



**HOLMFIRTH
HIGH SCHOOL**
NATIONAL LEADERS OF EDUCATION AND LEADING EDGE SCHOOL

Holmfirth High School

Curriculum Guide

Year 8



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Introduction

This guide is intended to provide useful information for parents regarding the curriculum pupils are studying this year. Each subject section outlines the key topics covered in class throughout the year together with suggestions as to how parents can help support learning. If you have any queries regarding the content of this guide or if you'd like further guidance on how you can best support your child's learning, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or the relevant Head of Department from the list below.

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Art, Design & Technology	Miss K Greaves
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English	Mrs E Hollingdrake
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Modern Foreign Languages	Mrs S Kerr
Music	Mrs J Brear
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Design and Technology



Pupils study in 4 different areas across the year on a rotation system. The sub-subjects and teaching & Learning objectives for these units are as follows:

Sub-Subject	Pupils are taught and assessed in the following areas:	Home Learning Suggestions
Cooking & Nutrition	Building on the Year 7 Scheme of Work pupils will be taught more complicated cooking and preparation techniques through the production of a wide range of dishes including; Flapjacks, spaghetti bolognese, Dutch apple cake and pasta bake.	Encourage pupils to weigh their own ingredients for practical lessons.
Textiles – Pencil Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influence of other artists – a British Culture focus • More advanced sewing techniques including machine embroidery and using zip fasteners • Repeat Pattern printing • Independent use of a sewing machine 	Mending clothes – stitch on a button perhaps. Learning to iron.
Design & Manufacture – Pewter Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metals & Alloys • How to use casting to achieve new shapes in metal • Finishing and polishing metal • Independent use of a pillar drill • Step by step planning 	Visit to Magna in Rotherham / Sheffield to look at the casting process on an industrial scale.
Graphics and Electronics – CAD Illustrator design & PCB soldering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student will learn how to use Adobe Illustrator Adobe Illustrator software to create accurate packaging designs. • Creating first class cartoon illustrations • Packaging layout and requirements • Branding and Corporate Identity • Links to colour theory / colour choices for product design will be incorporated • Electronics and Soldering • Component recognition and functions • Health and safety when soldering components onto PCBs 	Looking inside old electrical items – trying to identify components they have learnt about in lessons. Visit to Cadbury's World Birmingham – looking at the packaging of confectionary.

Drama



Introduction In Drama, year 8 students explore and perform a range of Drama Conventions through the studying of particular social issues and genres.		
Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
Exploring the issue of 'Bullying and Discrimination' through the use of Roleplay, Tableau and Thought-Tracking.	Students will study the genre of 'Greek Theatre' through completing a project that involves acting, script-writing and set design.	Devising Plays. Students will explore the process of devising, rehearsing and performing a unique piece of Drama derived from a stimulus.
Parent and child home learning opportunities Students can rehearse their lines for up-coming assessments and develop their own characterisation.		

English



Introduction In year 8 a range of texts will be explored including non-fiction and literary fiction. Reading, writing and speaking and listening skills will be developed with an emphasis on language appreciation.		
Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
<p>Poetry - A study of contemporary poetry. Students will read work from contemporary writers such as the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and local lad Simon Armitage. There will be opportunities to explore the linguistic links between song lyrics and poetry. Students will be assessed for Speaking and Listening and reading, analysing poetry of their choice.</p> <p>Travel - 'Wish You Were Here?' A unit that explores the use of persuasive language and 'jargon' in travel writing. The students will examine some holiday brochures before creating a fictional holiday destination and brochure themselves. The students will examine how modern technology has had a huge influence on travel writing and work towards an assessed piece of travel writing of their own.</p>	<p>Animal Farm – Within the unit, students will study the text, whilst also developing their writing skills. Students will particularly focus on the creation of an informative text based on the idea of 'heroes'. Within the unit, there are also opportunities to develop uses of punctuation and vocabulary.</p> <p>Exam Preparation - Within the unit, students will study and prepare for an unseen writing exam. Prior to the assessment, they will be given opportunities to develop writing techniques linked to descriptive, persuasive and informative writing. There will also be opportunities to continue to work on spelling, punctuation, vocabulary and sentence construction. Exam technique will also be considered.</p>	<p>Animals – An investigation into the way that animals and humans looking at some hard-hitting issues around animal testing as well more light-hearted material such as extracts from Harry Potter. Students will work on developing persuasive writing skills with a view to producing a leaflet for the Conservation Park for Mythical Creatures.</p> <p>Introduction to Film Studies - Pupils will begin to analysis the film form and focus upon the basic question of how film texts work. They will learn how to analyse a film according to its formal properties, how moving images and sound combine to make meanings, guide our expectations/trigger our responses and create the experience we have of the films we watch.</p>

Parent and child home learning opportunities

Poetry – Writing dramatic monologues, creating animatics, exploring the imagery of poems.

Travel – When looking at holiday destinations discuss the process of what influences your decisions. Collect some holiday brochures, examine and discuss the language choices and their effects.

Animal Farm – Ask a homework task, students will develop an anthology of fables.

Exam Preparation - Prior to the exam, it will be necessary for students to complete some practice exam questions under timed conditions.

Animals – Collect any leaflets from Family days out and talk about how layout and language are used. Research different mythical beasts as preparation for the Conservation Park.

Introduction to Film Studies – Support pupils in researching film marketing. Look at film trailers together and consider how they appeal to audiences.



Geography

In Geography this year students in year 8 will study a range of physical and human topics.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
<p>Out of Africa In this topic you will investigate reasons to explain the disparity within the continent of Africa and what physical and human factors contribute to this. You will also complete a case study of Ghana.</p> <p>Crazy climates In this topic you will look at the factors that determine the weather in different parts of the world as well as what current and future weather changes are taking place.</p>	<p>A tale of three cities In this topic you will use Google Earth to help investigate the cities of London, Moscow and Mumbai. You will learn how to describe and explain the similarities and differences from one place to another.</p> <p>The Geography of crime In this topic you will gain an insight into how geographical techniques can help record patterns of crime in our local area. You will learn about a number of crime prevention methods used by home owners and the ways in which councils 'design out crime'. You will also study crime in a global context by looking at the heroin trail, from source to supply.</p>	<p>Ecosystems In this topic you will investigate the rainforest ecosystem, paying particular attention to the plight of Amazonia. You will look at the weird and wonderful creatures as well as learning about the threats to the rainforest.</p> <p>Geographical skills In this topic you will revisit and practice your map reading skills and develop a range of important geographical skills which will be important at GCSE level.</p>

Parent and child home learning opportunities:

- Watching the news/ downloading the BBC news app/ reading the newspaper, for up-to-date current affairs relating to these topics.
- Regularly watching the weather forecast using forecast websites/ apps.

<https://www.bing.com/maps>

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrw76sg>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/>

https://www.police.uk/west-yorkshire/KDT_HUD/crime/

<http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/topics/ecosystem.html>

<http://www.geography.org.uk/resources/investigatingclimatechange/>

History



Introduction

In Year 8 the focus is on England and Britain in the period c1500 to c1900, particularly on the concept of change.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Reformation• The English Civil Wars• Extended homework project: Tudors and Stuarts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Agricultural Revolution• The Industrial Revolution• The Transport Revolution• Extended homework project: Factory Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terrible Towns (the impact of industrialisation)• How did things improve? (the impact of reform and scientific discovery)• Extended homework project: Jack the Ripper

Parent and child home learning opportunities

Places: British Museum, Eyam, Armley Mills, Thackeray Museum, Tolstone Museum. Pupils have the opportunity to go on a school trip to the Thackeray Museum in Leeds (although numbers are limited). Most sites and museums have their own websites which can be a useful source of information.

Films: Cromwell, To kill a King, North and South (TV mini-series), Elizabeth, Elizabeth: the Golden Age

Websites: Spartacus-Educational, National Archives

Maths



Introduction

In year 8, groups are split broadly by ability into foundation, intermediate and higher. We teach elements of all the 6 strands; Number, Ratio Proportion and rates of Change, Algebra, Geometry and Measure, Statistics and Probability. Ensuring that the underlying aims of improving Mathematical Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning are met

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
<p><u>Higher/Intermediate</u> Negative numbers Standard form Order of operations Prime factorisation Scale and bearings Enlargement Representing 3D objects Probability</p> <p><u>Foundation</u> Calculating Calculating division Visualising and constructing Investigating shapes Formulae F.D.P Proportion</p>	<p><u>Higher/Intermediate</u> Algebraic expressions and formulae Fraction, decimal, percentage equivalence Ratio and proportion Sequences or angles* Fraction, decimal, percentage calculations</p> <p><u>Foundation</u> Patterns Measuring Space Investigating Angles Fractions, decimals and percentages</p>	<p><u>Higher/Intermediate</u> Linear equations Circumference and area of a circle Volume of prisms and cylinders Linear graphs Real life graphs Probability tree and venn diagrams Statistical diagrams Statistical calculations</p> <p><u>Foundation</u> Area, perimeter and volume of shapes Translation and reflection of shapes Presentation of data Calculating averages</p>
<p>Parent and child home learning opportunities Use of 'mymaths' Revision guides BBC Bitesize Maths lunchtime surgeries.</p>		



French

Introduction: In French this year, students will learn the basic vocabulary and structures to speak, write and understand others talking about the topics outlined. Basic grammar on the perfect past tense will be taught and all prior learning consolidated.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
TV, cinema, books, use of IT	Unit on visiting Paris/Tourism	Personal Information Personality Music Clothes

German

Introduction: In German this year, students will learn the basic vocabulary and structures to speak, write and understand others talking about the topics outlined. Basic grammar on adjectives and agreements, verbs (weak and strong) and present and future tenses with some experience of the past tense and the case systems will be taught.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
Numbers 1-100 House and home Activities at home	Food and drink Likes and dislikes	Hobbies Buildings in a town Directions

Spanish

Introduction: In Spanish this year, students will learn the basic vocabulary and structures to speak, write and understand others talking about the topics outlined. Basic grammar on verbs and gender will be taught.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
Food & drink The weekend (Food) Tapas	Daily routine Hobbies Weekend (hobbies)	Freetime Helping at home Places – town Films/clothes/shops

Parent and child home learning opportunities in MFL:

Use of Active Teach on VLE

Use of Linguascope, Username: Holmfirth1 – Password: mflgfs1

A section of bilingual readers in Library available to take home.

Parent and child vocabulary learning

Purchase a workbook – contact school

Have access to bilingual directory

Music



Introduction

In Music, year 8 students explore a range of musical styles including World Music, Song Writing and Musical Technology. Work includes listening, performing and composing with all pupils given the opportunity to compose and performing using school or own musical instruments or music technology.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
<p>World Music</p> <p>Pupils explore three areas of World Music. Samba, African and Balinese.</p> <p>Pupils will create a piece for a Samba band and perform it. Perform a group piece based on an African song and create their own dance track using Balinese composing techniques.</p>	<p>Four Chord Song</p> <p>Exploring song structure through listening work and a performance of 'Stand By Me'. Focusing on textural layers and riffs.</p> <p>Superheroes</p> <p>Using knowledge of song structure pupils will create a superhero and compose a song about them. Focusing on riffs, chord progression and syllabic singing.</p>	<p>Minimalism</p> <p>This unit introduces pupils to the development and conventions of minimalist music. Pupils will learn about the key musical features of minimalist music and how it is constructed and learn how to combine and manipulate different motifs.</p> <p>Club Remix</p> <p>Using their knowledge of minimalist music pupils will use music technology to create a dance track using repetitive patterns, sound manipulation and mixing.</p>

Parent and child home learning opportunities

Students can rehearse their music for up-coming assessments and develop their own musicianship through extra listening.

[Click here to link to Music Year 8 webpage for more detail](#)



<p>Introduction In year 8 pupils are put into groups based on their attainment from year 7 and follow a specialised programme of activities suited to the group.</p>		
Term 1 topics & Term 2 topics		Term 3 topics
<p>8 activities from:</p> <p>Netball Hockey Handball (modified games) Rugby Football Badminton</p>		<p>Gymnastics Trampolining Dance Team Building /OAA Fitness</p> <p>Rounders Athletics Cricket Badminton - girls</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding: Pupils will further develop their skills and techniques within activities that they have experienced in year 7, to hopefully make them more consistent and accurate and transfer to a competitive situation – within a game or in a routine. Pupils will begin to develop skills in trampolining for the first time.</p>		
<p>Parent and child home learning opportunities</p> <p>Watching any of the above sports – live performances/matches or programmes on TV. Joining a wide variety of community clubs in the Holmfirth and Huddersfield Area – ask your PE teacher for details or see notice board in PE block.</p>		



Introduction

In RPSE this year we will be studying a wide range of topics that continue to develop the key themes of RE and PSHE education.

The Y8 RE curriculum is based around the study of:

- a) Discrete religious traditions: this year looking at Hinduism & Christianity.
- b) Philosophy: an introduction to the discipline in relation to ultimate questions such as ‘Does God exist?’
- c) Ethics: a multi-faith and worldview response to issues relating to gender, sexuality and equality.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinduism • PSHE: Body Image & Self-Esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy • PSHE: Drugs Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was Jesus of Nazareth? • Ethics: Equality

Parent and child home learning opportunities

- Hinduism. This topic centres round an evaluation of the Hindu Caste system: understanding how it relates to key Hindu beliefs (www.hinduism.fsnet.co.uk). Home research relating to Mahatma Gandhi’s life and his campaign for equality would be useful.
- Philosophy: The BBC Bitesize website gives a good introduction to some of the classical arguments for the existence of God.
- Who was Jesus of Nazareth? This topic focusses on the historical and religious figure of Jesus. Pupils will complete a homework project on the figure of Jesus through art. Visits to galleries or internet research to gain a familiarity with relevant artworks would be useful home-learning: www.belief.net has a really good section entitled ‘Images of Jesus Through Two Millennia’.
- Equality: pupils will explore historical and current figures who have fought for equal rights. Pupils could research Martin Luther King and Malala Yousafzia to discover what peaceful protest is important, as well as what they campaigned for.
- PHSE: Body image & self-esteem: this unit will focus around the importance of good body image and understanding how media can influence a person's perception. <https://www.dove.com/uk/dove-self-esteem-project.html> this is a good website as it covers different topics such as self-confidence.
- PSHE: Drugs Education: this unit will explore the classification of Cannabis. The Talk to Frank website is an good resource for pupils to read information on the law, impact and health risks associated with Cannabis.

Science



Introduction

In year 8 we continue to build on our 'WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY' skills and cover many more topics from the three disciplines; **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics**. You can find more detail in the Science folder on Frog. There will be 2 formal topic assessments in each of terms 1 and 2 and an exam in term 3.

Term 1 topics	Term 2 topics	Term 3 topics
Light Fit and healthy Variation Elements, compounds and mixtures	Making things move Rocks Food	Environment Sound Solutions

Parent and child home learning opportunities

Your child should be using their 'Kerboodle' login to access lots of revision material and the KS3 text books; <http://www.kerboodle.com/users/login> . BBC bitesize is also a useful resource full of revision notes and video clips; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zng4d2p>. Pupils can also purchase a revision guide from school.

To help your child day to day ask them to try and explain why things happen eg. Why does water spin as it goes down the plug hole? Why does your stomach feel funny if you go over a hump quickly in the car.

Encourage your child to watch Science programmes on TV; Dara O'Briain's 'Science club' and the children's Christmas lectures are both interesting and challenging.