

Year 8 Report Descriptors

Subject	Descriptor
English	<p>Year 8 students will complete two thematic units titled 'Metamorphosis' and 'Criminal Minds'. Study will centre around the reading and interpretation of two class novels, leading to assessments which take the form of directed narrative writing tasks and analytical writing. Students have also been guided through our Accelerated Reading scheme which encourages independent reading for pleasure. In addition, students have embarked upon the 'Grammar for Writing' programme, a unit designed to consolidate skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar whilst increasing confidence as creative and critical writers.</p>
Maths	<p>The year 8 course enables students to develop their mathematical fluency through more complex reasoning and problem solving. Students study the key mathematical concepts of number, algebra, statistics, ratio and geometry. There are key assessments at the end of each term with time available for staff and pupils to address misconceptions. Our scheme of work focuses on pupils mastering these key topics, challenging them through depth of understanding rather than acceleration into new content. Thereby giving pupils the firm foundations with which they can be successful in their study of mathematics.</p>
Science	<p>Year 8 is the second year of a two year key stage 3 science course. The programme of study enables students to continue to develop scientific knowledge, conceptual understanding and investigative skills through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. The topics taught include: food and digestion, circulatory systems and respiration, disease, ecology, separation techniques such as distillation, elements, mixtures and compounds, earth science, heat transfers, speed and acceleration, light, sound and preparation of salts. Scientific skills are embedded within the course content and teach students to form hypotheses, plan scientific methods, record and analyse data and evaluate scientific techniques. Students are assessed throughout the course at the end of each module and can prepare for their assessments using kerboodle, our online resource.</p>
Art	<p>In visual arts, the academic year is split into three terms and pupils follow a course consisting of 2D painting and drawing, 3D ceramics and art textiles. Pupils respond to themes such as "Fantasy Creatures," "African Art" and "Graphic Design." Pupils identify and learn the formal elements of art which is integral to the work produced throughout the year. Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of artists, craftspeople and designers and culture to help them to develop and improve their own ideas and work. Studying three different endorsements provides pupils with an opportunity to explore and experiment using a range of different media to communicate messages and meaning within their work. Pupils are encouraged to take creative risks within their work and to reflect on the creative process to discuss the improvements they have made.</p>
DT	<p>Year 8 students are currently working on a technology course facilitating the realisation of their ideas through practical artefacts that have been produced by working with a variety of food stuffs, compliant materials and graphic media. The KS3 modular curriculum has been designed to give a solid grounding in a broad range of design and making skills that students will be able to use as a foundation for studies that may be chosen in KS4. These skills have been developed with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Technology

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Design • BTEC Engineering
Geography	<p>Year 8 covers Development issues with a particular focus on China and Kenya, natural hazards with the study of earthquakes and volcanoes, population and migration and finally the study of weather and climate. We have explored varied sources of information to investigate the levels of economic and social development in contrasting countries. We have explored the concept of sustainability to evaluate the appropriateness of development strategies and prepare students for GCSE Geography. Students have been encouraged to develop their geographical literacy to 'think like a geographer'. To help prepare students for GCSE all assessments are based on the current GCSE exams in their style of questioning and the skills needed to succeed.</p>
History	<p>The year 8 programme of study contains 3 modules. The first of these is 20th Century Warfare. The second topic of Year 8 is intolerance which covers slavery, the Holocaust and civil rights in the USA. Topic 3 is a thematic study of protest through time which spans the Peasants Revolt to the Miners' Strike. To help prepare students for GCSE all assessments are based on the current GCSE exams in their style of questioning and the skills needed to succeed. These assessments cover all 3 modules.</p>
ICT	<p>During year 8, ICT students work on a combination of Computer Science and core ICT skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Crime and Cyber Security - Students investigate the safe use of technology, and the legal implications of computer misuse. • Understanding Computers - This is a theoretical unit covering the basic principles of computer architecture and use of binary. • Introduction to Python - The focus is on getting pupils to understand the process of developing programs, the importance of writing correct syntax, being able to formulate algorithms for simple programs and debugging their programs.
MFL	<p>In year 8, students continue developing their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing through the following topics: my town, my interests and my health. They work on their own and with others, on a range of activities such as role-play, listening and reading comprehension. Students also study the past, present and future tenses as well as wide-ranging and deepening vocabulary allowing them to give and justify opinions and take part in discussion about wider issues.</p>
Music	<p>In Year 8 students follow a practical music course and will complete study in four key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hooks and Riffs 2. Music from India 3. African Drumming 4. The Blues <p>Each module contains aspects of performance, listening and composition. Pupils are given the opportunities to become autonomous musicians by working independently to perform fluently, accurately and confidently on a range of instruments as a solo and an ensemble. They will be expected to use expression in their work as well as reading and writing music using appropriate musical notation.</p>
PE	<p>Students follow a broad and balanced PE curriculum where they are encouraged to develop competence in games activities, gymnastic activities and athletics. They are taught how to exercise safely and effectively to improve health and wellbeing and are given the</p>

	<p>opportunity to be physically active for sustained periods of time. Students have the opportunity to engage in competitive sports and activities both in lessons and through sports clubs.</p>
RE	<p>This year in religious studies, we have been looking at religion and morality and considering how different people answer moral questions. We are currently investigating the nature of Jesus, considering the evidence for and against him being the Messiah and at the end of the year, we will be considering the relevance of religion in the modern world. These topics give students the opportunity to consider wider questions, whilst developing skills in discussion, questioning, forming arguments and evaluation.</p>