



Curriculum Overview Year 8M Autumn Term September - December 2026

Form/ Year Group / Section Events		Academic Scholarship information: Key Dates
Parents and Staff Drinks Evening: Friday 11 th September. (18.45) Arts Award trip Thursday 7 th October Year 8 Residential Geography Field Trip to Swanage: Friday 2 nd October (Leave at 07.00 - return by 19.00) Year 8 Science and Art trip to Natural History and Pitt Rivers museums: Monday 12 th October Half-term begins: Friday 16 th October (4.10pm) Half-term ends: Sunday 1 st November Year 8M Parents' Evening Online: Wednesday 18 th November. Year 6-8 Christmas Carol Service: Monday 7 th December (6-7.30pm) Term ends: Friday 11 th December (12.00pm). PLEASE CONSULT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL SCHOOL EVENTS APS school calendar		Abingdon School Scholarship entry form submitted to Abingdon School: Monday 30 th November, 2026. Mock exams (at APS): Monday 11 th to Thursday 14 th January, 2027. Music audition 28 th January 2027 Academic Scholarship assessment week (at Abingdon School): Monday 1 st March to Wednesday 3 rd March, 2027. For more information visit: Abingdon School 13+ scholarship information
English	Maths	Science
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 poems on the theme of conflict. The main focus will be on World War 1 poetry. Not only will pupils discover how the form and content of poetry changed during the war years, they will also study the techniques used by poets to transmit their feelings and deeper messages. They will also study some 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 Poetry analysis. Pupils will develop their skills of how to analyse poetry, thereby supporting the tasks which they will have to master as part of the poetry component of the scholarship assessment. 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 selected sources, including from past scholarship papers. 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.	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 revise/ apply the rules of indices - including negative and fractional indices. They will calculate percentage increases and decreases. Review prime factorisation and find the HCF and LCM. Algebra: Pupils will solve equations and inequalities involving brackets and fractions. They will simplify and factorise expressions. They will learn to rearrange formulae. They will explore quadratic equations graphically and begin to solve by factorising. Data Handling: Pupils will calculate and interpret averages and may begin to explore probability. Measurement: Pupils will investigate the area and perimeter of compound shapes, trapeziums, parallelograms and circles. Problem solving strategies with a particular focus on <i>working collaboratively</i> and <i>exploring & noticing</i>.	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.

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 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 work.		
Geography	History	Theology, Philosophy, Ethics (TPE)
This term the pupils in Year 8 will learn about coasts. 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. Pupils will start to explore the reasons for coastal hazards in certain locations and how people respond to these. The pupils will also continue to develop their locational knowledge of the UK, ArcGIS and Ordnance Survey map skills. In preparation for the scholarship assessments next term, the pupils will be preparing for essay style questions on a series of geographical themes in preparation for the General Paper.	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. 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.	The pupils will begin their preparation for their scholarship examinations next term. A particular focus this term will be placed on contemporary moral issues, and on the reasons for differing attitudes towards them held by different Christian traditions, as well by those practising other religions. The pupils will also start to consider more philosophical issues such as the problem of evil and arguments for the existence of God. The pupils will begin the term with an investigation into AI and its impact on the world around them.
French	Latin	Core Skills
The pupils will receive regular grammar lessons in which they will be introduced to the imperfect, simple future and pluperfect tenses and negative expressions and direct/ indirect object pronouns. Pupils will cover example scholarship papers throughout the term focusing on reading longer, more elaborate texts. Topics will include describing people and their characteristics, sports and hobbies. They will learn to describe their school life, as well as discussing plans to go out with friends, and going on holiday.	This term the pupils will begin their preparation for their scholarship examination in Latin. Latin texts will be analysed closely and pupils will work on translation skills, in particular focusing on natural but accurate translations from Latin into English. They will be introduced to aspects of Latin grammar such as the genitive, ablative and vocative cases and will begin to look at participles, beginning with present participles.	No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme.
General Studies	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	Computing
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. Some of these topics will overlap with aspects of the PSHCE programme, including themes of citizenship, social diversity and Fundamental British Values. The pupils will develop their skills in comprehension and essay technique using a selection of past exam papers, which will also provide valuable practice for the Abingdon School scholarship examination. In addition the pupils will receive interview practice and will be encouraged to learn how to respond in discussion to an unseen text or image as part of the skill of intellectual engagement and demonstration of a capacity to think laterally.	Although PSHCE is a non-assessed subject, it does, of course, link into the school's pastoral programme and forms part of the school's commitment to ensuring that each pupil can learn in a secure environment whilst also developing self-confidence and personal responsibility. During their form time pupils will be involved in identifying their strengths, weaknesses and personal and collective goals in relation to both their scholarship ambitions and wider academic and pastoral progress. They will also be developing skills to build resilience and emotional health.	In the first term 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. In the second half of term pupils will learn about the different layers of computing systems: from programs and the operating system, to the physical components that store and execute these programs, to the fundamental binary building blocks that these components consist of.

	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.	
Art	Design & Technology (DT)	Music and Drama
Visual Arts Portfolios _ Skills based workshops. Pupils will explore what a portfolio is and how to create a visual collection of experimentation. 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.' Sculpture Assemblage of 3D 'mini origami notebooks' to experiment with a wide variety of materials. Printmaking - Drypoint etching in the style of John Piper, 'Fantastic beasts' Pottery - Learning the art of pottery and creating a ceramic vessel on the wheel.	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. 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. Pupils can then make a 3D card model of their bedroom if time allows.	Music: Remix & Reimagine - this term, pupils will explore how existing musical material can be transformed, developed and rearranged while retaining a recognisable connection to its source. Using Frère Jacques as the central theme, pupils build secure practical knowledge of the melody before investigating a progressively more sophisticated range of variation techniques. Drama: Pupils revisit and extend key drama skills through the fictional setting of <i>The Department of Unreliable Truths</i>: a strange organisation that investigates events where nobody can agree what really happened. Building on pupils' previous drama experience, the unit challenges them to create more sophisticated performances using conflicting viewpoints, unreliable narration, bias, status, flashback, direct address and ensemble storytelling.
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 respond to phases of play through 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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. At all times pupils will follow the RFU Continuum.	The pupils in Year 8 will develop their skills in the following areas: Health Related Exercise: Pupils will learn how and why physical activity can benefit them both physically and mentally, whilst developing their fundamental movement skills. Pupils will also explore a variety of training methods and their uses. Badminton and Basketball.	This term the pupils will develop and be assessed in the following skills: Front Crawl: This will include developing their stamina, arm entry, leg kick and breathing. 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.