



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet

Pentecost Term 2019



FACULTY OF RE, GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Pupils will study the topic of Covenant, this will include the following areas:

- Covenant in the Old Testament; pupils are learning about the Covenant between Abraham and God.
- Covenant in the New Testament; pupils are learning about the Covenant at the Last Supper.
- Salvation in the Bible
- Sacraments of Healing; pupils are learning about Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Sick.

Pupils will then go on to study Judaism, which will include the following areas:

- Abraham; pupils are learning about Abraham as a founding father of Judaism.
- Beliefs and Practices: Shabbat, Kosher Food.
- The Synagogue
- Key Festivals: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- World War 2

GEOGRAPHY

During the first half of term students consider how the *fashion* industry and geography are interlinked to develop the ideas that their personal choices have global consequences.

After half term, they will study geography related to the management of oceans around the world. This includes the topics of piracy and plastic pollution.

HISTORY

During the first half of the Pentecost term, Year 8 will explore immigration to Britain after World War Two. They will look at why people have come to Britain from Europe, Asia and Africa and explore their experiences as they settled. They will complete a source assessment on the experiences of immigrants in Britain.

After half term, Year 8 will be completing an enquiry project on the Britain in the decades after World War II. They will have access to computers and textbooks to help them explore their chosen key question about music, fashion and film. Their assessment will be their findings concerning their key question, but it may be presented in a variety of formats.

Independent learning will be predominately research based and will be contained in their homework schedule distributed in the first week of this term.

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE

ENGLISH

During the Pentecost term, in preparation for skills required in Key 4 they will explore the theme of love in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and become more familiar with the language of Shakespeare and the techniques he uses to create meaning. They will examine how social and historical contexts are reflected in play. In addition, this term, they will be studying a Dystopian and Fantasy writing unit. Key skills explored are the construction of various sentence structures and how vocabulary and carefully selected language techniques create meaning in line with the GCSE specifications.

LANGUAGES

French

We'll be describing the Nice Carnival, which will enable us to revise and extend our understanding of the Past Tense, an important GCSE skill. After half term, it's time for a talent show, where we give advice to future stars and revise and extend adjectives so that we can describe some of these 'stars' humorously!

German

We'll be describing some festivals in Switzerland which will enable us to revise and extend our understanding of the Past Tense, an important GCSE skill. After half term, we're learning about arranging a date, getting ready to go out, what we're wearing - and then telling a friend how the date went. This will develop our understanding of the Past Tense, which plays an essential role in achieving a good grade at GCSE.

Italian

We'll be learning about school – its facilities, our lessons, school rules, problems and teachers. We'll be focusing on the conditional tense, which will help us to achieve an excellent grade at GCSE!

Spanish

This half term is all about dates! Asking each other out, making excuses, getting ready and telling a friend how the date went. This module develops our understanding of 'reflexive' verbs, which will make our work more detailed and more impressive! After half term, it's holidays – where we stay, what we like to do, what we did last year and what we plan to do next year. By using these three tenses, we'll be developing an essential GCSE skill.

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SCIENCE

Half Term 1: Passing On Traits

In this unit, Year 8 will explore relationships between different organisms. This will include hereditary relationships and those driven by environmental factors. They will determine the link between DNA and chromosomes and use this to explain what a species is, conducting surveys to determine different species in the school environment. They will then link characteristics determined by DNA to the success of organisms and therefore their success in their habitat. This will allow them to discuss the importance of variation and how this leads to natural selection within a population.

Pupils will be assessed on:

- A task to conduct and analyses the data from the practical that is targeted at showing the need of oxygen for muscles to respire.
- Tasks where they will have to apply their acquired knowledge on cells and systems in a synoptic assessment at the end of term.

Half Term 2: Forces and Motion

Forces and Motion is a unit that will explore the world of forces that we interact with each day without knowing and understand how we apply them to make our life more efficient. Students will also have the opportunity to apply their practical skill with the independent collection of data and then use this data to calculate speed and apply this to their analysis. The end of this term will see the Y8 student sitting a summative assessment from different aspects of KS3. Students will receive a revision booklet to help guide their revision and DIRT tasks will be performed so as to feed back to them their strengths and what topics they will need to focus next time they are presented with it.

Pupils will be assessed on:

- A short summative assessment that will be either peer marked or self-assessed with guidance by the teacher.
- End of KS3 summative assessment. (See description above)

MATHS

In the Pentecost term, Year 8 will be studying mathematics in the contexts of Expressive Arts, PE and Magic. These will include topics from the following range:

- Number Tricks in Magic to allow students to see algebra and number rules being applied and to apply them themselves.
- Sport where we analyse and use graphs.
- Mathematics of Design
- How artists use mathematics in their work

Short assessments for this year group will take place at the end of each module. These will take place in the classroom. Pupils will also sit an assessment in examination conditions at the beginning of the half term.

Some websites which may be of interest in helping them to further develop their understanding.

- ItsLearning
- www.mymaths.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.nrich.org
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.corbettmaths.com

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

All pupils at St. Paul's Catholic School follow a Design and Technology programme of study at Key Stage 3.

Design and Technology is a subject that allows pupils to be creative and encourages them to develop new skills and knowledge through practical activities.

In Year 8 pupils continue to undertake explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments that enable them to become more competent in expressing their creativity and skilled in the manufacture of their design solutions.

The Design and Technology course is based around the three principals of Designing.



Alongside the exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments Year 8 pupils will undertake a series of technical principal lessons. These technical principals are the underpinning theoretical knowledge which pupils will need to have mastered by the end of Year 8 and culminates in the sitting of a second technical principal's exam.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY ROUTES

Pupils at St. Paul's follow a carousel of 3 subjects during Years 7 & 8. The idea is to give them a grounding in the specific skills and knowledge relating to Design and Technology. Year 8 pupils have already completed courses in two areas and are currently completing their third and final project. Pupils will have the opportunity to select which single subject area they would prefer to study during Year 9.

The material specific areas offered are:

1. Electronic Design.
2. Food Preparation and Nutrition.
3. Paper, Cards and Boards.
4. Engineering Design and Manufacture.
5. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
6. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Introduction to JavaScript programming

During this unit, pupils will learn the importance of JavaScript into today's world. They will learn the fundamentals of JavaScript. They will learn how to insert JavaScript into webpages and how it can be used to make webpages dynamic. In addition to that they will learn how JavaScript can be used to draw shapes and help create animations

The pupils will then recognise and research the use of JavaScript in the real world, particularly with websites.

All resources will be on Its Learning and so can be accessed at home as well as in school. If a student misses the lesson they can easily catch up through Its Learning.

FACULTY OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS

ART

Portraiture

Pupils will continue to explore portraiture. So far their work has involved looking at the work of a broad range of styles and processes in order to be able to develop competence with a range of materials. By the end of the year they will have experienced a variety of approaches to the genre and be able to draw portraits with a degree of accuracy. This knowledge will support their skills and creativity through GCSE Art and Design.

DRAMA

Shakespeare Toe-dipping: pupils will be using a range of drama conventions to explore a variety of Shakespeare's plays. They will use short extracts from Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night and Othello and apply characterisation skills and Drama techniques in an imaginative way; experimenting with use of space and developing previous work on Brecht.

Pupils should focus on developing their ability to use the following key skills:

- Still Image
- Marking the moment
- Hot seating
- Characterisation
- Script delivery
- Interpretation
- Physical theatre

After half term pupils will be extending this text work to a modern play and will be considering how they might approach different scenes as an actor, director and designer. The emphasis will be on practical exploration but students will be starting to consider elements such as staging, props, costume, lighting and sound and how they have an impact on an audience.

MUSIC

Term 1: In the first half of the Pentecost term, pupils will be studying a scheme of learning called *Theme and Variation*. Students will develop their understanding of the elements of music through composition and performing. Students will take a well-known 'theme' and create their own variations of this theme.

Term 2: In the second half of the Pentecost term, students will move onto Pop Music from the 1960s. Students will learn about the historical events of the time that influenced music. Students will listen to and perform a range of music from the 1960s.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During the Pentecost term pupils in year 8 will follow a programme of study which will include Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Softball. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils will work in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. The focus in Year 7 was to develop the basic physical skills of running, throwing and jumping and to apply them to specific athletic events and striking and fielding games. This continues into year 8, where they are also encouraged to develop more complex physical skills and use reflection and evaluation to improve their own performance.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to select PE as one of their Expressive Arts options. This will allow pupils to have a taste of what it is like to study for a PE based course at GCSE level. The course will include written theory work which will include homework tasks and written assessments, as well as pupils taking part in their own exercise and training programme.

There will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours through the extended curriculum programme, which this term features golf, and through the extra-curricular programme which includes traditional summer sports such as Athletics, Rounders and Cricket. We encourage all pupils to attend at least one club session in at least one sport to develop their skills.