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SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

### **Year 8 Subject Summaries: Spring 2020**

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 develop their skills and understanding of mixed media collage. They will produce a final piece inspired by the theme of mechanical parts.

#### **Biology**

Pupils will study genetics; how we acquire our features and why DNA was such an important scientific discovery. Following this, pupils will explore the topics of evolution and adaptation.

#### **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 look at some of the theory behind how computers work. We will examine the components of a typical computer and learn about binary, the language of computers, as well as how computers communicate on a network.

#### **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 discuss weekend activities, talk about music preferences and national events. They will practise using the present tense of faire and reflexive verbs. They will be introduced to the near future and "je voudrais" in order to talk about usual holidays and preferred holidays. Then, they will use the perfect tense with avoir and the perfect tense of aller to describe a past holiday. Finally, they will study the theme of sport and leisure.

## **Geography**

Year 8 will complete their study of the ecosystems unit. This will be followed by a country study of the United States of America, looking at the physical and human geography of this vast nation. They will learn about: the climate, natural features, Native Americans, the American Dream, economic activities and investigate whether it is still a world superpower.

## **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 and 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 as well as investing coloured light. We will also study waves and how light and sound waves are different. Pupils will then learn about fluids, comparing differences between solids, liquids and gases and then use this information to describe changes of state. They will perform calculations to determine the density of materials. Pupils will also study pressure in gases and liquids. Skills will include data analysis and graphical work as well reading scales and measuring.

## **RS**

Pupils will examine the key question 'Religion: A cause of conflict or a power for peace?' As part of their studies pupils will examine issues of peace and conflict with reference to Christianity, Islam and some non-religious views of life may also be studied. The philosophical and moral issues of pacifism, self -defence and justice are explored.

## **Spanish**

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the spring term: Giving directions; Giving opinions about where you live and the region; Food and healthy lifestyle 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**

This term, pupils will complete their remaining 3D drawing tasks. Pupils will then investigate the use of a variety of mechanical systems, such as linkages and cams. Pupils will further

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



Lara Roberts  
Head of Teaching & Learning