

Year 8 Course information for term 3

Art - Gargoyles and Grotesques - Students study the history of Gargoyles and Grotesques which is then followed by studies of different sculptural form. They are encouraged to consider the contrast between shadows and highlights in order to create a three-dimensional art piece. Students also explore a range of dry materials; charcoal, fine liner, etc. As a final product, students design their gargoyle and produce a piece in clay. They need to think about form, structure and detail.

Dance - Students will deepen their understanding of how to respond to and develop ideas for choreography from a given stimulus. We will explore a range of responses based on 'Winter' and students will work imaginatively in groups to create a piece that shows a variety of response whilst drawing on their developing knowledge of the choreographic process and the four core dance components; Relationship, Action, Dynamic and Space (RADS).

Design Technology - Within Design technology this year students will build upon their learnt practical skills from year 7, they again cover a range of disciplines. So far students will have experienced at least **one** of the following project areas:

- Draw string bags **Textiles** project, this has allowed students to develop their skills in designing a customised textile product, building their hand and machine sewing, whilst making a fully functioning fabric product.
- Pull along toy **Product Design** project has enabled students to develop their product analysis skills, looking at existing products & how to use this analysis to create their own product for an end user. Students gain more experience of workshop and hand tool techniques.
- **CAD CAM** jewellery project gives the students an insight into existing brands, how to research & analyse. Students refresh their knowledge into how to use a simple CAD package, 2D Design, which allows them to laser cut & etch their own creation.
- Aluminium Key Rings **Resistant Materials project**, gives the students an insight into working with metal. Manufacturing a product with a variety of new workshop processes & hand tools.

Drama - Students will study Clowning and Maskwork. They will learn the practical skills necessary to perform effectively using a variety of masks and the Theatre tradition from which this comes. Finally, they will learn about comedy and how to create characters to genuinely make the audience laugh.

English – The Gothic and the Supernatural: Through Susan Hill's Victorian-style ghost story *The Woman in Black*, students will develop an understanding of the conventions of the genre as well as an understanding of Victorian society. Students will also study a variety of extracts from well-known gothic texts such as Frankenstein and Dracula to develop their understanding of literary context as well as honing their story-crafting skills through descriptive writing tasks.

French - Students study the topic of music in France. They will learn about a variety of artists from France and other French speaking countries. They will review how to give complex opinions and reasons about the artists and songs and review physical description.

Food Technology - Students will learn more about balanced diet and how to amend recipes. They will have the opportunity to analyse their diets and to learn sensory vocabulary in order to do food testing.

Students will learn more cooking skills, including using a raw meat. Recipes suggested include:

-Macaroni cheese, Cheese straws, Cheese and onion triangles, Thai curry, Dutch apple cake, Tomato ragu

Geography: This term, students have been studying the continent of Africa. Students have been focusing on the misconception that Africa is one country engulfed in poverty and debt, rather than a diverse continent. Topics include the study of the Masai Mara in Kenya, civil war in Libya and Egypt, the diffusion of Ebola in Sierra Leone and the link between mining and mobile phones in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

History - During this term in History, students have gained knowledge of the events and eventual end of the First World War. They have assessed how the way in which the First World War ended contributed to causing the Second,

and evaluated the extent of Hitler's responsibility for the Second World War. Students have built their knowledge of the events of the Second World War through a focus on the bombing campaigns against civilians.

Latin- Students will look at Britain in the first century, through the study of a Briton king, supporter of the Romans. The grammar focus is on adjectives of the 3rd declensions and on the imperfect (especially irregular verbs). The civilisation topic goes through the invasion of Britain by the Romans, looking at the Roman tracks in Britain in terms (focus on villas and farm) to understand the Romanisation process.

Mathematics - Students have been recapping their knowledge of area and solving more complex problems, for example finding missing dimensions given an area. They have covered volume of three dimensional prisms. Students have been revising their knowledge of equations and moving on to solve equations with unknowns on both sides.

Higher sets have been covering even more specific problems, e.g. finding the missing dimension of a trapezium given an area. They will have covered areas of circles and volumes of cylinders. In addition, they will have been solving fractional equations with negative and fractional answers.

Media Studies - Students study the music industry through analysis of existing examples of music videos and marketing material. They will understand the social impact of music marketing through the study of gender stereotypes, and genre codes and conventions. Students will apply their knowledge of music marketing by producing a storyboard for a music video, and online marketing material for a music artist.

Music - Year 8: Protest Music

Visiting different moments through recent history and the present day where protests have been made and reasons behind this. Study of the American Civil Rights movement and the music of Nina Simone, including '*I wish I knew how it would feel to be free*'. Other artists are covered such as Bob Dylan, and current artists like Pink, Plan B and George the Poet. Students discuss topical issues and write their own protest music lyrics on a topic they feel strongly about, for example racism, bullying, knife crime, even Brexit! Students then compose their own backing tracks on Garageband using a mixture of pre-made loops and material they have created such as beats, chords, bass lines and melodies. Performances can be rapped, sung or spoken with the backing track in pairs.

PE - Girls - Gymnastics/Cheerleading - knowledge and demonstration of core skills (different types of balances - group and paired - Level 2 cheerleading stunts, transitions, use of vaulting and beam equipment), performance skills (performing routines) and demonstrating teamwork, co-operation and individual performances. Knowledge of components of fitness and how they relate specifically to gymnastics, aesthetic appreciation, sport specific terminology, warm ups and teaching points of core skills.

Boys – Fitness - knowledge and demonstration of different methods of fitness training - fartlek, interval, circuit, SAQ, continuous and the components of fitness that they are developing as well as principles of training (SPORT and FITT). They will demonstrate their resilience and set individual targets to better their own levels of fitness as well as creating their own training sessions for a specific sporting individual (GCSE specification).

RE- Students were introduced to the religious tradition of Hinduism, exploring its idea of God, sacred texts and places of worship. This unit concluded with students working on their own independent projects.

Science - Combustion - Students will learn about the nature of chemical reactions and fire. Students will investigate the factors that affect combustion and be able to explain the science behind flammable objects.

The Periodic Table - Students will research the history of the periodic table and what makes it such a clever organisational tool. Students will investigate the properties of elements found on the periodic table and how you can predict their behaviour.

Spanish - Students study the topic of music in Spanish. They will learn about a variety of artists from Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. They will review how to give complex opinions and reasons about the artists and songs and review physical description.