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# Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet



**Advent Term 2018**

## INTRODUCTION



In this booklet teachers have outlined all that you will be learning this term. Please read the booklet and be excited by all that you are going to learn.

**Please share this booklet with your parents. They might like to know what you are learning so that they can help you.**

# FACULTY OF RE, GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

## RE

During the first half term pupils will study the topic of Vocation and Discipleship. This will include the following areas:

- Attitudes towards life and reasons why people have different views on life
- What is vocation?
- Different types of vocation, including holy orders and marriage.
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Discipleship in the Bible
- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
- Mary and the Rosary

To support them with this they will then create a collage for their homework which explores the theme of showing their vocation in their everyday life.

In the second half term pupils will study the concept of Living a Christian life which will include the following aspects:

- Faith in the Old Testament
- Faith in the New Testament
- Catholic mission and evangelism
- Key Biblical stories, such as Sermon on the Mount and the Golden Rule. Then looking at how these teachings link to Living a Christian life.
- Prayer
- Popular piety
- Pilgrimage

During this topic pupils will research and plan a project about one person who has put their faith into action analysing the impact this has had on the faith of others. This will form the assessment for this topic.

## Geography

### **Tectonic Hazards**

In this popular unit of work, students study volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. They investigate the structure of the earth and plate tectonics. They learn how these hazards influence societies around the world and how their effects can be mitigated.

### **Development**

This module considers the concept that not all countries are equally developed. Students consider how development should be measured and then focus on India as a contrasting country.

## History

Year 8 will begin in September by completing a unit on the Industrial Revolution and will explain how far life had improved for people from 1750 – 1900. They will be formally assessed on their essay writing skills.

After half term Year 8 will be studying World War I. Students will explore the causes and events of the First World War. They will consider the impact of war on the soldiers on the front line and attitudes on the home front. They will be assessed on their ability to analyse historical sources.

# FACULTY OF LANGUAGE

## English

Year 8 will begin their new academic year with a unit of work called 'The Sherlock Holmes unit.' It will have a Literature focus in preparation for the English Literature examination. This will allow them an opportunity to study the techniques that writers use in developing the crime genre. They will be reading the detective short story by Conan Doyle, 'The Adventure of the Speckled Band'. The term will focus on the development of understanding and appreciation for a pre -1914 text with reference to genre, historical period, form and author. It will also develop pupils' confidence in accessing increasingly challenging texts through learning about the context of Victorian fiction and through learning and applying new vocabulary. This will be followed by a creative writing unit with a focus on crime writing.

## Languages

### **How can you help your child to make fantastic progress in languages?**

Because practice is so important when it comes to learning language, if you can encourage your child to speak the new words they're learning, this will have a real impact on their results. A little practice every day, even if it's just 10 minutes, will make all the difference! And a pocket dictionary will also help your child to become more independent and more creative. In September, we'll be advising your child about which one to buy.

### **French**

This half term is all about entertainment! Whether it's TV, film, reading or the internet, you'll learn how to describe the fun things you do in your free time. You'll learn how to speak your mind about the programmes and films you love and hate, whilst adding some more dramatic opinions to your vocabulary. After half term, we go on a virtual holiday to Paris! We'll see the sights, book some tours and learn how to tell a friend about all the things we can do in Paris.

### **German**

This half term, we're on holiday! You'll learn how to talk about different destinations, the sorts of things we do on holiday and our accommodation. Even better, you will learn how to write a negative review of a disastrous holiday. After half term, we ask 'Are you a media fan?' We learn how to review TV programmes, films and books, whilst developing our ability to express interesting and creative opinions.

### **Italian**

This half term, we're also on holiday! You'll learn how to talk about different destinations, the sorts of things we do on holiday and our accommodation. Even better, you will learn how to write a negative review of a disastrous holiday. After half term, we talk about music, TV and films, so you'll be able to tell everyone about the things you love and hate!

**Spanish**

This half term, we learn how to talk about our holidays! You'll learn how to talk about different destinations, the sorts of things we do on holiday and our accommodation. Even better, you will learn how to write a negative review of a disastrous holiday. After half term, we learn how to talk about the things that entertainment – whether it's our mobile phone, music or TV.

# FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

## Maths

In the Advent term, the topics for Year 8 will be about the application of Mathematics in the following subject areas:

- Language
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Information & Communication Technology

Students will be asked to use Mathematics in context and to discover new mathematical skills through exploration and reasoning. Pupils will have regular assessments in class including an exam style assessment in September.

We do encourage pupils to enjoy mathematics outside of lessons; the following websites may be of interest:

- [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk)
- [www.mathsbot.com](http://www.mathsbot.com)
- [www.trockstars.com](http://www.trockstars.com)
- [www.corbettmaths.com](http://www.corbettmaths.com)
- [www.connect.collins.com](http://www.connect.collins.com)

Pupils may also like to take advantage of the mathematics homework support club which takes place on Monday afternoons from 3pm until 4pm in J111. Pupils have access to iPads, mathematics textbooks and mathematics teachers, they can work on homework or can ask for additional support on topics which they would like to explore in more depth.

## Science

### Half Term 1/2: Reactions and Bonding

The first half term of Science in Year 8 is about materials in the world around us, how we can separate substances using a range of techniques and make new substances.

We will look at different types of particle, separation techniques, conservation of mass, classifying reactions and start to use chemical equations to predict the products of a reaction. We will also take a look at polymers, ceramics and composites. There are a lot of practical tasks this half term, you will learn how to improve your investigation and write-up skills.

Students will be assessed using:

- Practise equations (a very important skill)
- Practical write-up skill and accuracy of observations
- An end of unit test on the content they have learnt

## **Half Term 1/2: Plant, Ecosystems and Photosynthesis**

The second half term of Science in Year 8 is all about understanding the importance of plants and how they sustain all life on this planet! We will look at how plants are able to create their own food and how this source of energy supports all other organisms, whether they consume plants or not. We will also investigate the effects of pollution and, because organisms are dependent on each other, how pollutants and toxins being introduced at any level can have a significant impact on an ecosystem.

Students will be assessed on:

- A task to explain how plants create their own food and how they are adapted to do this.
- A practical to investigate how different environmental factors affect the uptake of water by plants.
- An end of unit test on the content they have learnt

## **Revision and Support Materials**

The **It's Learning** Platform will be available for students to find *homework, lessons, future assignments, bulletins* and *contacting teachers*. This can be accessed via the homepage of the school's website.



# 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 Y8 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 Y8 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 Nutrition and Preparation.

3. Paper, Cards and Boards.
4. Engineering Design and Manufacture.
5. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
6. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

## Computer Science

### Computer programming with Python

Year 8 will begin their Computer Science curriculum by studying Python. Python is a programming language that we use in all year groups at St Paul's, right up to A-Level. Pupils will learn the theoretical aspect of programming with Python, but they will also develop their practical skills by completing tasks that will require them to write computer programs.

Take a leap into the future with Python and experience the benefits of computer programming.

# FACULTY OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS

## Art

Throughout Year 8 pupils will work on projects aimed at broadening their knowledge and experience of a range of styles and techniques within Art and Design based on given titles. The first title pupils will explore is the theme 'Portraiture'. Pupils will experiment with a variety of different media, research a range of artists and art movements as well as build on essential practical core skills. Creative problem solving will be explored where pupils will be encouraged to be creative and to explore ways to resolve their ideas both independently and collaboratively.

Homework will be completed in sketchbooks and will involve pupils researching specific artists and art movements as well as practicing and expanding on their practical skills.

At the end of Year 8, pupils will be given the opportunity to select to take GCSE Art & Design in Year 9. This course would continue until the end of Year 11 where they would build a practical portfolio of coursework exploring a range of skills and disciplines worth 60% of their GCSE, which would culminate in an externally set assignment and practical exam which is worth 40% of their GCSE.

## Drama

In Drama, Year 8 students will be focusing on cross cutting. They will be given a range of different contexts to explore and will develop their use of this essential drama technique. Cross cutting enables contrasting moods and environments to be juxtaposed on the stage and requires students to hone their use of multi-characterisation, still image and timing.

After half term they will be focusing on physical theatre and will learn how to use their body language to create many different objects and creatures! They will consider effective use of levels in performance and will work together to create physical effects. They will explore the use of sound collage and the impact this has when added to physical theatre work. The stimulus for the final performance pieces for this unit is the poem *Jabberwocky*.

Assessment: students are assessed on their skills of:

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

## Music

### **Advent 1– Film Music**

Students develop composition skills through music for film. They look at different genres of film music and will create and develop appropriate music for a clip from a Pixar film. Students develop their musical vocabulary as well as their music technology skills.

### **Advent 2 – Blues Music**

During this half term, we will start by learning a fun blues piece, the 12 bar blues and typical features of Blues music. We will listen to lots of different Blues pieces to try and get the measure of the history and development of Blues as a musical style. Students will develop their understanding of Blues music through listening, composing, performing and improvising.

## Physical Education

Pupils will be following a physical activity programme which will include a range of sports including team games, net games, striking and fielding games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and exercise and training, working sometimes in mixed gender groups, sometimes in single gender groups. Students will also be given the opportunity to display their theoretical knowledge with written exams.

There will plenty of opportunities for students to extend their skills out of normal school hours, through the extended curriculum programme which features snowboarding, golf, climbing, and through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, athletics, cricket, rounders, basketball, dance, trampolining, exercise and training. Intra-class fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition every term in selected sports.

At the end of year 8 pupils will be given the opportunity to select to take GCSE PE in year 9. This will involve pupils taking half termly written exams as well as being graded on their practical ability. The course is graded 60% theory 30% practical and 10% on an analysis of performance. This will be taken all the way through till year 11 where there will be a final external practical moderation and written exams.

All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport.