Year 8 – Curriculum Bulletin – Spring 1



What the students are learning in

English



Students will be studying a poetry unit entitled 'Culture and Identity Poetry'. They will build upon prior knowledge of poetic structures and techniques by annotating and exploring a variety of culturally diverse poems. They will also look at an extended response to an Unseen Poem – utilising the skills and techniques explored in the poetry unit. A designated Vocabulary unit will also be explored within this half term.

Assessment focus: Unseen Poetry Analysis written piece and Writing Focus Multiple Choice Quiz

Maths



In the first unit, students will cover key ideas in shape, measurement, and volume. Students begin with identifying and naming 2-D and 3-D shapes, then move on to finding the area of simple and compound shapes. The sequence develops understanding of prisms and their features, calculates the volume of cubes and cuboids, and introduces metric units of mass and capacity. It concludes with understanding and solving problems involving the relationships between mass, density, and volume. In the second unit of the term, students will develop algebra skills in solving equations and inequalities. They start with solving simple one- and twostep equations, then progress to more complex and fractional equations, including forming equations and solving when the unknown appears on both sides. The sequence then introduces inequalities, representing them on a number line, and solving increasingly complex inequalities, concluding with cases where the unknown is on both sides. In the final unit of the term, students will be understanding and working with percentages. Students will find a percentage of an amount and convert between percentages and decimals, then they will explore the use of multipliers to calculate percentages, including values greater than one. Students will then develop skills of applying percentage increases and decreases using multipliers and concludes with expressing one number as a fraction or percentage of another.

Assessment focus: Cumulative Assessment will happen at the beginning of the term based on the content students learnt from September to December. Students will also have end of unit mini assessments on: Area, Volume and Density; Equations and Inequalities, and Percentages.

Science



Students will begin the new year by studying **thermal energy transfers**, exploring how heat is transferred through conduction, convection, and radiation. They will then move on to **Earth's resources**, examining how natural resources are used, processed, and conserved. **Assessment focus: End of unit common assessment point (CAP) - 'sound and light'**

Computing



In this unit pupils will explore the layers of computer systems from programs to the physical components that store and execute these programs. They will discover the fundamental binary building blocks that make up computer systems and how systems are evolving for developments such as Al.

Assessment focus: End of unit assessment – computer systems and their components

Geography



The causes, impacts and responses to tropical storms in high- and low-income countries. Also, starting to look at development in Asia, why it's happening and how we manage it.

Students will be studying the key political and social changes during the 17th century including

History



the Civil War, Restoration and the Glorious Revolution. **Assessment focus: Mid-Year Assessment – content from this year.**

Religious Studies



Students will study the teachings of the Buddha and explore how these teachings affect Buddhists today. They will then explore the origins, key beliefs and practices of Sikhism.

Assessment focus: Mid Year Assessment- including all content taught so far

Assessment focus: End of unit assessment (Hinduism & Buddhism)



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Spanish •	Students will learn to talk about where they live, describing their town and what you can do in
ı š ı	your town. Students will be introduced to weather in Spanish to talk about what you can do
	when it is good or bad weather.
	Assessment focus: bi-weekly vocabulary tests. Check 20s, End of Topic Test
Art 🕥	Students will become familiar with the Fauvist & Expressionist, Surrealist and Cubism art
	movements. Know about key artists such; Picasso, Derrain, Gris, Magritte, Dali. Use a range of
	media to record ideas and apply prior knowledge on colour theory to create mood and
	atmosphere.
	Assessment focus: In class assessment
Design Technology	This term, students will keep working on Day of the Dead–themed graphic products. They will
Design recimology	
	research similar designs and look at examples from their own lives. After creating their design
	ideas, they will make their final pieces using a range of practical and creative skills. Homework
JUM	will be set each half term. There will be a mid-project assessment and a final project
	assessment in the last week of term.
	Assessment fearer Organize formative electronic accessments and and of music at text in UT3
6 1:	Assessment focus: Ongoing formative classwork assessments and end of project test in HT3
Cooking and	Students will develop knowledge of macro nutrients looking at protein and identifying
Nutrition	its importance in a healthy balanced diet. Students will explore foods from different
	cultures preparing and cooking pea and potato samosa and Moroccan couscous.
	Assessment focus: Practical assessment Moroccan cous cous
Drama	Students will study Commedia dell'Arte, exploring its historical origins and cultural context, as well
	as the key techniques, character archetypes, and performance conventions that define this influential
	genre of theatre. Through practical and theoretical activities, they will develop an understanding of
	how Commedia dell'Arte has shaped modern performance styles.
	Assessment focus: Performance based
Music - * - *	Students will be studying Blues music. Pupils will focus on the history of blues as well as
	analysing the genre using the elements of music. Practically, students will be looking at the 12
Music S **	bar blues, walking bass line and the blues scale as well as using performance techniques such
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	as improvising.
$-\{M_{2}\}$	Assessment focus: Listening exam, pupils will complete a listening exam where they will
	identify they elements of music in a piece of blues.
P.E () S. () ()	Students in the boys' groups will be further developing their fundamental skills, techniques, and tactics
	in football. Students in the mixed group will be further developing their fundamental skills, techniques,
	and tactics in table tennis. Finally, students in the girls' groups will be completing an indoor fitness
, <u>,</u>	unit, exploring how to train and test different components of fitness.
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	Assessment focus: Formal assessment point which includes practical assessment,
	Knowledge quizzes and fitness testing.
Personal	Knowledge quizzes and fitness testing. Students will learn how to make safe choices by exploring the impact of peer pressure, the
Personal Development	Knowledge quizzes and fitness testing.
	Knowledge quizzes and fitness testing. Students will learn how to make safe choices by exploring the impact of peer pressure, the
	Knowledge quizzes and fitness testing. Students will learn how to make safe choices by exploring the impact of peer pressure, the dangers of knife crime, and ways to stay safe both online and in the local community. They will
	Knowledge quizzes and fitness testing. Students will learn how to make safe choices by exploring the impact of peer pressure, the dangers of knife crime, and ways to stay safe both online and in the local community. They will also focus on character building and develop the confidence to respond in emergencies by

Homework Expectations

One piece of homework per subject per week.



