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Dear Parents

Year 8 Subject Summaries: Spring 2022

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 continue the theme of Day of the Dead, working with an array of new materials and techniques. This will culminate in the production of a mixed media piece.

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. Assessments will take place every 6-8 weeks depending on progress made.

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. Assessments will take place every 6-8 weeks depending on progress made.

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. Assessments will take place after each unit of work.

Geography

Year 8 will complete their study of tropical rainforests before moving on to hot deserts. They will learn about their characteristics, climate and the plants and animals found within them. This will

allow them to compare and contrast different biomes of the world. Pupils will complete a test this half-term. They will then start a topic studying coastal environments after half term.

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. Pupils will complete their assessment before the half term break.

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. Assessments will take place in mid-January and March.

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 performing includes short pieces with repetitive accompaniment patterns.

Physics

This term we will complete the work investigating coloured light and then compare the eye and camera. We will also study the properties of 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 also complete calculations to determine the density of materials. Assessments will take place at the end of topics.

RS

Pupils will examine the key question 'Why do Christians believe Jesus was God on Earth?'. This study will involve an exploration of the Jewish beliefs in the Messiah, the different ways the Bible communicates ideas about Jesus and pupils will reflect on the importance of the belief in the incarnation for Christians today. An assessment on this work will take place towards the end of term.

Spanish

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the Spring Term: giving opinions about where you live; talking about subjects 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. Assessments to take place at the end of January.

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

Girls: 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. House competitions will be incorporated into these games lessons. During single PE lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including handball and gymnastics.

Boys: 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. House competitions will be incorporated into these games lessons. During single PE lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including handball 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
Assistant Head (Academic)