index form and learn the rules of indices.</p> <p>Algebra: The pupils will solve equations and inequalities involving brackets and fractions. They will simplify and factorise expressions. They will substitute positive and negative numbers into expressions.</p> <p>Shape and Space: They will learn how to plot conversion and scatter graphs and interpret the data. They will investigate drawing quadratic curves.</p> <p>Measurement: The pupils will investigate area and perimeter of compound shapes, trapeziums and parallelograms. They will learn to find the area and circumference of circles and sectors of circles. They will explore Pythagoras' Theorem. They will calculate the volume and surface area of cuboids and cylinders. They will practise their scale drawing and develop their understanding of bearings and use this knowledge to calculate distances and bearings on plotted journeys. They will learn to calculate the angles in regular polygons.</p>	<p>Acids and alkalis: We will finish our learning about this chemistry topic and review some content from Year 7 which will be included in the AP+ exam.</p> <p>Light and Sound: We will learn about these two types of waves, consider how they travel and their different speeds. We will have a visit from Oxford University who will carry out a workshop about biotechnology.</p> <p>Energy: Then we will look at the types of energy and how they can be transferred from one type to another. They will consider the different types of energy resources, renewable and non-renewable and how these can be used to generate electricity.</p> <p>This will be followed by a review of the electricity and magnetism topic with some additional electricity content then moments, pressure and speed.</p> <p>Chemistry: After this they will revise a number of chemistry and biology topics that will be included in the AP+ exam.</p>

<p>Geography</p> <p>This term the pupils in 8A and 8M will continue to study rivers and river features, including flooding. Their end-of-unit test will be later this term. Pupils will continue to practise their OS map skills and expand their locational knowledge of world and UK places in readiness for the AP+ assessments later this year.</p> <p>Later in the term they will move on to studying earthquakes and volcanoes, including examining plate tectonics, continental drift theory, causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanoes, including tsunamis, and how people in contrasting societies manage living in areas affected by these natural hazards.</p>	<p>History</p> <p>This term the pupils will be investigating, through role play, discussion and reading contemporary sources, the major causes of illness and death in medieval England, and the remedies which were employed to improve survival. The pupils will undertake a detailed study of sources relating to the spread of the Black Death in England. They will then examine the causes of the Peasants' Revolt and consider which of these major 14th Century events was the most significant. Following this pupils will undertake a short study of the Reformation.</p>	<p>Religious Education (RE)</p> <p>Pupils will continue and complete their study of the Buddhist religion, which culminates in a study of its holy books and festivals. Pupils will then undertake an in-depth study of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus and in the latter part of the term consider the evidence for life after death. This will include a comparative study of what different world religions believe about this issue.</p>
<p>French</p> <p>This term pupils will continue to build on the grammar they have learned from last term using the passé composé and the imperfect as well as the future tense. Topics to be studied will include camping restaurants and making plans to go out. These will be tested by asking pupils to translate sentences from English into French.</p> <p>We will also be preparing dialogues and practising answering and asking questions. These dialogues that will be used in the AP+ mock exam. Family, School, rules and chores at home will be added later in the term</p>	<p>Latin</p> <p>This term the pupils will continue their study of Latin grammar and vocabulary and of Roman civilisation. A particular emphasis this term will be on participles, the subjunctive mood, neuter nouns, adjective agreement and relative clauses. Pupils will also learn about Roman religion and the excavation of the Roman town of Bath.</p>	<p>Core Skills</p> <p>This term the pupils start by looking at creative writing techniques used by established writers (Neil Gaiman; Rudyard Kipling) and will practise developing these techniques in their own writing. They will look at techniques used in creating effective story openings, character description through the senses, mood and atmosphere. They will develop the use of figurative language and revisit grammar and punctuation rules in speech.</p>
<p>Art</p> <p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or CDT sets for the first half of the year.</p> <p>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>Recording from observation: The pupils will complete large observational drawings of architecture looking to international and local established artists for inspiration.</p> <p>Clay: They will complete the architecture project exploring structural embellishments, and create a 3d clay gargoyle.</p>	<p>Craft, Design Technology (CDT)</p> <p>With the COVID restrictions in schools, the sharing of tools in the CDT room is not permissible until further notice and hence a changed CDT curriculum is in place..</p> <p>Art/CDT groups will switch for the Lent term.</p> <p>Pupils will undergo a series of STEM projects, being challenged to make structures such as bridges, catapults, and tall towers. A chair design project will be a highlight with work displayed in a collaborative way. Textile work will include weaving dream catchers and creating some optical illusions in negative form.</p>	<p>Music</p> <p>This term the pupils will study the following topics:</p> <p>Film Music: Over the lockdown period last year, pupils were introduced to film music, and learned to recognise different features of film music.</p> <p>This term, pupils will put their knowledge into action, and use instruments to compose their own film music of various genres to real film scenes.</p> <p>Performing Arts: The pupils will be learning the songs for the school production '<i>Aladdin</i>'.</p>
<p>Games</p> <p>This term's major team sport will be football. They will train for and play 11-a-side or 9-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 participate in inter-school and house matches. Pupils will follow the ISFA and FA Junior Football Guidelines.</p>	<p>Physical Education (PE)</p> <p>Year 8 pupils will develop their knowledge and skills in the following areas this term:</p> <p>Hockey: They will develop their skills in dribbling, passing and shooting, and taking short corners.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Swimming</p> <p>This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills:</p> <p>Breaststroke: Pupils will further develop their arm action, leg action, breathing and timing of the stroke.</p> <p>Butterfly: They will be taught and given opportunities to develop how they kick, use their arms, start races and improve their turns.</p> <p>Assessment: Pupils will be assessed in their ability to use both strokes.</p>