



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

Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet

Lent Term 2022



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
- Media: 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 and the biblical prediction of Jesus
- Joseph
- John the Baptist
- Mary MacKillop
- The miracles and visions of Fatima and Walsingham

Geography:

Fashion

In this module students are challenged to consider how the geography of fashion influences people and places around the world. They investigate the role of multi-national companies, sweat shops and consider how to make this industry more sustainable.

Biomes Project

As students' progress through KS3 this unit gives them an opportunity to investigate a biome of their choice allowing them to develop their knowledge about a topic 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, Year 8 students will explore poetry focusing on the themes of 'Love and Relationships.' They will learn how to comment on the messages in the poems with a special focus on writer's methods used to create meaning. They will also be studying non-fiction writing, developing their understanding of structural and language features. Students will apply their existing knowledge and skill of language analysis to a range of non-fiction extracts.

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 out, talking 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.mathswatch.co.uk
- www.connect.collins.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.corbettmaths.com

Science:

Lent 1 – Rocks Our World (X band and Y band)

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.

Lent 2 - Passing On Traits (X band)

This term students will learn about human reproduction, DNA and how traits are passed onto offspring. Reproduction will include the male and female anatomy and the importance of knowing how our bodies work and the amazing ability to create life. We will then look more closely at how DNA is the code in which all life stems and its influence on the variety of traits that can be passed onto offspring with the use of Punnett squares. In addition students will be taught what can influence mutations within the DNA and thus the consequences when this happens.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to work, collaborate together and analyse their own work.
- The ability to take given information and apply it to unfamiliar situations.
- The ability to see and explain how DNA links to reproduction and variations in offspring.

Lent 2 - Plants, Ecosystems & Photosynthesis (Y band)

This unit focuses on the amazing world of plants and how they are an intrinsic part of life on this planet. Students will learn what plants need to perform photosynthesis along with the adaptations they have in order to survive and reproduce in the vast array of environments they live in. An independent practical will be performed to investigate a factor that effects seed distribution thus giving students the opportunity to practice their practical write and collaboration skills. Continuing on in the term students will be introduced to interdependence between plants and all living organisms as seen with food chains and food webs and their links to biodiversity and bioaccumulation.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to work collaborate together and analyse their data from practical work.
- The ability to take given information and apply it to unfamiliar situations.
- The ability to see and explain how plants are fundamental to life on this planet.

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 courses 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 design
2. Food preparation and nutrition
3. Graphics, cards papers and boards
4. Fashion and textiles
5. Woods, plastics and metals
6. Engineering

Computer Science

Students will be learning how to create websites using HTML and CSS. After learning about formatting, paragraphs, images and navigation the pupils will then create their own website of a minimum of four pages.

Later in the 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 continue to explore portraiture in art. Students will learn how to use cutting as a method of creating a portrait and develop accuracy in their drawings. 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 a range of artists. Work is inspired by the artist Kris Trappeniers. This will enable them to have a broad experience of techniques and processes required for GCSE.

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 Lent term, students study a topic Blues. The topic includes learning about the history of Blues music through listening and research tasks, as well as performing famous Blues songs. Students collaborate in groups to write and perform their own Blues song.

Lent 2:

In Lent term two, year 8 students will look at musical theatre. This topic will include learning about musicals through listening and performing. Students will study a variety of musical productions and will collaborate in groups to perform scenes from well-known musicals.

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 extended curriculum programme, which features golf, snowboarding and indoor climbing, and through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, basketball, dance, trampolining and health related fitness training. Inter class fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition which includes football, rugby, netball, fitness, 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 activities. 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 GCSE PE or OCR Sports Studies in year 9 as a single expressive art option.