Windsor High School and Sixth Form

Curriculum Guide

Year 8
2019-2020
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Dear Parent,

At Windsor, we are proud of the support and guidance we offer our students and their parents. We place great importance on our home school links and consider it very important for students to know that home and school are working together in their interests.

Our Curriculum Guide for Year 8 shows you what your child is learning and the key skills they are developing within each subject and across the curriculum.

Our curriculum intent is to ensure all students regardless of background and ability have the opportunity to “unlock their academic and personal potential”

We are committed to students being challenged from their previous key stage learning experiences, and providing them with the foundation for academic success in examinations

Miss H Kinsey
Deputy Headteacher for KS3 Curriculum
Year 7 and Year 8 Threshold curriculum Framework

Builds on KS2 Primary curriculum. The year 7 and 8 curriculum provides the foundations for academic success in examinations. The curriculum framework consists of the

**Threshold Concepts**

Threshold concepts define potentially powerful transformative points in the student’s learning experience. They are the ‘jewels in the curriculum’ because they identify key areas that need mastery. Until students ‘get them’, they can struggle to understand a subject.

**Mastery / Deep Learning**

The route to deep learning and the development of expertise and mastery is to do fewer things in greater depth. Threshold Concepts are mastered through repeated sequencing that allows the student to apply Threshold Concepts into different contexts.

**Long term Memory**

- sequencing
- story telling

Long term memory is the foundation for incorporating and making sense of new knowledge. Material sits in the long term memory when it has been ‘chunked’ into meaningful schemata, stories or concepts. Sequencing Threshold Concepts over the journey of the curriculum helps students to make progress and allows them to apply the Threshold Concepts into different contexts within and across subjects.

**Challenge**

The provision of difficult work that causes students to think deeply and engage in healthy struggle—a high challenge, low risk culture is created.

**Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary**

To have access to and master deep subject knowledge, students need to be exposed to the cultural capital of language. Tier 2 are general academic words which occur across different subjects and are essential for reading comprehension. Tier 3 are subject specific words. The richness of vocabulary allows students to enter the academic discipline and address social Mobility.

**Character**

The Windsor Academy Trust ASPIRE character framework identifies fourteen character virtues that are explicitly taught through the curriculum, virtues such as teamwork and resilience.
How can you help as a parent?

At Windsor, we want your child to succeed. You can help us to help your child to settle in to Year 8 in the following ways:

Please work with us to make sure that your child:

- Has a suitable bag for books and equipment (check their bag with them the night before to make sure they have what they need)
- Always brings the correct equipment to school
- Does homework regularly (check and sign their homework planner at least once each week)
- Reads regularly (encourage them to use the school and public library)
- Talks to you about progress in school and targets set
- Attends regularly and is always punctual
- Participates in out of hours learning opportunities and House activities

USEFUL CONTACTS

Head of Hanover - Mrs Y Grant
Head of Lancaster - Mrs N Good
Head of Stuart - Miss J Healey
Head of Tudor - Mrs J Jeavons
Head of York - Mr A Perks

Student Services - Mr B Morley, Deputy Headteacher
Teaching Groups

At Windsor English, Maths and Science classes are grouped according to student ability. Key Stage 2 data and progress in Year 7 influences the setting process.
The groups are arranged in 6 sets according to ability
* Working above national expectation - sets 1, 2 and 3
* Working at national expectation - sets 4 and 5
* Working towards national expectation - set 6
All other subjects are taught in groups of ability or mixed ability usually as form groups. Technology and Arts are divided into smaller groups for the more practical elements.

Rewards

Praise and rewards are highly valued and utilised at Windsor. The reward system enables us to value students and have high expectations of them. Credits are awarded for: work of an exceptional standard for that student, consistent, positive effort or worthwhile community service. These credits accumulate, leading to further awards.

Our reward system includes an on-line shop where students can trade credits for general stationery items and vouchers to be used in selected retail outlets. Key Stage 4 students can redeem credits to purchase a Leavers’ Prom ticket.

Homework

Homework is regularly set and recorded for all subjects in student planners; parents are asked to check and sign the planner each week. The average amount of homework per night ranges from about one hour in Year 7 to two hours in Year 9.

At Windsor, we fully support homework because we believe it encourages a mature attitude towards study, provides opportunities for independent learning and research. Homework allows students to practise skills acquired during lessons and improves their chances of overall academic achievement and personal development.
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

Cycle 1: visions of the future and travel writing

Cycle 2: Shakespeare and poetry from other cultures

Cycle 3: Detective fiction and a novel

English in Year 8 will take you on a journey through terrifying horror extracts, bold heroes and devious villains. You will begin with an exciting topic called Visions of the Future where you will explore dystopian worlds and time travel. You will then investigate the heroic feats of incredible men and women who have left their legacy for you to read and analyse such as Shakespeare, Orwell and Conan-Doyle. There is something for everyone this year with varied and exciting tasks that will enhance and develop your learning.

How will the student be assessed?

In English you will be assessed through reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. This will occur during key moments in each topic to ensure that you are both challenged and supported appropriately. You will be assessed against Mastery which is formed through key aspects of the English curriculum such as your ability to comment on the writer’s aims and use a range of techniques appropriate to purpose.

How are teaching groups organised?

Teaching groups are organised into three bands based on target levels and your achievement in Year 7. However your progress is reviewed regularly throughout the year and the sets will change depending on the challenge or support your teachers feel you need.

How we challenge/support your learning

In English we believe that both challenging and supporting our learners is very important. Whether this is through our enthralling Master classes and Booster sessions or in our Accelerated Reading programme, there are a range of activities available to ensure that you feel both challenged and inspired through your English studies.

We benefit from a fantastic library with a range of exciting literature for you to explore!

Subject Intent

We want to inspire a love of language and literature, through an engaging and challenging curriculum.

Threshold Concepts

TC1: understanding texts: identifying explicit and implicit information; selecting accurate and precise quotations

TC2: Writers’ methods:

TC3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts, comparing their ideas and the contexts in which they were written.

TC4: Evaluate writers’ craft - including comparison skills

TC5: Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts

TC6: Use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate punctuation.

TC7: Speaking and listening - in different contexts and for a variety of audiences and purposes

TC 8: Spelling

Useful resources, websites and extra curricular opportunities to support learning

The English faculty offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities for you to get involved in! From creative writing, Debate club and a range of Master classes/Booster sessions being offered throughout the year there are activities for everyone.

Throughout the year there are also a range of visiting authors to our fantastic library and educational visits to see an exciting variety of plays.

♦ Look out for National Poetry Day
♦ Regular creative writing competitions
♦ World Book Day and many more

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/english
www.poetrysociety.org
www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site
www.bbc.co.uk/blast/writing
Mathematics

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview
Cycle 1 Equations and Statistics (Data Handling)
Cycle 2 Formulae, Ratio, Proportion and Transformations
Cycle 3 Angles, Constructions, Sequences and Graphs

Subject Intent
All students to believe they are capable of achieving high standards and becoming competent and resilient mathematicians.

Threshold Concepts
TC13: Inverse
TC14: Modelling
TC15: Collect
TC16: Display
TC17: Analyse
TC18: Interpret
TC19: Predict
TC20: Formulaity
TC21: Rearrange
TC22: Proportionality
TC23: Congruence
TC24: Turn
TC25: Angles
TC26: Linearity
TC27: Gradient

How will the student be assessed?
You will have three Key Assessment Tasks spread throughout the year with one being an end of year exam in the summer term. There will also be Key Learning Tasks in between in order for you to check your progress and identify areas for improvement.

How are my teaching groups organised?
The groups are set according to ability. You will be broadly set based on your KS2 performance/Year 7 achievement and your class work.

How we challenge/support your learning
There will be an after-school support session available if students have found a topic difficult or would like some extra help. Set 1 is given the opportunity to take part in the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge.

Useful resources, websites and extra curricular opportunities to support learning
We subscribe to a website called mymaths found at www.mymaths.co.uk. Students will be given a general login and password so that they can access this at home.
The website has lots of Maths games and students can click on the level they are working at to find explanations and questions to try.

Another useful website for video explanations and practice is www.corbettmaths.com
Science

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

Students follow the activate teaching scheme where they will learn and apply Science in interesting and relevant contexts.

This year is divided into 10 chapters:
- Health and lifestyle
- Ecosystem processes
- Adaptation inheritance
- The periodic table
- Separation techniques
- Metals and acids
- The earth
- Electricity and magnetisms
- Energy
- Motion and pressure

How will the student be assessed?
- Key assessed tasks are closed book tests.
- Key learning tasks are skill orientated tasks where students can apply their knowledge.

How are teaching groups organised?
Students are taught in mixed ability groups.

Subject Intent
We aim to provide all students with the knowledge, skills and desire to become effective, aspirational scientists.

Threshold Concepts
TC1: Cells
TC2: Interdependence
TC3: Particles
TC4: Chemical reactions
TC5: Forces
TC6: Energy
TC7: Planning
TC8: Obtaining
TC9: Analysing (concluding / mathematical skills)
TC10: Evaluation

How we challenge/support your learning
- All schemes of work are fully differentiated
- Independent work included
- Extension tasks

Useful resources, websites and extra curricular opportunities to support learning
F1 Challenge Club
(regional, national and international scientific design competition)

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/science
www.scibermonkey.org/year.htm?y=7
www.kerboodle.com/users/login
Art and Design

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview
Students will begin by building on the observational skills taught in year 7. Working from a choice of resources, they will record their observations and insights relevant to the theme of ‘Under the Sea’ through a range of creative approaches; to include continuous line and tonal drawing, working on a range of surfaces. Knowledge will be developed about composition, pattern and colour as well as sketchbook layout and presentation. Students will experience a range of processes, media and materials including collage, oil pastel and paint techniques.

Ideas will be developed through learning about the methods of a range of artists.

Threshold Concepts
TC1: Works of art consist of formal art elements.
TC2: Mark making, often in the form of drawing, is considered to be the foundation of art – a way of thinking visually. It can be used for different purposes and is a powerful form of communication.
TC3: Art, in many forms, tells us of our past, present and future, shaping and influencing our lives in significant ways and is not dependent on language or logic.
TC4: Artists learn the ‘rules’ and conventions so they can decide when to break them.
TC5: The meanings of artworks are never fixed; what the artist intends and what the viewer understands may be different.

How will the student be assessed?
- Regular verbal feedback is given in lessons
- Assessment criteria is shared with students for mastering, meeting and working towards a particular skill
- Work will be assessed against the criteria every half term, feedback is given with opportunities provided to refine work before final assessment

How are teaching groups organised?
Mixed ability groups in a rotation with Music and Drama. Students will have two cycles per year.

How we challenge/support your learning
Students who have a particular talent will be encouraged to work more independently and develop their work in greater breadth and depth. They may be encouraged to work on a larger scale, use more challenging materials or more complex imagery. Different homework may be set.

Useful resources, websites and extra curricular opportunities to support learning
Art clubs and drop-ins after school and at lunchtimes.
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6f3cdm (KS3)
www.bbc.co.uk/blast/
www.studentartguide.com
www.tate.org.uk
www.ipaintfish.com/gallery/
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

Cycle 1:
Vector/Bitmap images, How computers store images and sound, Binary conversions, Basic binary addition, Decimal to hex conversions.

Cycle 2:
Programming basics using python, Iteration, Nested Selection.

Cycle 3:
Basic networking, Internet/WWW, HTML/CSS, Security, Protocols, Toplogies.

How will the student be assessed?
- Mid-point KLT
- End of cycle KAT

How are teaching groups organised?
Mixed based on Humanities groups.

How we challenge/support your Learning
Every task set includes a 'Dig deeper' activity to stretch students further.

Subject Intent
Ensure that students gain a broad range of digital skills to prepare them for the ever evolving digital world.

Threshold Concepts
TC1: Digital Communication - To understand the concept of communicating safely and effectively through technology.
TC2: Digital Collaboration - To actively collaborate with others through a range of digital mediums.
TC3: Digital Presentation - To identify and select the most appropriate tools to present information.
TC4: Logic - To understand the relationship between Logic and Mathematics using number Bases.
TC5: Decomposition - To be able to look at a problem and decompose this into its component parts.
TC6: Abstraction - Be able to take the component parts and remove what is not needed.
TC7: Algorithm - Design and create algorithms for real world problems.
TC8: Protocols - To recognise and understand the different properties.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning

https://www.python.org/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f
- Digital Leaders
- Lego Mindstorm
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

**Key Street dance actions** popping, locking, isolation, break dancing and waving

**Improvisation** - creating dance without preparation

Using auditory stimuli - something you can hear as a starting point for creating dance

**Actions/space/dynamics/relationships**
A starting point that you can see such as a photograph

**Expressive skills** - facial expression and choreographic intention

**Leadership**
Manipulation of number - addition subtraction etc
Space - levels, pathways, direction, formation

**Expressive Skills** such as Facial expression, focus, choreographic intention, projection

How will the student be assessed?

KATs in choreography and performance

KLTs peer/self/teacher assessment practically

How are teaching groups organised?

Students are taught in single gender groups, which are set by sporting potential to ensure fair competitiveness in their double lesson.

How we challenge/support your learning

Through assessment, use of leadership skills, teamwork. Lessons are differentiated and extension tasks are given

Threshold Concepts

TC1: To understand and demonstrate the 5 key dance actions

TC2: To understand and demonstrate the use of space in performance

TC3: To understand and demonstrate a range of dynamic content in performance

TC4: To understand and demonstrate a variety of relationships in performance

TC5: To understand and demonstrate the use of expressive skills in performance

TC6: To explore the use of improvisation when creating new movement through the use of stimuli

TC7: To develop the use of choreographic devices in choreography

TC8: To recognise and evaluate performance and choreographic skills through each other’s work and professional works

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support Learning

Street Dance Club
Contemporary Dance Club
Junior Dance Company

Various Dance productions and performance opportunities
School production
Design and Technology

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

Technology groups will experience a variety of subject areas under the Technology umbrella. This is done through rotations throughout the year covering all of the following areas:

Food Preparation and Nutrition
Product Design
Graphic Communication

How are teaching groups organised?
The Design and Technology groups are made up of mixed ability groups. The groupings tend to stay the same for the duration of Key Stage 3.

How will the student be assessed?
Tasks and activities are assessed using a variety of techniques – some by observation, some by judgement against the given criteria for the task. Others are key assessments for which we use the National Curriculum criteria and individual target levels.

Threshold Concepts—Product Design
TC1: Research Purposefully: Using a range of sources showing selectivity and analytical skill.
TC2: Visual Communication: Demonstrate innovation and creativity in response to a client’s need/problem, using a range of 2D and 3D techniques.
TC3: Safe working Practice: Select and use tools and equipment safely and accurately in order to manufacture a high quality prototype that demonstrates a range of skills.
TC4: Critical Reflection: Demonstrate the ability to reflect critically throughout the design process showing an understanding for modification and improvement.
TC5: Impact on Society: Understand developments in Design and Technology, their ecological and social footprint with an awareness of the impact on society.

Threshold Concepts—(Food, Preparation and Nutrition)
TC1: Research: Show understanding of the function and properties of ingredients - have an awareness of seasonality and provenance.
TC2: Research and Analysis: Nutrition - be able to explain nutrition in regards to the Eat well guide and key commodity areas.
TC3: Preparation: Have the ability to prepare ingredients/ themselves/ the environment for safe and effective practical work
TC4: Making: Can select ingredients to work with to reflect the needs of recipes and methods. Shows evidence of a progressive development of technical skills through making.
TC5: Evaluation: Can articulate the use of ingredients/ equipment - Can reflect and analyse dishes produced through sensory testing and can suggest improvements to products and performance.

How we challenge/support your learning
Attending Technology club will improve both your designing and making skills. You will be given extension tasks in lessons in order to further develop your Understanding.

Subject Intent
The Design and Technology (D+T) and Food Preparation and Nutrition (FPN) curriculums in KS3 are aimed at developing students, so that they become inquisitive, healthy and creative citizens.

Useful resources, websites and extra curricular opportunities to support learning
The Technology team takes pride in the quality of after school clubs on offer. There are a wide range of clubs covering various areas under the Design and Technology umbrella. All students are welcome to join in the fun!

www.technologystudent.co.uk
www.nutrition.org.uk
www.digitalbrain.com
www.data.co.uk
Drama

What will I be studying?

Cycle 1: Mime/slapstick and melodrama
Cycle 2: Naturalism—Billy Elliot

You will build your skills in responding, devising, rehearsing, performing and evaluating.

How will the student be assessed?

You will be assessed practically on how you rehearse and perform. You will be assessed each unit to work out your current level.

Threshold Concepts

TC1 Collaboration & Communication
TC2 Understanding Creative Process
TC3 Vocal & Physical Skills
TC4 Production Elements
TC5 Understanding Meaning (Symbolism)
TC6 Interpretation of Texts
TC7 Evaluating the Work of Others
TC8 Creative Intentions

How are teaching groups organised?

In mixed ability arts groups. You will have a double lesson each week, on a rotation of Drama, Music and Art across the year.

How we challenge/support your learning

There is differentiation in all tasks set in the lesson.
You can also attend Drama Club to push yourself further.

Useful resources, websites and extra curricular opportunities to support learning

- Weekly Drama Club
- Whole School Production

http://www.theatrelinks.com/
http://theatremuseum.vam.ac.uk
http://www.nayt.org.uk
www.stagework.org
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

Equal emphasis is given to the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. During the year students will cover the following topics:

- Literature, films and poems
- Passed times and new technologies
- My identity: relationships, fashion, passions
- My town / Food
- Holidays: past, present and future
- Talking about talent and ambition

During the year, students will be focusing on applying the past and future tense as well as building on their transactional language.

Threshold Content

TC1: Knowledge about the language. Students understand key structures and patterns about language so that it can be manipulated.

TC2: Linguistic Competence. Students have linguistic skills that they adapt to deepen understanding, enable them to communicate effectively, take the initiative and cope with unexpected structures/unpredictable situations.

TC3: Creativity. Students are able to adapt and reuse language in modified forms, for different purposes/contexts, to enable them to use their imagination, express their own thoughts, ideas and feelings.

TC4: Intercultural Understanding. Students extend and develop their world knowledge so that they can make links/connections.

How will the student be assessed?

You will be formally assessed once every term in at least one skill from listening, speaking, reading and writing. We will also assess your skills informally when you create presentations, write texts or hold conversations in class.

How are teaching groups organised?

You will be taught French in your tutor group.

How we challenge/support your learning

More able students will have the chance to put their skills to more practical use, to study the language in more detail, and to hold longer, more spontaneous conversations.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning

We run French, German and Spanish clubs for beginners to help extend your learning in Modern Languages. All students will have the opportunity to take part in a day trip in the summer term.

A French dictionary
www.languagesonline.org.uk
www.livinglibrary.co.uk/s_browse.asp
www.toutlemonde.co.uk
www.french.about.com/library/begin/fun/b1-gameindex.htm
www.linguascope.com
www.languagesonline.org
www.wordreference.com
(online dictionary and verb conjugator)
www.duolingo.com
Allons-y! magazine (ask Mrs Payton for details)

Subject Intent

We are committed to fostering the highest expectations in MFL and aim for all our learners to develop appropriate, high levels of linguistic ability, a set of transferable skills and an international growth mind set; deep, intercultural understanding.
**Geography**

**Subject Intent**
We aim to provide all students the knowledge and skills to become effective Geographers and citizens in the 21st century.

**What will the student be studying? Topics/Overview**

**Cycle 1—Risky World**
This topic includes the study of hazards around the world, impacts of hazards, links between humans and hazards and sustainable management strategies when responding to hazards.

**Cycle 2—Our Changing Weather and Climate**
This topic includes study of how places are changing over time due to weather events, the causes of weather hazards, where they occur and sustainable management strategies to reduce the risks that they pose.

**Cycle 3—Global Issues**
This topic includes the study of why global issues have changed over time e.g. climate change, interactions between people and the environment and to recognise the issue of natural resources and management of them.

**How are teaching groups organised?**
Students are taught in mixed ability groups.

**How will the student be assessed?**
Each unit of work has assessment opportunities and three KATs (Key Assessment Tasks) will be completed during the year.

You will be assessed using the Threshold frameworks for Geography that are specific to each study programme.

**How do we challenge/support your learning?**
Individuals are identified and extension work/different activities are offered within lessons, considering appropriate extra-curricular provision and enrichment ideas. Lead Learner positions are also available. The threshold curriculum has been designed to enable increased depth and challenge for students.

**Threshold Concepts**

**TC1:** To understand the concept of **place**, **space** and **scale** and how they constructed and **changing** over time.

**TC2:** To understand **processes** are key to explaining what the Earth is like and why it is **changing**.

**TC3:** To understand a range of **perspectives/stake-holders views** that exist on an issue to be able to find the most appropriate solution.

**TC4:** To understand that there are numerous natural and human **patterns** found on Earth and these are not random.

**TC5:** To understand that there are **interactions** between different components and concepts. This reinforces the idea that places are not separate, but are **interdependent** with each other.

**TC6:** To recognises and understands that **sustainability** (social, economic and environmental) is now a key strategy in a range of areas of Geography.

**Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning**

- [www.heinemann.co.uk](http://www.heinemann.co.uk)
- [www.lizardpoint.com/fun/beoquiz](http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/beoquiz)
- [www.news.bbc.co.uk](http://www.news.bbc.co.uk)
- [http://maps.live.com](http://maps.live.com)
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview
Equal emphasis is given to the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. During the year students will cover the following topics:
1. Past holidays
2. Media
3. Food and lifestyle
4. Culture and history post WWII and the Berlin Wall
5. Festivals
6. Fashion
Students will deepen their language skills as well as look at key German history through film work. During the year, students will be focusing on applying the past and future tense as well as building on their transactional language, and key grammar past and future tense as well as building on their transactional language.

How will the student be assessed?
You will be formally assessed once every term in two of the skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We will also assess your skills informally when you create presentations, write texts or hold conversations in class.

How are teaching groups organised?
You will be taught German in your tutor group.

How we challenge/support your learning
More able students will have the chance to learn more advanced phrases and structures, to study the language in more detail, and to hold more spontaneous conversations.

Threshold Concepts
TC1: Knowledge about the language. Students understand key structures and patterns about language so that it can be manipulated.
TC2: Linguistic Competence. Students have linguistic skills that they adapt to deepen understanding, enable them to communicate effectively, take the initiative and cope with unexpected structures/unpredictable situations.
TC3: Creativity. Students are able to adapt and reuse language in modified forms, for different purposes/contexts, to enable them to use their imagination, express their own thoughts, ideas and feelings.
TC4: Intercultural Understanding. Students extend and develop their world knowledge so that they can make links/connections, recognise different ways of seeing the world.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning
We run German, French and Spanish clubs for beginners to help extend your learning in Modern Languages. You will have a pen pal at our partner school in Germany, and you can subscribe to German magazines for young people. You will have the opportunity to visit a German Christmas market.
A German dictionary
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
www.channel4.com/modernlanguages
www.linguascope.com
www.languagesonline.org.uk
Das Rad magazine (ask Mrs Payton for details)
History

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview
We develop the skills and knowledge you began acquiring in History in Year 7. You will have become familiar with how to extract information from sources at Year 7. We will now look at how we can test these sources for reliability in Year 8 you will become a more developed historian, not only will you be able to use evidence to support your arguments, you will now be able to evaluate evidence to test its credibility. Essay writing skills to judge most important reasons for an event are a focus this year.

We will look at
- Religious change in Europe and the impact on Britain
- Industrial Revolution
- Medicine through Time

Threshold Content
TC1- Understanding that history is subjective
TC2- Sources are pieces of evidence
TC3- Understand that history is interconnected
TC4- Appreciate the otherness of History
TC5- Appreciate the significance of a person
TC6- Understand factors that lead to change and continuity
TC7- Assess the extent of similarity and difference

How will the student be assessed?
You will be assessed in two ways, through Key Assessment Tasks and continual teacher assessment based on classwork.

How are teaching groups organised?
Students are taught in mixed ability groups for History.

How we challenge/support your learning
We offer a variety of enrichment activities through lessons, as well as leadership opportunities and Masterclasses.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning
Leadership opportunities will be available for Year 8 students to run events, alongside supporting Year 7 students in their History studies. This includes leading remembrance day events, assemblies, Holocaust memorial week events and poppy collections. Leadership opportunities will be available for Year 8 students to run events, alongside supporting Year 7 students in their History studies. This includes leading remembrance day events, assemblies, Holocaust memorial week events and poppy collections.

www.spartacuslearning.co.uk
www.activehistory.co.uk

Subject Intent
Our mission is to create Historians who have an enquiring mind, read critically, are able to appreciate how history in constructed and see history as an unfolding story which involves us all.
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

The two topics studied in Year 8 enable students to build on the topics studied in Year 7 and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding to the topics listed below:

- Performance Skills - The Blues
- Musical Elements - Film Music

Threshold Concept

Performing
TC-P1: Understand how notation works across a number of genres and traditions.
TC-P2: Be able to apply the understanding of notation score to a number of instruments.
TC-P3: Understand the importance of music being performed live.

Composing
TC-C4: Be able to apply knowledge of musical elements when creating music.
TC-C5: Understand key features used in different music, and why they are used, and be able to apply these to compositions.

Listening and Appraising
TC-L6: Understand the terminology associated with musical elements and be able to apply these when describing a range of music.
TC-L7: Be able to compare and evaluate music against certain criteria.

How will the student be assessed?

Opportunities for assessing students are built into both units of work studied. The key skills are specific and are assessed regularly.

The Music Department will also track the progress of students across the year according to whole school policy and Department assessment criteria.

How are teaching groups organised?

Music is taught for 1 x 100 minute lesson per week. Students rotate around the three subjects taught within the faculty, Music, Drama and Art over the year. The students are taught in mixed ability in form groups.

How we challenge/support your learning

In lesson time, there are a range of extension tasks that have been developed for our ‘talented’ students. There are also many opportunities for students to participate in music clubs, to lead rehearsals, take part in concerts and workshops etc. Instrumental lessons are available.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning

We offer a wide range of clubs aimed at all ability levels and for all musical tastes. Some clubs are aimed at our more advanced musicians to provide challenge. To see the range of our activities, please see the extra-curricular music timetables displayed around the music department.

Year 7 Choir, Production band, Rock Band, Percussion Club, Guitar Club, Singing Group, Soul Band, Gifted and Talented Singing Club

Subject Intent

We believe music should encourage engagement, and creativity in all students. It encourages and develops key skills such as leadership and teamwork, and can help teach diversity and equality.
Physical Education

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview
Students will continue to participate in a range of activities and sports that look to build on knowledge and understanding learnt in year 7. They will do this by developing their skills and practical performance, strategies and tactics/compositional ideas alongside their ability to lead others and an increased understanding of health and fitness

**Cycle 1** Rugby, Netball, Football, Hockey, Badminton, Basketball, Gymnastics, Dance, Handball, Health and Wellbeing

**Cycle 2** Rugby, Netball, Football, Hockey, Badminton, Basketball, Gymnastics, Dance, Handball, Health and Wellbeing

**Cycle 3** Cricket, Rounders, Athletics

How will the student be assessed?
Assessment is continuous from the initial base assessment through to formative feedback and target setting in every unit of work. All assessments are made against age appropriate expectations of the students with a summative end of unit evaluation taking place to the student’s mastery of the activity. Students are encouraged to continually use some form of self-assessment and peer-assessment throughout the activity.

Assessment is also supported by overall performance and ability seen in extra-curricular clubs.

Subject Intent
To ensure we equip our students with the tools necessary to both understand and lead a Health Active Lifestyle

Threshold Concept
TC1: To develop an understanding of a Healthy Active Lifestyle, and how this can lead to lifelong participation in physical activity

TC2: To both understand and portray sporting behaviours and leadership skills

TC3: The ability to develop fundamental skills that will allow transference of skill from sport to sport

TC4: The understanding and demonstration of sequencing and choreography

TC5: The delivery and response of effective communication

TC6: The ability to problem solve demonstrating a logical thought process in changing environments

How are teaching groups organised?
Students are taught in single gender groups, which are set by sporting potential to ensure fair competitiveness in both their double and single lesson.

How we challenge/support your learning
Within lessons students can expect:
- Differentiation in lessons – extension tasks
- Peer coaching in lessons
- Umpiring and officiating responsibilities in lessons

Further opportunities are offered through:
- Extra-curricular activities
  - School-club links
  - STARS (supporting talented athletes on the road to success) squad

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning
- www.sportengland.org.uk
- www.sheu.org.uk
- www.uk athletics.net
- www.wsf.org.uk
- www.bbl.org.uk
- www.uksports.gov.uk
- www.netball.org
- www.ftp.org.uk
- www.laaf.org
What will I be studying? Topics/Overview

The Religious Education Schemes of Work are based on the Dudley Agreed Syllabus, which introduces the students to two attainment targets.

‘Attainment Target 1: Learning about religion, which is mainly concern with students developing their knowledge and understanding of religion.’

‘Attainment Target 2: Learning from religion, which is mainly concerns with students’ personal development.’

Within Year 8 students study the following three units:

Cycle 1  Islam: Lifestyle
Cycle 2  Jesus Christ and Christian Beliefs
Cycle 3  Christianity: Lifestyle

How will the student be assessed?

Students will be formally assessed at the end of each unit.

The assessments are either of a formal written nature or project work, reflecting on enquiry based skills.

These assessments establish the students’ progress against the school’s Mastery levels. From their performance students will be set targets to help them reach the next level.

How we challenge/support your learning

All students will be challenged to make significant progression in Religious Education.

Students identified as more able will be challenged to advance upon the leveled criteria noted in the Dudley Agreed Syllabus, which are based upon the GCSE 9-1 grades.

Notably these students will be supplied with both extension work and targeted questioning, which will support their progression into higher levels through the enhancement of their analysis and evaluative skillset.

Threshold Concepts

1. To understand that religious beliefs are interpreted differently, even within the same religion or denomination.
2. To understand that religious practices have varying levels of adoption.
3. To understand that misconceptions exist surrounding religious beliefs and practices that need addressing.
4. To understand that religious values can be accepted and adopted by non-religious believers.
5. To understand the varying impact of modern, often secular based, challenges to religious beliefs.
6. To understand the influence key beliefs, teachings and practices have on religious believers, and at times non-religious believers, today (individuals, society and community).
7. To understand the variety of sources of authority within religion and the different approaches to them.
8. To understand the symbolisms found within religion.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning

Websites
BBC Bitesize KS3 Religious Studies
RE Online
RE Quest

Books
Please visit the school library to see our extensive range of KS3 Religious Education books.
Spanish

What will I be studying? Topics/Overview
Equal emphasis is given to the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. During the year you will cover the following topics:
1. Holidays  
2. My social life  
3. Food, drink and shopping  
4. Fashion  
5. Town, travel and tourism

We will build on the skills you have already learnt. You will be able to create longer presentations in the target language and begin to hold fuller conversations with other students and your teacher. We will also teach you to refer to events in the past tense and future tense to justify the opinions that you express.

How will the student be assessed?
You will be formally assessed once every half term in one or more skills: Listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We will also assess your skills informally when you create presentations or posters, write texts, or hold conversations in class.

What are teaching groups organised?
You will be taught Spanish in your tutor group.

How we challenge/support your learning
More able students will have the chance to learn more advanced phrases and structures, to study the language in more detail, and to hold more spontaneous conversations.

Threshold Content
TC1: Knowledge about the language. Students understand key structures and patterns about language so that it can be manipulated.
TC2: Linguistic Competence. Students have linguistic skills that they adapt to deepen understanding, enable them to communicate effectively, take the initiative and cope with unexpected structures/unpredictable situations.
TC3: Creativity. Students are able to adapt and reuse language in modified forms, for different purposes/contexts, to enable them to use their imagination, express their own thoughts, ideas and feelings.
TC4: Intercultural Understanding. Students extend and develop their world knowledge so that they can make links/connections, recognise different ways of seeing the world.

Useful resources, websites and extra-curricular opportunities to support learning
We run several clubs to help extend your learning in Modern Languages, including clubs in Spanish for beginners. We can arrange for you to have a pen pal and for you to subscribe to Spanish magazines for young people. You will have the opportunity to visit Barcelona, Spain.
A Spanish dictionary  
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize  
www.channel4.com/modernlanguages  
www.linguascope.com  
www.wordreference.com  
wwwlanguagesonline.org.uk  
www.memrise.com  
www.quitzyt.com  
www.duolingo.com  
Magazine (ask Mrs Payton for details) Que tal?

Subject Intent
We are committed to fostering the highest expectations in MFL and aim for all our learners to develop appropriate, high levels of linguistic ability, a set of transferable skills and an international growth mind set; deep, intercultural understanding.
Learning Support

What will I be studying?
Students with Special Educational Needs generally follow the same curriculum as other students and are fully integrated into lessons. They are supported in their learning by high quality well differentiated teaching in order to meet their needs and make progress towards their targets. In some cases additional support may be needed and this can be provided in a variety of ways including small group teaching, additional literacy or numeracy support and other more specific help (sometimes provided by other organisations) depending on the nature of the student’s needs. Students who require extra support in literacy will be selected to attend targeted provision. This may include the spelling improvement programme *Wordshark*, or one of our reading support courses such as *Switch On To Reading*.

How will I be assessed?
Regular assessment through reviews, for students on the Special Educational Needs register.

Some students may be provided with additional support for examinations e.g. a scribe or additional time may be given.

What Extra Curricular opportunities are available to extend learning?
A series of activities run throughout each week and these take place before and after school and additionally there are also some lunchtime clubs. These take place in the Learning Support base in S23.

How are teaching groups organised?
Students may be taught in small groups, especially for literacy and numeracy, or may receive additional support from a teaching assistant.

Useful resources and websites to support my learning:
- [www.dfes.gov.uk/sen](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/sen)
- [www.parentcentre/gov.uk](http://www.parentcentre/gov.uk)
- [www.dyslexia-inst.org.uk](http://www.dyslexia-inst.org.uk)
- [www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk](http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk)
- [www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)
- [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)
- [www.rhid.org.uk](http://www.rhid.org.uk)
- [www.scope.org.uk/earlyleavers](http://www.scope.org.uk/earlyleavers)
- [www.nasen.org.uk](http://www.nasen.org.uk)
- [www.parentsforinclusion.org](http://www.parentsforinclusion.org)
- [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)