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Dear Parents

### **Year 8 Subject Summaries: Spring 2021**

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**

Year 8 pupils will study a range of different artists and techniques, broadening their understanding of art and artists from different movements, cultures and genres. Lessons are planned to use a range of materials and media that are easily accessible at both school and home.

#### **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 continue their study of the ecosystems unit by learning about hot deserts and the Arctic Tundra. This will be followed a study of urbanisation, looking at reasons and patterns of

urbanisation, the consequences of urbanisation in the developed and developing world, and some solutions to many of the key problems.

### **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 building on the work of 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 will write music that explores these effects. In further composing pupils will use the three basic chords that establish any musical key to construct their melodies. Listening activities include popular songs with repetitive accompaniment patterns, some from musicals.

### **Physics**

This term we will complete the work comparing the eye and camera as well as investigating 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.

### **RS**

Pupils will examine the key question 'Why do Christians believe Jesus was God on Earth?' They will examine beliefs about the incarnation, explore relevant Bible passages and investigate the impact of the belief in the incarnation on Christians today.

### **Spanish**

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the spring term: Giving opinions about where you live and the region; talking about school and school life. Within these contexts we will further consolidate present tense of regular and irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, the formation and use of comparatives and superlatives, the near future tense and using future expressions.

**Design Technology**

This term, pupils will develop their 3D drawing tasks by refining their perspective drawing skills using single point and two-point perspective techniques. As the term progresses, pupils will undertake a typography design task where they will develop a range of letter styles and apply them to existing product packaging.

**Physical Education**

Pupils will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of physical activities during the remote learning period. They will have a menu style programme for them to choose a range of indoor and outdoor activities. The aim is to maintain their fitness levels, as well as participating in sports specific skills to improve their coordination and agility. This will be great preparation for their return to school where pupils will have the chance to showcase their skills in games such as hockey, rugby (boys) and netball (girls).

I hope that this information will be useful to you so that you might support your child in their studies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lara Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Lara Roberts  
Head of Teaching & Learning