



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

Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet

Lent Term 2019



Faculty of RE, Geography and History

Religious Education:

Pupils will study the topic of Prejudice and Discrimination and Catholic Social Teaching. This will include the following areas:

- Prejudice and Discrimination: definition and examples
- How prejudice and discrimination are portrayed in the news today
- Jesus' teachings on prejudice and discrimination
- Martin Luther King and Oscar Romero
- How Christians respond to prejudice and discrimination
- CAFOD and Biblical links

In the second half term, pupils will look at the topic of Prophets. The unit will include the following aspects:

- Historical and Geographical significance of the Prophets
- Prophet Jonah
- Prophet Isaiah
- Joseph
- John the Baptist
- Mary MacKillop
- Pope Francis

Geography:

Rivers

In this module students are challenged to consider how the power of water in rivers shapes our landscape. They investigate different river landforms and link them to key geographical processes.

Project

As students' progress through KS3 this unit gives them an opportunity to investigate any geographical topic allowing them to develop their knowledge in an area which they have a personal interest in.

History:

In the Lent term the Year 8 students will be reflecting on last term by considering the long term impacts of World War One. Assessing how it led to the rise of the Nazi Party, the significance of Hitler and life in Nazi Germany.

Faculty of Languages

English:

During the Lent term, in preparation for skills required in Key Stage 4, Year 8 will be studying a poetry unit - Love across the ages - a selection of poems from the Romantic and Modern poets. Key skills explored are the analysis of poetry with special focus on the effect of poetic devices. In line with the GCSE specifications, they will examine how social and historical contexts are reflected in poetry and learn how to compare two poems developing their understanding of structural and language features specifically focusing on components of the new GCSE specification. In the second half of the term, students will also apply their existing knowledge and skill of language analysis to a range of fiction and non-fiction extracts. They will have the opportunity, using the fantasy genre, to formulate pieces of descriptive and narrative writing using images as a stimulus.

Languages:

Throughout Year 8, students will continue to build their vocabulary whilst simultaneously practising their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. This will include the ability to ask and answer questions (an important new element of the new-style GCSE) and to respond spontaneously. Parents can help at home by testing their children's vocabulary, whether formally, or at other times such as when in the car. The more often students practice, even if in short bursts, the more confident they will become!

This term in French, pupils will be learning how to talk about themselves – very useful for a teenager! From describing what they look like, the music they love and how they get on with friends, to their taste in fashion and the things they're passionate about, students will learn lots of fun – and useful - language. After half term, we revisit the theme of where we live: town, home, cooking and eating as a family and finally, celebrating local festivals.

In German, we're learning all about food and healthy (or not-so-healthy!) lifestyles. We'll learn about typical German food, we'll compare two different dinner parties and will discuss those notorious resolutions about getting fit! After half term, we talk all about school trips and festivals. This enables us to use more complex grammar and some interesting language!

Spanish talks about holidays, past and future. Students will be able to describe where they went on holiday, how they got there, where they stayed and what they did. And as ever, students will be offering and explaining a whole range of positive and negative opinions. After half term, we'll be learning all about social lives – arranging a date, getting ready to go outtalking about where you went and what it was like.

In Italian, pupils will be talking about where they live. We will learn about different types of accommodation, how to describe the rooms in the house, the furniture and where it is positioned. Pupils will also be able to say what they do to help at home. After half term, we'll be giving opinions about different TV programmes. We'll be developing our ability to give more advanced opinions and justify them, which will make our speaking and writing more interesting.

Faculty of Mathematics and Science

Mathematics:

In the Lent term, pupils will study mathematics in the context of science where they can encounter:

- BMI
- DNA
- Astronomy
-

Year 8 will also be studying the application of mathematics in the context of Citizenship. This will include topics from the following range:

- Statistical analysis tools
- Financial management
- Health management tools

Pupils will have in-class assessments on what they have covered in class and feedback will be given in their mathematics exercise books.

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

- www.mymaths.co.uk
- www.connect.collins.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.corbettmaths.com

Science:

Lent 1 - Waves & Energy Transfer

In this unit pupils explore the ways in which energy can be stored and transferred, encountering the different forms of energy in a range of scenarios and looking at devices which transform energy from one form to another. They will make links to their work on fields and particles. They will then look in more detail at energy transfers made by waves, examining wave behaviours such as reflection and refraction and beginning to consider whether all of their observations can be explained using the particle model alone.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to distinguish between energy which is being stored and energy which is being transformed; describing energy transformations in detail.
- Their ability to make links to work on fields and particles, particularly when discussing electrical energy and gravitational potential energy.

Lent 2 - Rocks Our World

This unit is divided into three distinct units about our wonderful and amazing planet. Students will learn about the composition of the planet itself and how its movement over the millions of years has formed the different types of rocks that we see and where we can find them. Practicals will be performed showing students how to identify them by their specific markings, how they are formed and how they cycle between each other via the Rock Cycle. Students will also explore the Carbon Cycle and Water Cycle, learning how our planet recycles both in an amazingly efficient way and their importance to us as humans. This unit will also investigate how and why our climate is changing and look into how we are working on solutions to reverse these affects for future generations.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to work collaborate together and analyse their own work.
- Their ability to make links between the composition of the earth, how the earth naturally recycles both carbon and water and the causes, effects and solutions to climate change.

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.

Pupils undertake a series of focussed practical tasks designed to increase their skills in problem solving, creative thinking and manufacturing. Pupils also undertake a rigorous programme of learning and assessment in the development of their understanding of the core Technical Principles related to Design and Technology.

Design and Technology are based around the Iterative Design Process.



Design and Technology: Routes

Pupils are timetabled for 3 periods of Design and Technology per week. The department offers six different material specific areas. During year 8 pupils continue to study the material areas they selected during year 7. At the end of year 8 pupils will choose which single area of Design and Technology they wish to study during years 9-11.

The material specific areas offered are:

1. Electronic products and systems
2. Food preparation and nutrition
3. Graphics, cards papers and boards
4. Fashion and Textiles
5. Woods, plastics and metals
6. Engineering

Computer Science

Binary & Networks

Students will be completing Binary numerical systems and this will consolidate their understanding of how computers perform calculations and store data.

This term, pupils will learn the basics of what a network is and also the different topologies. They will gain an understanding of the hardware and software required to set up a network and the importance of network security.

Students will then go on to see how networks and networking affect the way we work and socialise.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to achieve higher levels by looking at GCSE level type questions and activities.

Faculty of Expressive Arts

Art:

Students will be working on a project that continues to explore portraiture in art. Students will research and analyse the work of Auguste Macke, Van Gogh, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein to inspire their own work. The aim of the work covered in class is to focus on developing their skills in a variety of media in order to produce accurate likenesses in response to the artists.

Drama:

In the first half of the term students will be working using masks and developing their exaggeration of body language. They will experiment with using gestures to communicate to an audience and develop their use of walks and physical characterisation. They will learn the five rules of mask and apply this to practical performances.

After half term, they will then go on to study the famous drama practitioner, Bertolt Brecht. Students will learn about his theories and techniques in a practical way and use their knowledge to develop their own didactic pieces of theatre. They are assessed throughout the development of work and also when they create a final piece based on the styles and techniques learnt.

Assessment: students are assessed on their skills of:

- Self-Awareness and Planning
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Sustained Response (performance)

Music:

Lent 1:

In the first half of the Lent term, year 8 will study a topic called, *Theme and Variation*. Students will learn how to create variations from the theme of *Twinkle, Twinkle little star*. They will develop this theme through the musical elements, such as: rhythm and metre, melody, structure, harmony and tonality. Students will develop their compositional and performance skills through this scheme of work.

Lent 2:

During the second half of the Lent term, students will look at music from the Caribbean, focusing on Reggae music. Students will develop their understanding of this genre of music through listening and performing Reggae music. They will work in small groups to perform a piece of music by Bob Marley.

Physical Education:

During the Lent term the pupils will follow a programme of study which will include team games, net games, dance, gymnastics and health related exercise. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils will work in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. During Year 8, the focus is on developing decision making skills and a tactical awareness of a range of activities. Within physical education, the pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal organisation, perseverance and development of care and concern for others.

During this term there will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, basketball, dance, trampolining, handball and table tennis. Inter class fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition which includes football, rugby, netball, cricket, rounders, cross country and sports day.

All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport. For those pupils who have chosen PE in year 8 they will have an extra double lesson per week looking at both the theory and practical content of the GCSE PE course. The theory aspect of the course will cover anatomy and physiology, exercise and training as well as sports leadership. At the end of year 8 pupils will then be given the opportunity to opt to study PE in year 9 as a single expressive art option.