

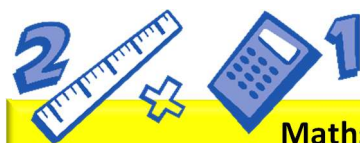


Autumn 1 in Year 8 – What are we learning?



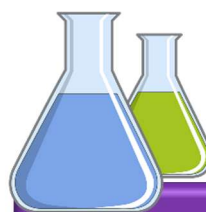
English

This term, pupils will look at *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. They will explore how the text works as an allegory for life during the 20th century. In their creative writing, pupils will study dystopian fiction. At the end of the unit, they will produce their own dystopian story.



Maths

Pupils will begin the year working on ratios, including simplifying ratios and solving problems. They will complete a topic involving proportion and scale. Finally, they will complete work on algebraic manipulation, including simplifying expressions and multiplying brackets.



Science

We are learning about food and digestion, exploring how food is broken down, absorbed, and used for energy and growth. We'll also learn about digestive organs, nutrients, enzymes, and how the body uses food for energy and growth.



History

In Year 8, we consider how revolution has changed the world. Our starting point is the American Revolution, learning about how the colonies gained their independence from Britain and the USA became its own nation. We move on to the French Revolution, studying the causes of the revolution, The Terror, and the reign of Napoleon. Pupils will compare these two revolutions, before moving on to the Industrial Revolution in the second half term, which again will incorporate an educational visit.



PSHE

Health and wellbeing

In this unit, students develop decision-making skills that support a healthy lifestyle and their wellbeing: from considerations about food, exercise and sleep, to assessing the impact of climate change on young people's wellbeing.



Geography

Year 8 Geography begins with a unit about weather and climate. We begin by looking at what we mean by weather and the different factors which can affect it. We move on to looking at measuring weather, in terms of the different instruments and apparatus needed, as well as the data which we can collate and study. Next we will learn about clouds, rainfall and air pressure, making links back to prior learning earlier in the



PE

Pupils will focus on health and fitness by examining the components of fitness and exploring ways to improve them through targeted training. In PE, gymnastics will develop flexibility, strength, and control, while non-contact boxing will enhance coordination, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. During games sessions, pupils will advance their tactical awareness, technical skills, and teamwork through rugby and netball. Across all activities, pupils will build confidence, resilience, and a deeper understanding of how to enhance physical performance in a variety of sporting contexts.



Music

Pupils will explore how composers transform a melody using variation techniques such as inversion, retrograde, augmentation, diminution and changes in tonality, texture, and rhythm. Pupils will apply these techniques to well-known themes, developing their composition, performance and listening skills through creative tasks and a final project that showcases their own original set of variations.



French

This term we will be talking about places and saying where we want to go at the weekend.

We will be practising how to order drinks in a café and talking about our future plans.



Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

Pupils explore key questions about Jesus' life, including whether he was a man of peace or conflict, and why Christians view Easter as both sad and joyful. They reflect on whether something good can come from pain or tragedy, and what they believe about life after death. Pupils also consider the role of nativity plays in schools and how religious and cultural traditions are celebrated.

Life of Jesus – death, resurrection, Christmas & Easter, Afterlife



Art & Design and Technology

Pupils will work in groups to design and build a frame structure, focusing on forces, strength, and stability. They will apply frame design principles, develop traditional making skills, and test their structures to destruction to evaluate performance and identify improvements.

Art:

We start the year working on our Lion's club 'Peace' Project before exploring 'Public Art'



Computing

Year 8 pupils start the year by developing their Vector Graphics skills. This term, pupils will create illustrations, logos and icons using Inkscape software.