YEAR 8 CURRICULUM LETTER: SPRING

Welcome to our Spring term Curriculum Letter. There are plenty of extra-curricular activities for students to get involved in this half term and many departments will be running exciting activities.

More general information about the curriculum can be found here.

Students will be taking part in the 2nd Challenge Day on 25th January. This is a Wellbeing and English day!

The departments that teach your child have contributed below to let you know what students will be studying this term.

ART

Pupils in Y8 are still in the process of producing a final piece that utilises Linear Perspective in a considered and insightful way from last term.
After this, Pupils will embark on an investigation of various elements of the permanent collection of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. This will be done by a sketchbook submission. Thus will further embed the importance of a considered and well-presented sketchbook. Objects looked at can then become the basis of a 3D piece to be made out of clay and decorated with pattern and motifs inspired by a particular world culture.

CAREERS

As part of their PSHE lessons where they will learn about Professional Skills and Careers Development.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Unit 08 – Web Page Design (HTML)
Unit 09 – Programming with Python

DRAMA

Melodrama - Devising.

ENGLISH

Students continue to study the novel 'The Book Thief' encouraging them to adopt a critical voice, engaging in complex issues. The contextual influences of the novel are explored sensitively and build upon skills learnt in poetry when analysing how context shapes meaning.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Macro-nutrients and micronutrients: Recap and more in-depth look at fat, carbohydrates and proteins. Vitamins.

Sweet and savoury dishes.

GEOGRAPHY

Factfulness – Our Unequal World
China - An Asian Superpower

HISTORY

Students will be moving on from their work on the Stuarts and Hanoverians to the Victorian period this term covering topics such as the Industrial Revolution, Slavery and Empire.

MATHEMATICS

Working with mixed numbers, recurring decimals to fractions, using percentages, repeated percentage change.

Proportion, direct and inverse and proportional reasoning.

MFL: FRENCH

Mes passe-temps et le week-end dernier:
Describing your hobbies
Learning how to use the past tense
Describing a weekend in the past
Giving your opinion in the past tense

MFL: GERMAN

Trends:
What music, TV, films young people enjoy nowadays
What clothes young people wear vs what people used to wear
Comparing trends today with when they/ their parents were younger
Where people go in their free time nowadays
Comparing where people go nowadays with when they/their parents were younger

MUSIC

Hooks & Riffs – software project using Logic Pro X

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in Year 8 rotate every 3 weeks which gives them 6 lessons per activity. So each group will be taking part in 2 of the following:

Dance - students will develop the skill of music visualisation, using dynamic skills to portray a character. Students will work on motif development and abstract working gestures alone and with others and will create using both symbolic and representational movements. They will create material that integrates dance and drama, using The Car Man by Matthew Bourne as the stimulus.

Gymnastics - students will learn how to accurately replicate basic balance, rotation and flight-based movements. Students will learn how to demonstrate correct take-off and landing technique, as well as a clear body shape whilst airborne. They will learn travel movements, rotational moves and balances individually and as part of a fluent sequence. Students will develop the core skills necessary to develop fluent flight based routines. Students will learn how to link individual skills as part of a group sequences both on the floor and using low/high apparatus.

Hockey - students will learn to use basic principles of play when selecting and applying tactics for defending and attacking.

Pupils will develop the skills necessary to outwit opponents. Passing, receiving, shooting and control will be developed through small sided games and conditional situations Demonstrating high quality performances and accurate replication.

Netball – students will learn about rules and positions of the game. The main focus is on developing team attacking and defending strategies. Students will experience a range of skill variations with intent to outwit the opposition. Students will develop a sound knowledge of positions and rules surrounding footwork and contact. Students will begin to analyse performances and adapt elements to improve.

PSHE

PSHE is taught as part of the rotation. If students are being taught PSHE this half-term they will cover a range of topics including:
Equality and Diversity, LGBTQAI+, Advocacy, Digital Resilience, Healthy Friendships, Managing Conflict/Peer Pressure, Digital Safety, Mental Health and Positivity

RELIGION PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

What is truth?

This unit introduces students to epistemology - the study of knowledge. It aims to get them to question what they assume is truth. Students explore the meaning of Plato's cave and draw links between it and the Truman Show film. It supports SMSC, particularly the spiritual component through its consideration of philosophical questions.

Should Buddhists be organ donors?

The aim of this unit is to introduce Buddhism to students by linking the Buddha's life and teaching to organ donation. This shows how religions must be dynamic and respond to contemporary issues. It also emphasises how Buddhists might interpret teachings differently to either support or oppose organ donation. through the lens of a contemporary issue. This unit links to the unit: Should religious people be greener than everyone else? Also, the Y9 unit on crime, both of which include Buddhist teachings.

SCIENCE

Biology:
Students will study: Diet and Digestion, Respiration and Exercise, Inheritance and Evolution, Bigger Picture.

Chemistry:
Reactions and energy: atoms in chemical reactions; combustion; thermal decomposition; conservation of mass; exothermic and endothermic reactions and energy level diagrams.

Physics: P6 Electric circuits and P7 Light.

TEXTILES

Students continue to learn about working with tricky fabrics and how stitch and print techniques vary according to fabric choice.