



Curriculum Overview

Year 8 AP+ (8J) Autumn Term

September - December 2025

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	Computing
<p>Parents and Staff Drinks Evening: Friday 5th September. (18.45)</p> <p>Year 8 Residential Geography Field Trip to Swanage: Friday 3rd October (Leave at 07.00 - return by 19.00)</p> <p>Year 8 Science and Art trip to Natural History and Pitt Rivers museums: Wednesday 1st October.</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 17th October (4.10pm)</p> <p>Half-term ends: Sunday 2nd November</p> <p>Year 8J Parents' Evening Online: Tuesday 18th November (17.30 to 19.30)</p> <p>Year 6-8 Christmas Carol Service: Monday 8th December (6-7.30pm)</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 12th December (12.00pm).</p> <p>PLEASE CONSULT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL SCHOOL EVENTS APS school calendar</p>	<p>Pupils will consider the environment, 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 credit and debt, 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 public and private sector funding. They will learn how decisions are made about the allocation of funding for services.</p> <p>They will discuss the issues surrounding smoking and vaping, 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>Reading: Pupils will read a wide variety of 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. Later in the term pupils will read 'Of Mice and Men' 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>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. Pupils will also work on improving their 'free writing' and their ability to write descriptively using an array of literary devices.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Punctuation and Grammar: 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>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.</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>Number: Pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - express large and small numbers in standard index form. They will learn to calculate using standard form. - apply the four rules of number using integers, decimals, fractions and negative numbers and apply BIDMAS. - use prime factorisation to find the HCF and LCM of two numbers. - learn and apply the rules of indices. - explore degrees of accuracy: either a specified number of decimal places or significant figures. <p>Algebra: 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>Fractions: Pupils will revisit calculation with fractions using all four operations.</p> <p>Problem solving strategies with a particular focus on <i>working collaboratively</i> and <i>exploring & noticing</i>.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will begin with Biology. 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>We will then continue with a unit on microbiology which will include the use of agar plates to grow microorganisms.</p> <p>They will also study the adaptation of plants and the biochemical processes of respiration and photosynthesis will be covered.</p> <p>They will then finish the term with Chemistry, studying the reactions of acids and alkalis, including the chemistry of limestone.</p>

<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>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.</p> <p>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 work.</p>		
Geography	History	Theology, Philosophy, Ethics (TPE)
<p>This term the pupils in Year 8 will learn about coasts.</p> <p>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 field trip to the Jurassic Coast, Dorset.</p> <p>Pupils will start to explore the reasons for coastal hazards in certain locations and how people respond to these.</p> <p>The pupils will also continue to develop their locational knowledge of the UK, ArcGIS and Ordnance Survey map skills.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will be working on improving their skills of historical inquiry. They will be analysing sources on a number of topics ranging from the Reformation to propaganda. They will be evaluating when, where and why the courses were created.</p> <p>Pupils will be expected to think critically, to analyse material carefully and to apply the appropriate terminology. They will also spend time improving their research skills and their ability to construct essays on a range of subjects.</p>	<p>The pupils will commence their study of the Buddhist 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>
French	Latin	Core Skills
<p>The pupils return to the revision of the main tenses where they will be taught to talk about themselves and their family. Pupils will learn how to describe their school day and compare these with French children of their own age.</p> <p>Grammar focus: Pupils will recap the 4 key irregular verbs, the past tense (passé composé), the immediate future, the imperative, as well as the use of the direct object, more complex adjectival agreement, the use of connectives and some idioms.</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 role of Gods and Goddesses, favour and punishment, in ancient times as well as fate and prophecy.</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>
Art	Design and Technology (DT)	Music and Drama
<p>Visual Arts Portfolios _ Skills based workshops.</p> <p>Pupils will explore what a portfolio is and how to create a visual collection of experimentation.</p> <p>Theory: What are the formal elements and how are they used in Art? Art history lecturer Lizzie Rowe will join us for a one off seminar to discuss 'Experimental art throughout the ages.'</p> <p>Sculpture Assemblage of 3D 'mini origami notebooks' to experiment with a wide variety of materials</p> <p>Printmaking - Drypoint etching in the style of John Piper, 'Fantastic beasts'</p> <p>Pottery - Learning the art of pottery and creating a ceramic vessel on the wheel.</p>	<p>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 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>Bedroom Design: 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>Music: This term, pupils will focus on experimental music of the 20th century, particularly the techniques of the Minimalist movement. Pupils will consider 'what is music' and will be guided to push boundaries in their thoughts around how and why music is created and presented. Pupils will learn to compose and perform using musical motifs, developing ideas into bigger pieces through key minimalist concepts such as repetition, metamorphosis and phase-shifting.</p> <p>Drama: As part of their Performing Arts lessons the pupils will be studying a topic linked to the history of drama, looking specifically at Ancient Greek theatre and commedia dell'arte.</p>
Games	Physical Education (PE)	Swimming
<p>Football and rugby: Pupils will develop their skills and play small sided games; run with / without the ball; tackling, develop their positional play; and learn the rules and basic principles of football. All of the pupils will participate in inter-house matches and/or inter-school matches. They will follow the Under 13 FA Continuum and U13 RFU framework.</p>	<p>The pupils in Year 8 will develop their skills in the following areas:</p> <p>Physical literacy: Pupils will learn how and why physical activity can benefit them both physically and mentally, whilst developing their</p>	<p>This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills:</p> <p>Front Crawl: This will include developing their stamina, arm entry, leg kick, and breathing.</p>

	<p>fundamental movement skills. Pupils will also explore a variety of training methods and their uses.</p> <p>Racket sports and evasion games.</p>	<p>Backstroke: They will practise their starts and learn how to improve the use of their legs and arms. 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>
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