



**Curriculum Overview**  
**Year 8R (Scholarship) Spring Term**  
*January - March 2024*

<b>Form/ Year Group / Section Events</b>		<b>Academic Scholarship information Key Dates</b>
Term begins: Tuesday 8th January  8R parents' evening (via Schoolcloud) - Thursday 25th January Open Morning - Friday 2nd February  Half-term begins: Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February (16.10) Half-term ends: Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February.  RSE Parent webinar: Monday 19th February (18:30) Y8 HPV vaccines - Thursday 22nd February World Book Day: Thursday 7th March e-safety webinar for parents (online - Thursday 7th March Inter-house cross-country competition (Parents invited): Wednesday 20th March (14:00)  Term ends: Friday 22nd March (12.00).		<b>Abingdon School</b> Mock exams: Monday 15th to Friday 19th January (at APS). Academic Scholarship assessment week: Written exams - Monday 26th February to Wednesday 28th February, 2023 (at AS). Interviews - Wednesday 28th February (at AS).  <b>MCS</b> Mock exams: Monday 15th to Friday 19th January (at APS). Academic Scholarship assessment: Monday 26th February and Tuesday 27th February, 2024 (at MCS).
<b>English</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Science</b>
<p>This term the pupils in 8R will study the following topics:</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Pupils will finish reading 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck paying particular attention to the themes of dreams, friendship and isolation. They will then study Shakespeare's sonnets. Not only will this give them practice of analysing poems in preparation for their scholarship assessment, it will also provide a worthy entry point to studying Shakespeare's wider works. They will read 'Romeo and Juliet' using this text to study various themes as well as the language and devices used by Shakespeare.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Pupils will continue to learn the skills of critically analysing the texts that they read. They will also be given the opportunity to write a creative composition and a found poem inspired by 'Of Mice and Men'.</p> <p><b>Assessment:</b> The pupils will be sitting their mock exams in early January in preparation for the final scholarship exams in late February. The pupils will continue to receive guidance in how to compose found poems and justify their choices of language and devices employed. They will also receive further guidance and practice in composing a scholarship style composition.</p> <p><b>Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG):</b> The pupils will continue to review key elements of SPaG during their feedback sessions as well as through discrete sessions, including via activities on Atom Learning.</p> <p><b>Speaking &amp; listening:</b> All pupils will be asked to prepare and perform one of Shakespeare's sonnets to a small or larger audience.</p>	<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>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, including simultaneous equations, and will explore sequences to find the <math>n^{\text{th}}</math> term. They will recap finding percentage amounts and use a multiplying factor to find percentage increase and decreases.</p> <p><b>Algebra:</b> They will reinforce their knowledge of all algebra techniques covered, extending the work on simplifying to include fractions and indices. Use simultaneous equations to solve word problems. Characterise sequences and find <math>n^{\text{th}}</math> term.</p> <p><b>Graphs:</b> They will continue to investigate straight lines through simultaneous equations and (post-exams) quadratics, cubics and reciprocals.</p> <p><b>Shape and space:</b> They will recap volume and surface area of cuboids and cylinders. They will practise solving problems involving circles. Revision will include calculating the area of triangles, trapeziums and parallelograms. Post exams, they will revisit rotating, reflecting and translating shapes and learn to accurately enlarge/ reduce shapes.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b> The relationship between speed, distance and time will be explored. Following examinations, they will hone a wide range of skills to prepare for the UKMT Junior Mathematics and team (if running this year) challenges.</p>	<p><b>Physics</b></p> <p><b>Waves:</b> Pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils 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>
<b>Geography</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Religious Education (RE)</b>
<p>This term the pupils will continue to prepare for their scholarship examinations with some further revision of map skills and population from last year.</p> <p>After their mock examinations the pupils will start a new unit on <b>contemporary conflicts</b> and associated challenges. They will consider the</p>	<p>This term the pupils in 8R will receive further practice in tackling <b>evidence questions</b>, 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 <b>the major</b></p>	<p>The pupils will continue preparatory work for their scholarship examinations. The topics covered this term will include a selection of life issues. Following their examinations the pupils will start their study of Buddhism.</p>

<p>causes of conflict, different types of conflict and examples of local and regional conflicts around the world. They will also examine the impacts of conflict on the countries and regions involved.</p>	<p><b>events of the 14th Century</b>, 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. Following the scholarship examinations pupils will complete a case study on <b>Richard III and the princes in the Tower</b>. They will examine sources and answer evidence based questions.</p>	
<p><b>French</b></p> <p>The pupils will look at a number of <b>past practice papers</b> as they prepare for their mock scholarship exams, which will include reading and writing papers. 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 including school, family and free-time.</p> <p>Following the scholarship exams, pupils will begin to learn some <b>Spanish</b> using the following topics: greetings, numbers and birthdays.</p>	<p><b>Latin</b></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. In the latter part of the term, pupils are introduced to the passive voice and how this is constructed and translated.</p>	<p><b>Core Skills</b></p> <p>No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme.</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> <p>Building on work undertaken in lessons at the end of Spring Term, pupils will work in pairs to use the programming language <b>JavaScript</b> 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 <b>Applied Digital Skills</b> series of activities provided by Google, which will help pupils to consolidate their ICT learning at Abingdon Prep.</p>	<p><b>Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)/Relationship and Sex Education</b></p> <p>8R will continue to develop their <b>study skills</b>; learning different revision techniques and gain plenty of exam writing practice.</p> <p>Pupils will look at different types of <b>relationships</b>, covering issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, gender and how to negotiate <b>social media</b> effectively.</p> <p>They will also cover male <b>body image</b>, including the influence of the media.</p>	<p><b>General Studies</b></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>
<p><b>Art</b></p> <p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or DT 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><b>Design Technology (DT)</b></p> <p>In DT this term Year 8 pupils will be working on 2 separate projects, each focussing on different skills using a variety of materials and processes.</p> <p><b>Mood lights:</b> Pupils will be using CAD and CAM skills and a variety of wood and plastics to create a LED mood light. Students will be using the laser cutter to engrave images into acrylic and MDF.</p> <p><b>Bedroom Design:</b> Pupils will be working on their graphic design skills and introduced into various forms of technical drawing, including perspective, isometric and Orthographic projection. Students will use these skills accompanied by CAD skills to create a bedroom design of their dreams!</p>	<p><b>Music &amp; Drama</b></p> <p>This term the pupils will study the following topics:</p> <p><b>New Directions:</b> Pupils will consider the question: 'What is music?' They will learn about experimental techniques of the 20th century. They will develop knowledge and discussion skills around analysing music in context with a particular focus on Aleatoric music and Minimalism, creating their own arrangement of 'Tubular Bells' using specific Minimalist techniques.</p> <p><b>Drama:</b> The pupils will be learning the songs for the Senior Production. They will also be learning choreography and rehearsing some parts of the play.</p>
<p><b>Games</b></p> <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 participate in inter-school and house matches. Pupils will follow the ISFA and FA Junior Football Guidelines.</p>	<p><b>Physical Education (PE)</b></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><b>Basketball:</b> 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><b>Swimming</b></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> <p><b>Butterfly:</b> They will be taught and given opportunities to develop how they kick, use their arms, start races and improve their turns.</p>

		<b>Assessment:</b> Pupils will be assessed in their ability to swim both strokes.
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