

## Curriculum Overview

### Year 8 AP+ (8A & 8M) *Autumn Term*

#### *September - December 2023*

| Form/ Year Group / Section Events   | Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)   | Computing  |
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| <p>Parents and Staff Drinks Evening: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. (18.45)</p> <p>Year 8 Residential Geography Field Trip to Swanage: Monday 2nd October (Leave at 07.00) - Tuesday 2nd October (Return at 19.00)</p> <p>Year 8 Science and Art trip to Natural History and Pitt Rivers museums: Monday 12th October</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October (4.10pm)</p> <p>Half-term ends: Sunday 29th October</p> <p>Year 8M Parents' Evening: Tuesday 14th November.</p> <p>Year 8S Parents' Evening: Thursday 16th November.</p> <p>Year 3-8 Christmas Carol Service: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December (12.00pm).</p> <p>PLEASE CONSULT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL SCHOOL EVENTS <a href="#">APS school calendar</a></p>   | <p>Pupils will consider the <b>environment</b>, looking at ways that it is being impacted by humans. They will consider ways that humans can be encouraged to look after the environment.</p> <p>They will consider <b>credit and debt</b>, understanding ways to avoid getting into debt with good financial choices. They will look at the dangers of high interest loans.</p> <p>Pupils will be introduced to <b>public and private sector funding</b>. They will learn how decisions are made about the allocation of funding for services.</p> <p>They will discuss the issues surrounding <b>smoking and vaping</b>, covering peer pressure and health consequences.</p> <p>They will also be developing skills to build resilience and emotional health.</p>   | <p>In the first half of term the pupils will design graphics using vector graphic editing software. By the end of this unit pupils will have produced an illustration, a logo, or some icons using vector graphics.</p> <p>In the second half of term pupils will learn about the different layers of computing systems including programs and the operating system, the physical components that store and execute these programs and the fundamental binary building blocks that these components consist of.</p>  |
| English   | Mathematics   | Science  |
| <p>This term the pupils will study the following topics as part of their AP+ curriculum:</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Pupils will read a wide variety of <b>poems on the theme of conflict</b>. These will range from pre-World War 1 poetry to poems written about more recent conflicts. The poems studied will include some written from a female perspective as well as some by non-British poets. Pupils will also read texts which can be exploited to construct Found poems. Later in the term pupils will read '<b>Of Mice and Men</b>' by John Steinbeck. In addition pupils will read some shorter texts to foster comprehension skills. They will also have the chance to visit the school library regularly and read widely at home. Pupils will be expected to bring their own personal reading book into school on a daily basis, as there will be many opportunities when they will be asked to read independently.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Pupils will have the opportunity to try writing some poetry on the theme of conflict or their responses to it. They will also have the opportunity to construct some Found poetry based on the sources chosen. Pupils will also learn to critically analyse poems and texts using a range of terminology and well established formats.</p> <p><b>Spelling:</b> Pupils will be assessed on their current spelling ability and will be given opportunities to revise or learn new words or spelling rules or patterns. They will also be expected to review and improve their own spelling with guidance.</p> <p><b>Punctuation and Grammar:</b> Pupils will be given regular discreet revision or practice in a variety of punctuation and grammar rules and conventions. They will also be expected to review and improve their own punctuation and grammar with guidance.</p> <p><b>Handwriting:</b> Pupils will practise and be expected to use a neat, fluent, preferably joined up style of handwriting in their written work, certainly their more formal writing.</p> | <p>Pupils will study the following topics: (topics are enriched for Set 1 and further reinforcement is given when required in Set 2).</p> <p><b>Number:</b> The pupils will apply the four rules of number using integers, decimals, fractions and negative numbers and apply BIDMAS. They will learn to round answers to both decimal places and significant figures. They will calculate percentage increases and decreases and % change. They will explore the relationship between speed, distance and time and apply this to problems. They will use prime factorisation to find the HCF and LCM of two numbers.</p> <p><b>Algebra:</b> The pupils will extend their knowledge of solving equations to include those containing brackets, fractions and multiple letters. They will simplify and factorise expressions. They will substitute positive and negative numbers into expressions and formulae.</p> <p><b>Shape and Space:</b> They will recap the rotation, reflection and translation of shapes. They will learn to enlarge shapes with scale factors greater than and less than one.</p> <p><b>Data Handling:</b> They will review probability and extend to probabilities of two events happening.</p> <p><b>Problem solving and investigation strategies:</b> They will use a structured approach when tackling extended problems or investigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exploring and noticing structure</li> <li>○ Working systemically</li> </ul> | <p>This term the pupils will begin with <b>Biology</b>. The pupils will start by looking at variation and inheritance. Within this topic they will also learn how to classify organisms using keys. They will investigate the features of habitats and compare how the living organisms in them are adapted.</p> <p>They will also study the adaptation of plants and the biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis will be covered.</p> <p>This will be followed by the <b>Physics</b> topics of light and sound.</p> <p>They will then finish the term with <b>Chemistry</b>, studying the reactions of acids and alkalis, including the chemistry of limestone.</p> |

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| <p>Handwriting will be linked to aspects of SPaG and other writing skills. Pupils will be expected to use a good blue or black pen for their formal writing.</p> <p><b>Speaking &amp; listening:</b> Pupils will be given opportunities and guidance on how to give their views clearly and articulately and also listen to and give feedback to their peers.</p> <p><b>Use of ICT:</b> Although pupils will primarily complete tasks by hand, they will be given the opportunity to use ICT to draft and review and improve their written work.</p>   | <p><b>Event:</b> Maths escape rooms workshops (09 Oct: visiting professionals)</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Geography</b></p> <p>This term the pupils in Year 8 will learn about <b>coasts</b>. Pupils will look at the importance of coasts and rivers and how coastal and river landscapes are shaped through physical processes. They will follow this by studying the importance of coasts and rivers to human society. This term, to supplement their learning in the classroom, the pupils will participate in a two-day residential field trip to Swanage, Dorset.</p> <p>Pupils will start to explore the reasons for coastal <b>hazards</b> in certain locations and how people respond to these. There will be an <b>assessment</b> at the end of each unit which forms part of their overall AP+ assessment in Year 8.</p> <p>The pupils will also continue to develop their <b>locational knowledge of the UK, Europe and other parts of the World</b> and <b>Ordnance Survey map skills</b>.</p>  | <p><b>History</b></p> <p>This term the pupils will study several important topics related to <b>Mediaeval History</b>. Firstly, they will investigate the great friendship that developed between <b>Henry II and Thomas Becket</b>, before analysing how it broke down, eventually leading to Becket's murder. Pupils will investigate sources, looking for similarities and differences, with encouragement to scrutinise sources in the key areas of provenance and reliability. Pupils will study the main events in the reign of <b>King John</b>, including the signing of <b>Magna Carta</b>, and consider whether he really was a bad monarch. Towards the end of term pupils will investigate the causes and consequences of the great pestilence, which became known as the <b>Black Death</b>. They will investigate how attitudes changed, the position of the church and the winners and losers of the great pandemic.</p>   | <p><b>Religious Education (RE)</b></p> <p>The pupils will commence their study of the <b>Buddhist</b> religion. Pupils will learn about the origins of Buddhism and of the life of its founder, Siddhartha Gotama. They will also learn about different Buddhist traditions and how these traditions put the teachings of Buddhism into practice. Other areas of enquiry will include Buddhist festivals and beliefs about life after death.</p>  |
| <p><b>French</b></p> <p>The pupils return to the revision of the main tenses where they will be taught to talk about <b>themselves and their family</b>. Following on from this, pupils will cover <b>going out and meeting arrangements</b>, performing dialogues to consolidate the vocabulary. Pupils will learn how to describe their <b>characteristics and their hobbies</b> and compare these with French children of their own age. The final topic of the term focuses on <b>eating out in a restaurant</b> and how to resolve any problems that may arise when ordering.</p> <p><b>Grammar focus:</b> Pupils will recap the 4 key irregular verbs, the past tense (passé composé), the immediate future, the imperative, as well as adjectival agreement, the use of connectives and some idioms.</p>  | <p><b>Latin</b></p> <p>The pupils will continue with their study of the Latin language and culture in the Roman Empire. New areas of study will include the genitive and vocative cases and the use of imperatives. Pupils also learn about the ancient city of Alexandria and about pagan worship in Egypt.</p>  | <p><b>Core Skills</b></p> <p>Throughout the term pupils will cover the main areas of the Key Stage 3 spelling, grammar and punctuation program of study. This learning will be embedded within a comprehension focus using familiar texts during the first half term. Pupils will also have the opportunity to look in depth at the work covered by their main English curriculum to allow them time and opportunities to ask and explore open questions based on their poetry and novel topics for the term.</p>   |
| <p><b>Art</b></p> <p><b>Architecture: Structures and urban landscape</b></p> <p>Pupils will explore Architecture and its history through a specialist seminar delivered by an external Art historian, with regular contextual study sessions during lessons.</p> <p>They will explore man-made and natural structures, comparing their form, scale and aesthetic values, as well as architectural features such as bridges, columns and gargoyles.</p> <p><b>Architects and designers:</b> Pupils will have the opportunity to research collaboratively and independently the work of John Piper, Escher, Jean Claude and Christo, Tim Steward, as well as renowned architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Zaha Hadid.</p> <p><b>Media:</b> Pupils will explore the following media with which to create both 2D and 3D responses to their research, for example, printmaking, clay, freestanding card sculpture, painting, drawing, photography and ICT.</p> <p><b>Painting/2D:</b> Pupils will explore the work of painter L.S Lowry, renowned for his depictions of British historical architecture, evaluating the mood and feeling his compositions inspire.</p> | <p><b>Design and Technology (DT)</b></p> <p><b>Food:</b> Pupils this year will have the opportunity to study food as part of the DT curriculum. The topic is around healthy snacks with sessions being led by the executive chef from the senior school.</p> <p><b>Mood lights:</b> Pupils will use CAD/CAM to create a mood light using acrylic. Pupils will follow the design process and focus on following a specification. This project will use new CAD software and a laser cutter, to cut and engrave. They will also be able to use their existing knowledge of electric circuits as part of the project, wiring and installing an LED circuit to their light.</p> <p><b>Bedroom Design:</b> Pupils will be introduced to some CAD software which they can use to visualise the bedroom of their dreams! They will then use one and two point perspective drawing as a means of drawing out their final design. They can then make a 3D card model of their bedroom, if time allows.</p> | <p><b>Music and Drama</b></p> <p>Pupils will study melodic development through Theme and Variation techniques, and also learn to play increasingly complex chord sequences, using this as a basis for song writing.</p> <p>They will learn to sing a variety of songs in preparation for the carol service, as well as beginning work on their production music.</p> <p><b>Drama:</b> As part of their Performing Arts lessons the pupils will be developing their improvisation skills before embarking on a mini project combining music and drama after half term. They will focus on creating sustainable characters in a devised story, collaborating with others to devise a piece of drama and exploring a theme through the devising, polishing and performing process.</p> |

| Games  | Physical Education (PE)  | Swimming  |
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| <p>This term the major team sport will be <b>rugby</b>. The pupils will develop their skills in the 13-a-side format through a combination of skills sessions and matches. They will learn safe and effective tackling techniques and scrummage in 6-man scrums. They will be taught how to ruck, maul, and place the ball appropriately in these situations. They will learn how to improve their support play, including their running with or without the ball. They will develop their positional play and respond to phases of play through 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases. They will practise kicking. They will learn the differing roles of forwards and backs. They will be taught how to avoid infringements, start or restart the game, avoid becoming offside, and improve their knowledge of the principles of rugby and their tactical awareness. They will improve their decision making, in both attack and defence, and learn how to better use space.</p> <p>All pupils will participate in inter-house 7-a-side matches (Inter-school 13-a-side matches will be played subject to government advice). At all times pupils will follow the RFU Continuum.</p> | <p>The focus for the first half of term will be on badminton and working on serve and rally techniques. The pupils will learn how to develop a rally in either a singles or doubles situation and move their opponent around the court with a variety of different shots. Following on from this handball will be introduced with passing and shooting skills covered.</p> | <p>This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills:</p> <p><b>Front Crawl:</b> This will include developing their stamina, arm entry, leg kick, and breathing.</p> <p><b>Backstroke:</b> They will practise their starts and learn how to improve the use of their legs and arms.</p> <p>The pupils will also have the opportunity to improve their race technique, including racing starts and racing in lengths. They will also develop their knowledge and understanding of the game of water polo through drills and practice sessions.</p> |