

Curriculum Overview Year 8R Autumn Term September - December 2023

English

This term the pupils will study the following topics as part of their AP+ curriculum but also in preparation for the Abingdon School scholarship examinations next term.

Reading: Pupils will read some poems on the theme of conflict. 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. To foster their comprehension skills pupils in the scholarship set will tackle a number of comprehension exercises from past scholarship General Studies papers (see 'General Studies'.) 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.

Writing: 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. They will learn how to justify their choices of language and techniques in their own poems. Pupils will also learn to critically analyse poems using a range of terminology and well established formats. As part of their preparation for their scholarship exams, pupils will learn to construct essays or stories in a range of genres.

Spelling: 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.

Punctuation and Grammar: Pupils will be given some 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 both independently and with guidance.

Handwriting: 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. Handwriting will be linked to aspects of SPaG and other

Form/ Year Group / Section Events

Parents and Staff Drinks Evening: Friday 8th September. (18.45) Year 8 Residential Geography Field Trip to Swanage: Monday 2nd October (Leave at 07.00) - Tuesday 2nd October (Return at 19.00) Year 8 Science and Art trip to Natural History and Pitt Rivers museums: Monday 12th October

Half-term begins: Friday 13th October (4.10pm) Half-term ends: Sunday 29th October

Year 8R Parents' Evening: Tuesday 14th November. Year 3-8 Christmas Carol Service: Monday 11th December. Term ends: Friday 15th December (12.00pm).

PLEASE CONSULT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL SCHOOL EVENTS APS school calendar

Maths

This term the pupils will study the following topics in preparation for the scholarship examinations next term.

Number: The pupils will study 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. They will calculate percentage increases and decreases and express this as a %. They will explore the relationship between speed, distance and time. Review prime factorisation and find the HCF and LCM.

Algebra: The pupils will solve equations and inequalities involving brackets and fractions. They will simplify and factorise expressions. They will learn to rearrange formulae. They will solve simultaneous equations and apply to problems.

Data Handling: The pupils will calculate and interpret averages and explore probability.

Measurement: The pupils will investigate the area and perimeter of compound shapes, trapeziums, parallelograms and circles. They will explore Pythagoras' Theorem.

Problem solving and investigation strategies: They will use a structured approach when tackling extended problems or investigations:

- Exploring and noticing structure
- Working systemically

Event: Maths escape rooms workshops (09 Oct: visiting professionals)

Academic Scholarship information: Key Dates

Abingdon School

Scholarship entry form submitted to Abingdon School: Friday 1st December, 2023.

Mock exams (at APS): Monday 15th to Thursday 18th January, 2024.

Academic Scholarship assessment week (at Abingdon School): Monday 26th February to Wednesday 28th February, 2024.

For more information visit:

Abingdon School 13+ scholarship information

Science

The pupils will continue following the senior year Science curriculum, at an accelerated rate, as the scholarship exam is based on this core knowledge.

This term the pupils will begin with **Biology**. They will start by looking at variation and inheritance. A visit to the Oxford Natural History Museum will support this topic. 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. This will include population studies.

They will also study the adaptation of plants and the biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis will be covered.

This will be followed by the **Physics** topics of light and sound. They will then finish the term with **Chemistry**, studying the reactions of acids and alkalis, including the chemistry of limestone.

This will be followed by the **Physics** topics of light, sound and energy.

Chemistry of acids and alkalis will also be covered and the reaction of limestone.

Throughout the term, to prepare them for next term's scholarship examination, the pupils will study related scholarship questions.

writing skills. Pupils will be expected to use a good blue or black pen for their formal writing. Speaking & listening: 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. In preparation for the scholarship exams, in particular for their interview, they will also learn to respond orally to unseen poems and to current affairs or philosophical or ethical questions. Use of ICT: 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 Religious Education (RE) Geography History This term the pupils in Year 8 will learn about coasts and rivers. This term the pupils will spend time developing their source The pupils will begin their preparation for their scholarship Pupils will look at the importance of coasts and rivers and how coastal and river based skills. Pupils will consider evidence through a variety of examinations next term. A particular focus this term will be landscapes are shaped through physical processes. They will follow this by lenses, developing a discerning eye for detail, and building placed on **contemporary moral issues**, and on the reasons studying the importance of coasts and rivers to human society. This term, to responses that showcase a mature interpretation of the sources. for differing attitudes towards them held by different Christian supplement their learning in the classroom, the pupils will participate in a Topics for this unit cover areas such as the Troubles in Northern traditions, as well by those practising other religions. The two-day residential field trip to Swanage, Dorset. Ireland, D-Day, US Civil Rights and the Falklands War. This will be pupils will also start to consider more philosophical issues Pupils will start to explore the reasons for coastal and river flood hazards in followed by a detailed investigation into whether King John such as the problem of evil and arguments for the existence certain locations and how people respond to these. There will be an deserves to be known as a bad monarch. The pupils will analyse of God. The pupils will begin the term with an investigation assessment at the end of each unit which forms part of their overall AP+ contemporary written evidence and historiography related to this into AI and its impact on the world around them. assessment in Year 8. topic in order to construct a scholarship-style analytical essay. In parallel with their classwork assignments, pupils will choose one British Towards the end of term pupils will begin to study the **Black river** which they will investigate from source to mouth. **Death**, examining causation as well as the short and long term impact of the plague on medieval England. The pupils will also continue to develop their locational knowledge of the UK, Europe and other parts of the World and Ordnance Survey map skills. In preparation for the scholarship assessments next term the pupils will be provided with further opportunities to interpret a variety of maps, photographs, satellite images and other data sources to help them recognise and analyse patterns and draw conclusions. Core Skills The pupils will receive regular grammar lessons in which they will be introduced This term the pupils will begin their preparation for their No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme. to the imperfect, simple future and pluperfect tenses and negative expressions scholarship examination in Latin. Latin texts will be analysed and object pronouns. Pupils will begin the class-reader Petit Nicolas. Pupils will closely and pupils will work on translation skills, in particular cover example scholarship papers throughout the term. Topics will include focusing on natural but accurate translations from Latin into describing people and their characteristics and sports and hobbies. They will English. They will be introduced to aspects of Latin grammar such learn to describe school life, as well as discussing plans to eat out with friends, as the genitive, ablative and vocative cases and will begin to look or go on holiday. at participles, beginning with present participles. **General Studies** Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE) Information, Computer Technology (ICT) In 8R General Studies will be taught discretely to PSHCE. As part of their Although PSHCE is a non-assessed subject, it does, of course, In the first term pupils will design graphics using vector preparations for the General Studies scholarship exam, the pupils will focus on link into the school's pastoral programme and forms part of the graphic editing software. By the end of this unit pupils will likely topics of essay writing and interview discussion. Some of these topics will school's commitment to ensuring that each pupil can learn in a have produced an illustration, a logo, or some icons using overlap with aspects of the PSHCE programme, including themes of citizenship, secure environment whilst also developing self-confidence and vector graphics. social diversity and Fundamental British Values. The pupils will develop their personal responsibility. skills in comprehension and essay technique using a selection of past exam During their form time pupils will be involved in identifying their In the second half of term pupils will learn about the different papers, which will also provide valuable practice for the Abingdon School strengths, weaknesses and personal and collective goals in layers of computing systems: from programs and the relation to both their scholarship ambitions and wider academic scholarship examination. In addition the pupils will receive interview practice operating system, to the physical components that store and and will be encouraged to learn how to respond in discussion to an unseen text and pastoral progress. They will also be developing skills to build execute these programs, to the fundamental binary building or image as part of the skill of intellectual engagement and demonstration of a resilience and emotional health. blocks that these components consist of. capacity to think laterally. 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.

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Art	Design & Technology (DT)	Music and Drama
Architecture: Structures and urban landscape	Food: Pupils this year will have the opportunity to study food as	Pupils will study melodic development through Theme and
Pupils will explore architecture and its history through a specialist seminar	part of the DT curriculum. The topic is around healthy snacks with	Variation techniques, and also learn to play increasingly
delivered by an external Art historian, with regular contextual study sessions during lessons.	sessions being led by the executive chef from the senior school.	complex chord sequences, using this as a basis for song writing.
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.	Mood lights: 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	They will learn to sing a variety of songs in preparation for the carol service, as well as beginning work on their production music.
Architects and designers; Pupils will have the opportunity to research	and a laser cutter, to cut and engrave. They will also be able to use	
collaboratively and independently the work of John Piper, Escher, Jean Claude	their existing knowledge of electric circuits as part of the project,	Drama : The pupils will study two different units over this term.
and Christo, Tim Steward, as well as renowned architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Zaha Hadid.	wiring and installing an LED circuit to their light.	They will spend one half term exploring the theme of fame. They will be looking at what it means, what fame can be like
	Bedroom Design: Pupils will be introduced to some CAD software	and improvising scenes based on the different elements of
Media: Pupils will explore the following media with which to create both 2D and	which they can use to visualise the bedroom of their dreams! They	fame. For the other half term, they will be looking at 'The
3D responses to their research, for example, printmaking, clay, freestanding	will then use one and two point perspective drawing as a means of	Perfect Crime' by creating a number of sustainable characters
card sculpture, painting, drawing, photography and ICT.	drawing out their final design. Pupils can then make a 3D card	, ,
Painting/2D: Pupils will explore the work of painter L.S Lowry, renowned for his	model of their bedroom if time allows.	in a devised story, collaborating with others to devise a piece
depictions of British historical architecture, evaluating the mood and feeling his	Initial of their beardonn in time allows.	of drama and exploring a theme through the devising,
compositions inspire.		polishing and performing process.
Games	Physical Education (PE)	Swimming
This term the major team sport will be rugby . 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	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	This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills:
	develop a rally in either a singles or doubles situation and move their opponent around the court with a variety of different shots.	Front Crawl: This will include developing their stamina, arm entry, leg kick and breathing.
	Following on from this handball will be introduced with passing and shooting skills covered.	Backstroke: They will practise their starts and learn how to improve the use of their legs and arms.
respond to phases of play through 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd phases. They will practise kicking. They will learn the differing roles of forwards and backs. They will be	and shooting shine severed.	· ·
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,		The pupils will also have the opportunity to improve their race technique, including racing starts and racing in lengths.
and learn how to better use space. 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.		