



YEAR 8 CURRICULUM LETTER SUMMER

Welcome to our Summer 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 participating in an Activities Week towards the end of term - more information will follow soon.

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

ART

Colour Theory and Colour Theory Final Piece.

CAREERS

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Unit 09 - Programming with Python.

Unit 10 - App Development with MIT App Inventor.

DRAMA

Scripted work: 'The White Feather' and Murder Mystery.

ENGLISH

The first half of this term focuses on a media text 'The Greatest Showman', and encourages students to explore ideas surrounding diversity and belonging. Again, the choice of text allows for contextual analysis and cements their learning of how to analyse language and context. Student writing skills are developed as they learn how to write a speech thus encouraging them to adopt a critical voice and to question the world around them.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Nutritional needs of different groups and energy needs. Food allergies and dietary conditions. Assessment.

Sweet and savoury dishes.

GEOGRAPHY

In Geography, students are immersing themselves into the lives of people living in China. They will be studying how the Chinese economy has grown rapidly in recent decades and how this has resulted in both winners and losers. We will be delving into the controversial population policies of past Chinese governments and looking towards the future as China's population begins to decline.

Students will be finishing their year by investigating the changing coastline of the UK in our Changing Coasts topic. Students will be investigating coastal processes of erosion and how these shape the landscape at the coast. We will also be looking at how humans are affecting by coastal erosion and how they attempt to manage erosion. This links back to their earlier topic of extreme weather.

HISTORY

We will be exploring The First World War (1914 - 18).

MATHEMATICS

Plans and elevations followed by properties of 3D shapes leading onto surface area and volume of prisms. Working with circles, finding the area and circumference then looking at cylinders. Pythagoras, finding sides and problems involving Pythagoras.

MFL: FRENCH

Students will know a range of places in the town and will be able to use these in the past, present and future tenses.

We will then complete a topic on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

MFL: GERMAN

School - subjects, school life, ideal school.

MUSIC

Theme & Variations - exploring the compositional device of varying and developing musical themes, Class Concert - developing performance skills.

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:

Athletics - Students will begin to use knowledge of athletics events, strategies and techniques to develop and enhance replication and performance. Students will develop their understanding of fitness and its relationship to performance. Students will perform and improve core skills and personal/team bests in relation to speed, height, distance and accuracy.

Rounders - Students focus on accurate replication & further developing, implementing and refining techniques for batting, bowling and fielding. Students will develop the ability to place the ball in a target area and refining game strategies with the intention of outwitting an opponent. Students will develop confidence in movement and test mental capacity through scoring and officiating games.

Tennis - Students will continue to accurately replicate shots with control and purpose. Serves, forehand & backhand (topspin & slice), volleys and drop shots will be developed through game play and conditional situations. Technique will be applied through small-sided games and assessed against expected learning outcomes.

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

Is there any evidence for life after death?

This unit of work explores different “evidence” for life after death such as ghosts, mediums, hypnotic regression, near death experiences and accounts of being reincarnated. It links with the earlier unit on atheism in Y8 as it considers reasons why atheists might not find the evidence for life after death convincing. It also links to GCSE RS in units about life after death. Students will have the opportunity to debate how convincing they find the evidence is before completing an assessment where they explain their own view before explaining why someone might have a different view. Should religious people be greener than everyone else?

Many students at TGGs are interested in the environment and this unit explores Humanist, Christian and Buddhist views about environmental and animal rights issues. Through case studies linked to the Amazon rainforest and tiger parks, we consider how religious and non-religious beliefs might motivate someone to act to protect the environment. This unit builds on students’ prior knowledge - for example Christian creation stories, humanist and Buddhist teachings. Christian beliefs about the environment will also be revisited as part of GCSE RS.

SCIENCE

Biology: Diet and digestion, Respiration and exercise, Inheritance and evolution and a how science works project.

Chemistry: Earth, rocks, resources and climate: structure of the Earth; sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks; the rock cycle; ceramics and composite materials; global warming; carbon cycle and climate change; extraction of metals and recycling.

Science investigations: application of knowledge.

Physics: Forces 2, Thermal energy transfers 2, sound, light.

TEXTILES

In the summer term, the focus is on Making. Students in textiles have printed their own fabrics and will make these into face masks, checking they have fulfilled their design brief. They will have plenty of challenge in creating curved seams which sit accurately using tricky fabrics.

