



Curriculum Overview
Year 8J Spring Term
January - March, 2026

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)/Relationship and Sex Education	Computing
<p>Term begins: Tuesday 6th January</p> <p>Parents' evening: Tuesday 24th February (17:20 - online)</p> <p>RSE Parent Webinar: Wednesday 25th February (18:00-19:00)</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 13th February (16.10)</p> <p>Half-term ends: Sunday 22nd February.</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 5th March</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 27th March (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>The pupils will study 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 the pupils will develop their study skills; learning and practising different revision techniques.</p>	<p>Developing for the Web: Pupils will explore the technologies that make up the internet and World Wide Web. Starting with an exploration of the building blocks of the World Wide Web, HTML, and CSS, pupils will investigate how websites are catalogued and organised for effective retrieval using search engines. By the end of the unit, they will have created a functioning website.</p> <p>Representations: Pupils will be introduced to binary representations. The activities introduce pupils to binary digits and how they can be used to represent text and numbers. The concepts are linked to practical applications and problems that the pupils are familiar with.</p>
English	Mathematics	Science
<p>This term the pupils in Year 8 will study the following topics:</p> <p>Reading: Pupils will finish reading 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck paying particular attention to the use of characterisation in the text. They will then study Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream' using this text to study various themes as well as the language and devices used by Shakespeare in his plays.</p> <p>Writing: Pupils will continue to learn the skills of critically analysing the texts that they read. They will also be given the opportunity to write creatively.</p> <p>Assessment: The pupils will be given opportunities to attempt a number of short writing tasks to build up their creative skills under timed conditions in preparation for their AP+ writing examination in the summer.</p> <p>Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG): The pupils will continue to review key elements of SPaG during their feedback sessions as well as through discrete sessions.</p> <p>Speaking & listening: All pupils will be asked to prepare and perform one of Shakespeare's sonnets to a small or larger audience.</p>	<p>This term, pupils will cover the following topics:</p> <p>Statistics: Pupils will calculate and investigate finding probabilities of discrete events and of two sequential events. They will conduct their own experiments to compare theoretical and experimental probabilities. They will use spreadsheets for calculation.</p> <p>Measurement: Pupils will convert between units of measurement, then investigate the relationship between speed, distance and time, rearranging formulae to calculate an unknown quantity.</p> <p>Algebra: Pupils will form, simplify, factorise and solve equations, including those involving brackets and fractions. They will apply knowledge of common factors to help simplify expressions involving division or fractions.</p> <p>Shape, Space and Measurement: Pupils will explore Pythagoras' Theorem. 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>Acids and alkalis: Pupils will finish their 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: They will learn about these two types of waves, consider how they travel and their different speeds.</p> <p>Energy: Then they 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.</p> <p>After this they will revise a number of chemistry and biology topics that will be included in the AP+ exam.</p>
Geography	History	Religious Education (RE)
<p>This term the pupils will start a new unit on contemporary conflicts and associated challenges. They will consider the causes of conflict, different types of conflict and examples of local and regional conflicts</p>	<p>The pupils will be studying the reigns of King Richard I and King John. Pupils will look at a range of source materials and evaluate which of these reigns were more successful. They will examine the Crusades, analysing the reasons why people went on Crusades and focusing on both the 1st</p>	<p>Pupils will continue and complete their study of the Buddhist religion, which culminates in a study of its holy books and festivals.</p>

<p>around the world. They will also examine the impacts of conflict on the countries and regions involved.</p>	<p>and 3rd Crusades. Pupils will also look at the role of women in the Crusades.</p> <p>Pupils will learn the skills of historical inquiry paying particular attention to evaluating source materials and developing essays.</p>	
<p>French</p> <p>This term pupils will continue to build on the grammar they have learned from last term using the <i>passé composé</i> and the <i>imperfect</i> as well as the <i>future tense</i>. Topics to be studied will include camping restaurants and shopping. These will be tested by asking pupils to translate sentences from English into French and vice versa</p> <p>We will also be preparing dialogues and practising answering and asking questions. These dialogues that will be used in the AP+ speaking exams.</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 present participles, neuter nouns, adjective agreement and relative clauses. Pupils will also learn about Roman life and the excavation of the Roman town of Bath.</p>	<p>Core Skills</p> <p>Themes: This Year 8 Core Skills unit focuses on strengthening students' reading confidence and comprehension through a combination of fiction, non-fiction, and targeted intervention resources. Pupils will read <i>Hatchet</i> by Gary Paulsen, using the novel to develop key skills such as inference. Alongside this, they will work with a range of short non-fiction texts to practise their reading skills. The Key Stage 3 Reading Intervention Booklet will be used throughout to reinforce core strategies, including vocabulary building, retrieval, skimming and scanning, and responding critically to texts. Through guided reading, discussion, and structured activities from the booklet, <i>Hatchet</i>, and other sources, pupils will progress toward becoming more fluent readers across different text types.</p>
<p>Art</p> <p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or DT sets for the first half of the year.</p> <p>The Art students will create Visual Skills portfolio</p> <p>They will experiment with a variety of media ranging from acrylic painting, collage and pottery.</p> <p>The main topics this term will be:</p> <p>Recording from observation: The pupils will complete large observational drawings of skeletons in mixed media, turning their drawings into a mini explosion book.</p> <p>Clay: They will create a piece of pottery on the wheel, learning to 'throw' and add colour with appropriate glazes.</p> <p>Art History: Historian Lizzie Rowe will visit to deliver a lecture style lesson on 'disaster' in art.</p> <p>Painting and Printing - Finally the pupils will explore the illustrations of 'fantastic beasts' creating a painting and Dry point etching inspired by mythical beasts.</p>	<p>Design and Technology (DT)</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>Mood lights: 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>Bedroom Design: 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>Music and Drama</p> <p>Music: Pupils will revisit and revise Ukulele learning from Year 7, refining and exploring their technique, before moving on to developing their reading of TAB notation..</p> <p>Drama: During the first half of this term, pupils will develop their knowledge and understanding of theatre history and learn how much of what we see in the theatre today derives from the performance skills and techniques of Victorian melodrama. In the second half, preparations will begin for the Senior production, including auditions, scene blocking and character and story exploration.</p>
<p>Games</p> <p>This term's major team sports will be hockey and rugby. They will train for and play 7-a-side games. They will practise the following skills: passing, dribbling, shooting, 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 RFU and EH guidelines.</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>