



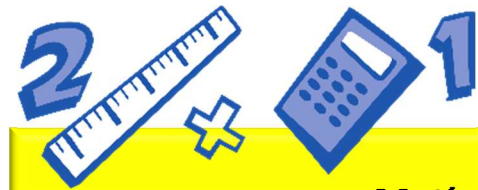
# Spring 1 in Year 8 – What are we learning?



## English

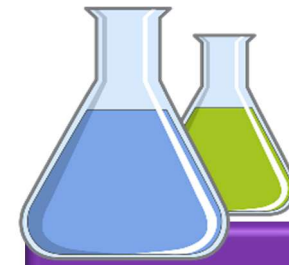
### *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

Pupils will explore the context of the Victorian era by studying Arthur Conan Doyle's famous character, Sherlock Holmes. They will study two stories: 'A Scandal in Bohemia' and 'The Red-Headed League'. Through their studies, students will develop their writing by using contextual knowledge, textual evidence, and accurate SPAG, applying these skills to different text types.



## Maths

Pupils will begin this half term by working on area, density and volume. They will then develop their algebraic skills by solving equation and inequalities. Finally, pupils will build on their existing knowledge of percentages.



## Science

In this topic, we will learn how the human body gets the energy it needs to stay alive. Exploring the difference between **breathing** (moving air in and out of the lungs) and **respiration** (a chemical process in cells that releases energy from food). We will also look at the structure and function of the lungs, how oxygen is transported around the body, and why respiration is essential for growth, movement, and keeping warm. The topic also introduces aerobic and anaerobic respiration and links breathing rate to exercise and health.



## History

### *Colonisation*

Pupils will explore European colonisation around the world, to introduce this unit. We will then focus in on West Africa, examining its wealth and culture before European arrival. Our case studies will be the empires of Ghana, Mali, and Benin, understanding their significance in global history.



## Geography

Pupils will begin a unit on sustainability. We begin with an exploration of the life and work of David Attenborough, that will lead pupils to write a sustainability statement, showcasing their own ideas and their probable impact. We will also consider case studies of how to improve global sustainability, beginning with a focus on tourism. This will incorporate location and place work, too.



## PE & Games

Year 8 students will continue to develop their physical skills and tactical understanding across a broad PE curriculum. In Games, they will refine their techniques in football and dodgeball, focusing on more advanced strategies to outwit opponents, improve decision-making, and work effectively as a team. In PE lessons, pupils will extend their creativity and performance quality in dance, linking actions with greater control, expression, and complexity. They will also build on prior learning in gymnastics, developing more challenging sequences that demonstrate accuracy, fluency, and strong partner or group coordination. Students will further advance their basketball skills, improving ball control, shooting accuracy, defensive positioning, and tactical application in competitive situations. Across all activities, Year 8 will strengthen their confidence, resilience, leadership, and overall fitness as they work both independently and collaboratively to improve their performance.



## Music

### Form & Structure

Pupils will explore four musical structures: Question and Answer Phrases, Binary Form, Ternary Form, and Rondo Form. They will understand the concept of form and structure in music, recognize the differences between these forms, and identify sections within music.



# Spring 1 in Year 8 – What are we learning?

## PSHE

### *Relationships*

We will be learning about healthy and unhealthy relationship values and expectations. We'll explore ways to keep safe online and develop understanding of gender identities and sexual orientations, consent and FGM.

## French *En vacance*

Pupils will learn to talk about school holidays, using the verbs *avoir* and *être* in the perfect tense. They will describe places they visited, what they did, and understand the use of regular and irregular verbs in the perfect tense, including *aller*. Pupils will practice listening, reading for negatives, and participate in an interview about a special holiday.



## RE *Islam*

We will continue to focus our learning on the significance of the Five Pillars of Islam, Symbolism of different actions and explore key influences on Islamic moral code.

## Design and Technology

### *Structures Project*

In this project, we learned about different types of structures and the forces that act on them, like tension and compression. Working in groups, we designed and built our own frame structures, then tested their strength. It was a great way to explore engineering through teamwork

## Computing

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, learners will investigate how websites are catalogued and organised for effective retrieval using search engines.

## Art

Year 8 are looking at architecture and how it is used in art by Ian Murphy and Rob Wilson.

## Food Technology

### *Diet and Nutrition*

In this Food Technology project, pupils learn about Diet and nutrition, exploring the importance of a balanced diet and how different foods support the body. They plan and prepare healthy dishes, developing practical cooking skills while learning to make informed food choices. The project promotes independence, responsibility, and confidence in creating nutritious meals.