



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

Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet



Advent Term 2021

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. Students will reflect on the different ways people choose to dedicate their lives to God and make a judgment on the way they feel is most important.

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 acquiring 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 food and organising a “fiesta”, a party! You will learn how to order meals at a restaurant. We will then visit different shops where we can buy party items, and learn how to organise a party like the Spanish do. You will learn how to write a negative review of a party, or finding creative excuses if you do not wish to go. After half term, we learn how to talk about holidays, what we like to do when abroad and dealing with holidays issues that can arise along the way in a successful manner.

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
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.ttrockstars.com
- www.corbettmaths.com
- www.connect.collins.com
- www.mathswatch.co.uk

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 devices, 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: Forces And Motion (X band)

Waves And Energy Transfer (Y band)

Year 8 Science X band begins with revisiting 'maths in science' skills such as symbols, specific units and are taught how to rearrange physics equations so that they can apply this skill the different Physics concepts this term such as speed-distance-time, work done, Hooke's Law and elasticity to name a few. Y8 Science Y band will be focusing on Waves and Energy which includes understanding the variety of forms of energy and investigating how stored energy is transferred and used and/or wasted.

In addition, all of these topics will be complemented with practicals so that students will be able to practice their independent practical skills learned in Year 7 so that both investigative

skills and content can continue to be reinforced together via application. This includes data collection and then the manipulation of the data so as to analyse the results successfully.

Students will be assessed on:

- The ability to rearrange equations independently.
- Their understanding of the Key Concepts studied through a short Key Concept AP half way through the term.
- Several practicals where data will be collected and analysed.
- An End of Unit Assessment on the content the students have learnt during the term

Revision and Support Materials

All homework will put on the It's Learning Platform.

Links to support material will also be put on itslearning for independent study at home

Bulletins and contacting teachers can be accessed via the homepage of the school's website.

Half Term 1/2: Plant, Ecosystems and Photosynthesis (X band)

Passing On Traits (Y band)

The second half term of Science in Year 8 (X band) 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 through the process of photosynthesis 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.

Y band Science will be studying the science of DNA and the significance of this incredible molecule in the realm of inheritance and in evolution. Students will be introduced to how to perform and analyse Punnett Square (genetic crosses) along with how variation in the DNA can cause mutation which can either be harmful (diseases) or beneficial (adaptations). This will lead into how we know about the variety of plants and animals through Sampling in which students will actively go out and look at the variety of species around the school as well as learn about how scientists around the world are conserving these species who's numbers are declining.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their understanding of the Key Concepts studied through a short Key Concept AP half way through the term.
- Topics will be reinforced with practical investigations throughout the term.
- An End of Unit Assessment on the content the students have learnt during the term

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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 principles of designing.



Alongside the exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments Y8 pupils will undertake a series of technical principle lessons. These technical principles 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 principle'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. 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.
5. Engineering Manufacture.
6. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
7. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

Computer Science

Introduction to Binary

Year 8 will begin their Computer Science curriculum by studying binary numbers. Pupils will be challenged to think deeply on how a computer represent images, characters and sound. Activities such as writing secret messages using binary and then decoding them will allow them to understand why binary is so important. They will be able to represent decimal numbers in Binary and be able to do basic arithmetic using the binary number system.

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 practising 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– Instruments of the orchestra

Students begin year 8 music with an introduction to the orchestra and orchestral instruments. Students will learn about famous composers from different periods and will perform music ranging from Bach to John Williams. As well as performing and listening to music, students will compose and arrange their own instrumental music using the iMacs which have Sibelius, Logic Pro and GarageBand to support them on their compositional journey.

Advent 2 – Film Music

In Advent 2, students continue developing their performance and composing skills through Film music: students focus on composing music for a short film clip.

Physical Education

Pupils will be following a physical activity programme which will include a range of sports including team games, net games, striking games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and fitness. We will be developing 4 key concepts through core PE, which include Fitness, Autonomy, Skills and Talents (the learning talents)

There will plenty of opportunities for students to extend their abilities out of normal school hours, through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, hockey, handball and table tennis. 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 currently studying PE will be given the opportunity to opt for PE in Year 9. We offer two courses, the first course is a bridging course which leads into GCSE PE. This involve pupils taking written assessment as well as being graded on their practical ability. The second course is a bridging course which leads in to OCR Sports Studies. This course will be a combination of written coursework and a practical unit in a chosen team and individual sports, an introduction to leadership and officiating.

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