

Year 8 Course information for term 4

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 - This term we will focus on developing performance skills. Students will gain knowledge and skills in three different styles of dance:- Folk, Latin and Urban Dance. Each lesson, students will learn steps in one of these styles and apply their understanding of the style in developing a short routine in groups.

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 Melodrama, they will look at stock characters and how to create high emotion on stage. they will study the social cultural and historical context of the genre and study one of its great works Sweeney Todd.

English – The Gothic and the Supernatural: Students continue their study of Susan Hill’s Victorian-style ghost story *The Woman in Black*, developing understanding of the conventions of the genre as well as an understanding of Victorian society. They will also continue to 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 will continue to explore the topic of French music. They will study a variety of songs to review the 3 key tenses (present, past and future) studied thus far and learn new vocabulary. They will develop their listening skills and creativity by creating or performing their own song in French.

Food Technology - Yr8 Students had the opportunity to look at the topic of food waste and analysing their diet against the healthy eating model - the Eatwell guide.

Practical lessons include: Cheese straws (rubbing in method); cheese and onion pastry triangles (short-crust pastry)

Geography: This term, students have been studying Extreme Environments. The earth's changing global climate will have an impact on traditional perceived extreme environments like the Poles and Deserts. Students study topics including the causes and effects of desertification in Sub Saharan Africa, the impacts of melting polar ice caps and the threats to endangered species. Additionally, students study how natural hazards like tropical storms create extreme environments and how people have adapted to survive in the most mountainous regions on Earth.

History - During this term in History, students have used a focus on local history to investigate how far ordinary life in Britain has changed since the beginning of the twentieth century. This enquiry into change over time built important skills for our second topic of the term, the Civil Rights movement in the USA; students have developed their knowledge of the differing tactics used by different civil rights groups, and how far this changed life for African-Americans.

Latin- Students study the topic of romans institutions in Britain, and the political structure. In terms of grammar, they will study relative pronouns and relative clauses, the 4 conjugations for present, imperfect and perfect and the nouns of the 3rd declension. We will look at the Fishbourne palace and how Britain was governed at this time.

Mathematics - Sets 1-3: Investigating patterns in angles including those formed by parallel lines and in polygons. Constructing bearings, and solving problems involving bearings, as well as different types of triangles. They have learnt how to reflect and translate shapes in a coordinate grid.

Set 4: Students can use ratio and have practised different types of ratio problem. They have studied how positive and negative numbers are ordered along with fractions and decimals. They have explored the link between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Media Studies - Students study the television industry through analysis of existing examples of television programming, including game shows and soap operas. They will understand audience engagement through the study of representation, and genre codes and conventions. Students also study the industry significance of advertising and the codes and conventions used to engage audiences. Students will apply their knowledge during a range of practical activities, including the planning and pitching of ideas for television programmes.

Music - Repetition in Music

Students learn the nature and purpose of repetition in music across different traditions and styles of music. Students listen to a wide variety of repetitive music for example minimalism, dance music, gamelan, African drumming. Students develop ensemble skills by playing as whole class on a variety of instruments, and learn also the different ways a basic musical idea can be developed. This learning is then applied in group work where students compose their own piece of repetitive music using instruments of their choice.

PE - Boys- 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.

Girls - 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 will be studying the theology behind the Christian concepts of ‘Gospel’ and how Christians put the teachings of Jesus into practice and also ‘Salvation’ and how this is expressed in worship.

Science - (2 of 4 depending on rotation)

- Plants and Reproduction - Students will investigate the structure of plants and how they interact. Students will compare the reproduction of plants and animals.
- Breathing and Respiration - Students will study the organs involved in breathing and gas exchange. Students will learn about the chemical reaction respiration and how important it is for all life.
- Metals and their uses - Students will study the nature of metals and the chemistry behind their properties. Students will research how metals are used and which properties are most useful.
- Light - Students will investigate light with a series of experiments to explain reflection, refraction and diffraction. The nature of light will be discussed and it's uses in industry explained.

Spanish - Students will continue to explore the topic of Spanish music. They will study a variety of songs to review the 3 key tenses (present, past and future) studied thus far and learn new vocabulary. They will develop their listening skills and creativity by creating or performing their own song in Spanish.