



RED HOUSE
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

Subject Summaries Year 8 - Spring 2018

I thought that you might like to know some details about what your child will be studying during the spring term. A brief summary follows:

Art

This term pupils will be concentrating on textiles experimenting with dyeing techniques. They will develop their initial work and research through to making either a tote bag or cushion cover on the theme of mini beasts.

Biology

Pupils will study genetics. They will find out how we acquire our features and why DNA was such an important scientific discovery. They will then move on to look at respiration, investigating the respiratory system and the structure of the heart.

Chemistry

Pupils will become familiar with the structure of the periodic table and use this knowledge to predict how materials will react with each other. In the second half of the term, pupils develop their evaluative skills and suggest improvements to investigations.

Computing

Year 8 will begin the term by combining software packages to design a dream house and to calculate the cost. They will then present their work and a winning house design will be chosen based on cost and appearance. The second half term pupils will learn about animation software and will plan and create an animation.

English

Pupils will explore the difference between appearance and reality, by exploring stories of illusion and mistaken identity. They will then move onto an exploration of technology and how past, present and future technological changes may influence their lives. Pupils will plan their own writing in various forms and they will complete an assessment at the end of each half term.

French

Pupils will be talking about personality, friendship, music, clothes and what they really enjoy doing. They will also describe where they live and talk about meals. They will consolidate the present, near future and perfect tenses; learn how to use reflexive verbs to talk about relationships; and practice agreeing and disagreeing giving reasons for their opinions. Other grammar points covered include: adjectival agreements, comparative adjectives; prepositions; the verbs boire and prendre; and using il faut to talk about what you have to do.

Geography

Pupils will study coasts. They will learn about waves and tides, how waves erode the coastline and create distinct landforms. They will understand how coastlines are under threat in parts of the UK and how management of the coast can protect communities from the power of the waves.

German

Pupils will focus on topics such as food and drink, meals, healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, daily routine, excursions, giving directions, descriptions and festivals. Through these themes they will consolidate the perfect tense, look at negatives, imperatives, prepositions, modal verbs, adjectival endings, separable and reflexive verbs.

History

Pupils start Year 8 with a continuation of the Civil War up to an including Charles I's execution. We will then study the Restoration along with the plague epidemic of 1665 and the Great Fire of London. The ordinary life of a Tudor will also be studied. Alongside a study of these events, we aim to continue developing the writing and source skills that have been looked at in previous years.

Maths

Pupils will study equations of straight line graphs as well as rounding with significant figures and using standard form. Interpreting statistical diagrams and applying the four operations to fractions will also be studied.

Music

Pupils learn how musical intervals influence the harmony and mood of a composition. They perform and write music that explores these effects. In further composing they use the three basic chords that establish any musical key to construct their melodies. Classroom singing includes popular songs with repetitive vocal accompaniment patterns.

Physics

This term we will complete the work comparing the eye and camera. Pupils will then look at fluids, comparing the particular differences between solids, liquids and gases and use this information to describe change of state. They will perform calculations to determine the density of materials. Pupils will then move onto how pressure changes with height and depth and finish the topic by studying drag and its effects. Skills will include data analysis and graphical work as well reading scales and measuring.

RS

Pupils will investigate the unit question 'Does religion help people be good?' They will consider the ways in which religious and non-religious principles guide people in living good lives. The assessment will require pupils to weigh up the value of religion in benefitting individuals and society.

Spanish

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the spring term: Describing your house and bedroom in detail; Giving directions; Food and healthy or unhealthy lifestyles and Holidays. Within these contexts we will further consolidate present tense of regular and irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, the formation and use of comparatives and superlatives and the near future tense.

Technology

Year 8 will investigate the use of a variety of mechanical systems, such as linkages, cams, gears and pulley systems. Pupils will further develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of hard materials, as well as developing new hand skills to be able to work with these

materials. Pupils will develop their computer aided design and manufacturing skills by using and incorporating new technologies into their work.

Boys Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. In team games such as football and hockey, the aim will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to gain confidence within the competitive environment. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and gymnastics.

Girls Physical Education

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. In team games such as netball and hockey, the aim will be to develop skills taught in the previous academic year and to gain confidence within the competitive environment. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and gymnastics.

PSHE

Pupils will focus on the core theme 'Living in the Wider World. They will examine the personal qualities needed for success in the world of work and explore different jobs and career paths.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lara Roberts
Head of Teaching & Learning

