



Curriculum Overview

Year 8R (Scholarship) Spring Term

January - March 2018

Form/ Year Group / Section Events		Academic Scholarship information Key Dates
<p>Term begins: Tuesday 9th January</p> <p>Mock exam week: Tuesday 15h to Friday 18th January.</p> <p>Parents' Evening: Tuesday 23rd January</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 9th February (4.10pm) Half-term ends: Sunday 18th February.</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 1st March.</p> <p>Parents' Evening: Tuesday 6th March</p> <p>Term ends: Friday 29th March (12.00pm).</p>		<p>Abingdon School Mock exams (at APS): Monday 15th to Thursday 18th January 2018. Academic Scholarship assessment week (at Abingdon School): Monday 5th March to Wednesday 7h March 2018.</p> <p>Magdalen College School Mock exams (at APS): Monday 15th to Thursday 19th January 2018. Academic Scholarship assessment week (at MCS): Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th February 2018.</p>
English	Maths	Science
<p>The main focus of this term is to revise the following topics in preparation for the Scholarship examinations. They will be revisiting important areas covered in Year 8 so far and have practice at completing past papers under timed conditions:</p> <p>Reading: Pupils will revise how to understand, analyse and evaluate meaning from a range of poetry, prose, and non-fiction. They will recap key skills including: understanding and vocabulary; use of text to illustrate answers; drawing of inferences; evaluation of style, language and purpose; delivery of arguments based on material; awareness of how grammar, syntax and punctuation affect meaning and capacity to make comparisons and evaluate contrast. Pupils will continue to recognise and comment on the effectiveness of key literary features, such as: metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, irony, alliteration, assonance, rhyme, rhythm and metre.</p> <p>Writing: Pupils will consolidate how to write both creative and discursive compositions. They will also write poetry and revise how to bring out the poetic features of a piece of prose by arranging it as a poem. Pupils will explain their choices in a piece of continuous writing.</p> <p>Studied literature: Pupils will continue to study a number of challenging texts, across genre and period, to acquire the skill of discriminating reading and develop their own imaginative and personal responses to literature.</p> <p>Post examination they will turn their attention towards a programme of study on William Shakespeare and one of his plays.</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>Algebra: They will reinforce their knowledge of all algebra techniques that have been covered.</p> <p>Graphs: They will investigate straight lines, quadratics, cubics and reciprocals.</p> <p>Number work: 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 by trial and improvement. They will explore sequences.</p> <p>Shape and space: They will investigate volume and surface area of cuboids and cylinders. They will practice problems involving circles. They will calculate speed, distance and time on single and multiple journeys.</p> <p>Following the examinations they will hone their mental arithmetic skills and prepare for the UKMT team and Individual Mathematics challenges.</p>	<p>Physics</p> <p>Forces: This term the boys will review the topic of forces by considering moments, speed and the effect of air resistance.</p> <p>Energy: 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>Electricity and magnetism: The boys will review these topics, which will include a look at static electricity.</p> <p>Revision: They will then have finished the syllabus and will revise separation techniques and chemical reactions. 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>
Geography	History	Religious Education (RE)
<p>This term the pupils will focus on improving their essay writing technique as they study sections from past papers.</p> <p>This includes revision of the APS senior years syllabus in addition to studying additional material pertinent to the specific scholarship assessments.</p> <p>Once the various senior school exams are over the pupils will research topics of their own choosing and complete a written project. They will watch 'An Inconvenient Truth' by Al Gore to stimulate discussion about world development and environmental issues.</p>	<p>This term the pupils in 8R will receive further practice in tackling evidence questions, 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 the major events of the 14th Century, 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.</p>	<p>The pupils will continue preparatory work for their scholarship examinations. The topics covered this term will include how the Bible is interpreted by different Christian traditions, Christian approaches to ethical issues, comparative religion and the relationship between religion and politics.</p>

	Following the scholarship examinations the pupils will study the causes, main events and consequences of two major medieval battles: Crecy (1346) and Agincourt (1415). They will write an analytical essay examining the reasons why the English army, under Edward III, won at Crecy, and produce a Prezi presentation to explain and illustrate why the English army, under Henry V, won at Agincourt. They will also compare the known events and evidence from this battle with the dramatic version as portrayed on stage and in film in Shakespeare's 'Henry V'.	
French	Latin	Core Skills
The pupils will receive regular grammar lessons in which they will revise indirect object pronouns and common irregular verbs. They will prepare for the mock examinations. Other topics which they will study are describing famous sights in Paris; camping; shops and shopping; things that are forbidden/obligatory; and understanding signs. There will be further practice of reading, writing and listening skills.	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.	No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme.
Computing	Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)	General Studies
Pupils will learn about html , a markup language for describing web documents (web pages), and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), a style sheet language used for describing the presentation of a document written in a markup language. They will use these to code their own webpages on a topic of their choice.	<p>This term the pupils will complete two more units of the Kaleidoscope PSHCE programme.</p> <p>The first unit will continue to explore the theme of diversity and what it means to be British in a multicultural society.</p> <p>The second unit will look at staying healthy, including the importance of diet, exercise and hygiene.</p> <p>Pupils will also study the theme of democracy in the UK, beginning with the role of local government before learning about the working of Parliament and national government.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. 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.</p>	In 8R General Studies will be taught discreetly 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.
Art	Craft, Design Technology (CDT)	Music
<p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into Art or CDT 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>Recording from observation: The pupils will complete large observational drawings of architecture looking to international and local established artists for inspiration.</p> <p>Clay: They will complete the architecture project exploring structural embellishments, and create a 3d clay gargoye.</p>	<p>This term those pupils in the Year 8 CDT set will study the following topics:</p> <p>Electrical control: They will produce a fan powered boat which will be tested in the swimming pool.</p> <p>Woodwork: The pupils will make a set of laminated salad spoons of their design. They will also make a wooden treasure box with a sliding lid.</p> <p>Food Technology: Tossing pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and Easter biscuits will feature in this term's syllabus.</p>	<p>This term the pupils will study the following topics:</p> <p>Ragtime Music: They will gain an understanding and appreciation of ragtime music through listening, appraising and performing. They will explore musical elements, including march accompaniment, syncopation and chromaticism. They will develop keyboard/instrumental and performance skills.</p> <p>Time Signatures: Pupils will be introduced to the concept of irregular time signatures and will perform and compose a range of pieces in different genres including jazz ('Take Five'), pop ('Solsbury Hill') and musical theatre ('West Side Story').</p> <p>Singing: Boys will learn to sing songs from the musical, 'Smike!'</p>

Games	Physical Education (PE)	Swimming
<p>This term's major team sport will be football. 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>Year 8 pupils will develop their knowledge and skills in the following areas this term:</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>Cross-country: They will develop their stamina and ability to run over a certain distance.</p> <p>Hockey: They will develop their skills in dribbling, passing and shooting, and taking short corners.</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.</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 swim both strokes.</p>