



ABINGDON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Curriculum Overview

Year 8R (Scholarship) Autumn Term
September - December 2017

Form/ Year Group / Section Events	Academic Scholarship information: Key Dates
<p>Informal Parents' Evening: Tuesday 12th September. Year 8 Visit to Natural History Museum: Monday 2nd October Abingdon Prep School Open Morning: Saturday 7th October.</p> <p>Half-term begins: Friday 13th October (4.10pm) Half-term ends: Sunday 29th October.</p> <p>JPA Fireworks Evening: Friday 3rd November Year 8 Parents Evening: Tuesday 7th November Whole school Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 25th November. Whole School Christmas Carol Service: Monday 11th December. Term ends: Friday 15th December (12.00pm).</p>	<p>Abingdon School Scholarship entry form submitted to Abingdon School: Friday 1st December 2017 Mock exams (at APS): Monday 15th to Thursday 18th January 2018 Academic Scholarship assessment week (at Abingdon School): Monday 5th March to Wednesday 7th March 2018</p> <p>Magdalen College School Scholarship entry form submitted to MCS: Friday 12th January 2018 Mock exams (at APS): Monday 15th to Thursday 18th January 2018 Academic Scholarship assessment week (at MCS): 26th-27th February 2018</p> <p>Westminster School Scholarship entry form submitted to Westminster School: Westminster Challenge deadline: 28th February 2018 Mock exams (at APS): Monday 15th to Thursday 18th January 2018 Academic Scholarship assessment week (at Westminster): 1st May-3rd May 2018</p>

English	Maths	Science
<p>This term the pupils will study the following topics in preparation for the Scholarship examinations next term.</p> <p>Reading: Pupils will learn to understand, analyse and evaluate meaning from a range of poetry, prose, and non-fiction. They will learn 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 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 study how to write both creative and discursive compositions. They will also write poetry and learn 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 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>This term the pupils will study the following topics in preparation for the Scholarship examinations next term.</p> <p>Number: The pupils will study the four rules of number for integers, decimals and fractions and apply BIDMAS to decimals and fractions. They will write numbers in standard index form and learn the rules of indices. They will calculate percentage increases and decreases and express this as a %. They will investigate sequences and explore the relationship between speed, distance and time.</p> <p>Algebra: The pupils will solve equations and inequalities involving brackets and fractions. They will simplify and factorise expressions. They will study quadratics, including factorising and solving. They will solve problems by trial and improvement and learn to rearrange equations.</p> <p>Shape and Space: The pupils will explore transformations.</p> <p>Measurement: The pupils will investigate area and perimeter of compound shapes and circles. They will explore Pythagoras' Theorem. They will calculate the volume of cuboids and cylinders.</p>	<p>The pupils will continue following the senior year Science curriculum, at an accelerated rate, as the scholarship exam is based on this core knowledge.</p> <p>This term the pupils will study the Biology topics of variation and classification. The pupils will learn how to classify living organisms and to use keys. They will investigate the features of habitats and compare how living organisms adapt to them. This will include population studies. The pupils will then look at variation and inheritance. A visit to the Oxford Natural History Museum will support this topic.</p> <p>They will also study photosynthesis and how plants are adapted to facilitate this process. .</p> <p>This will be followed by the Physics topics of light, sound and energy</p> <p>Chemistry of acids and alkalis will also be covered and the reaction of limestone.</p> <p>Throughout the term, to prepare them for next term's scholarship examination, the pupils will study related scholarship question.</p>
Geography	History	Religious Education (RE)
<p>This term the pupils will be finishing the APS senior years Geography curriculum which the Scholarship syllabus is heavily based on. This includes studying coastal geomorphology; comparing National Parks and London Docklands; and investigating globalisation and sustainable development. They will undertake a variety of map work activities. They will be taught how</p>	<p>This term the pupils investigate the relationship between Henry II and Thomas Becket. They will analyse how the breakdown in their relationship influenced the role of the crown and the Church in medieval England. This will be followed by a detailed investigation into whether King John deserves to be known as a bad monarch. The pupils will analyse</p>	<p>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 practicing</p>

<p>to write extended written assignments. These assignments will form a vital part of the various senior school exams taken in the Spring Term.</p>	<p>contemporary written evidence, and historiography related to this topic, and learn how to construct a scholarship-style analytical essay. They will also learn how to tackle scholarship evidence questions, analysing sources relating to D-Day, the US Civil Rights movement, the development of tanks in the First World War, and the Falklands War.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>French</p>	<p>Latin</p>	<p>Core Skills</p>
<p>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 object pronouns. There will be topic based lessons about watching films at the cinema or on TV and reading various styles of books. Pupils will also cover going out and meeting arrangements, describing a school exchange, eating out and travelling by train. They will also be learning about Paris and its monuments to prompt the pupils to write letters about real or imaginary visits in the style of the Scholarship exam. Camping and shopping scenarios will be introduced and the final topic is about being able to talk about things which pupils are allowed or forbidden to do. Practice of Scholarship papers will be started towards the end of term.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No pupils in 8R follow the Core Skills programme.</p>
<p>Information, Computer Technology (ICT)</p>	<p>Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE)</p>	<p>General Studies</p>
<p>Pupils will continue the work they started towards towards the end of Year 7 in learning html (Hypertext Markup Language). They will use the knowledge and understanding that they acquire over the course of the term to start to create their own web pages to which they add multimedia content.</p>	<p>The pupils will complete two units of the Kaleidoscope PSHCE programme. The first unit, 'Being Me', will concern the question of personal identity. Pupils will discuss features of their own identities and learn how to empathise with those of others. They will also consider issues revolving around self-esteem, health, including emotional well-being, and personal goal setting. They will learn who they can turn to in order to receive guidance or support in making life choices. The second unit, 'Diversity in Britain', will allow pupils to explore images of Britain and what it means to feel 'British'. It will involve considering issues related to nationhood, citizenship and identity, and also understanding the concept of multiple identities. This term there will also be a focus upon e-safety to link with a class workshop delivered by Childnet. 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. 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>	<p>At the start of term, the pupils will look at a two week section on Leadership skills, which encourage them to take more responsibility around school and give them specific ideas as how they can do this, as well as working towards becoming 'Young Leaders'. 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 develop their skills in comprehension and essay technique using a catalogue of past exam papers, which will also provide valuable practice for the particular exam requirements of the different senior schools, including Abingdon School, Magdalen College School and Radley College. 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 a skill of intellectual engagement and demonstration of a capacity to think laterally.</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>Craft, Design Technology (CDT)</p>	<p>Music</p>
<p>Pupils in Year 8 are divided into art or CDT sets for the first half of the year. The art scholars and more able artists are taken through a comprehensive programme of extension art work including drawing skills, art history, perspective and independent study. Pupils are given weekly extension homework to complement their class work - this is only compulsory for the prospective art scholarship candidates. All pupils will</p>	<p>This term those pupils in the Year 8 CDT set will study the following topics: Electrical control: They will produce a fan powered boat which will be tested in the swimming pool. 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>Blues Pupils will study the Blues. They will be taught to understand the Blues as an important 20th Century genre and consider the history of the Blues. They will learn the primary chords in treble staff notation, how to identify a walking bass and riff, and to perform a 12 bar Blues. They will understand the 3 line stanza lyrics structure and identify and play a Blues scale.</p>

<p>have an option to do CDT after their scholarship or for the second half of the year.</p> <p>The main topic will be: Architecture: Past, Present and Imaginary.</p> <p>Using photographs of Oxford, our school and a variety of famous buildings the pupils will develop their understanding of Architecture through Shape, Form, Scale and Perspective. Using artists such as Gaudi and Escher, they will explore decadence of design and see the mathematical and imaginary sense of Structure building. They will explore structures already present and how they may be altered, looking at the work of Jean Claude and Christo. Focusing on improving their drawing and painting they will create mixed media large scale pieces, using photography as a starting point.</p>	<p>Thermoplastics: The pupils will make an acrylic tube desk tidy, bending and heating plastics.</p> <p>Christmas Bazaar: Pupils will work in groups to design, make and run a fundraising game for the Christmas Bazaar.</p>	<p>Performing Arts They will create, rehearse and perform a call and response song and improvise dramatic scenes on the theme of slavery.</p> <p>Indian Music Pupils will examine how music is used and performed in a non-Western culture. They will develop an awareness of the cultural and historical background of Indian music through listening and compositional tasks and learn about scales, improvisation and notation. Pupils will become aware of the terms raga and tala and know how these are constructed, composing and performing their own. Pupils will discriminate between Indian and other ethnic music and learn the names of common Indian musical instruments.</p> <p>Pupils will practise singing carols and perform in the carol concert.</p>
<p>Games</p>	<p>Physical Education (PE)</p>	<p>Swimming</p>
<p>This term's 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. All pupils will participate in inter-school matches, as well as inter-house 13-a-side and 7-a-side matches. At all times pupils will follow the RFU Continuum.</p>	<p>The focus for the first half of term will be on badminton and working on serve and rally techniques. The pupils will learn how to develop a rally in either a singles or doubles situation and move their opponent around the court with a variety of different shots. Following on from this handball will be introduced with passing and shooting skills covered.</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>Backstroke – They will practise their starts and learn how to improve the use of their legs and arms.</p> <p>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>