

# Year 8 Curriculum Information

## 2018 - 19



The School follows a two-week, 60 period timetable. Students normally have two thirty minute pieces of homework per night. Students study two from three modern foreign languages (their choice) plus they begin to study Latin. Students sit exams in English, Maths, Science, Humanities and all three of their languages in the summer term. Below you will find a summary of the main topics covered in Year 8, the name of the Head of Subject and an indication of the number of periods students have of each subject per fortnight.

Mr M R Price Deputy Head (Academic)

<b>English</b>	<b>Mr Bywater</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
We study a range of texts including pre-1914 and contemporary prose, Shakespeare, contemporary drama and poetry. There is an increasing emphasis on analytical approaches and students also develop their essay writing technique. They will also learn and practise the skills required for producing an effective argument whilst continuing to develop their creative writing.		
<b>Maths</b>	<b>Mr Shackleton</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
Knowledge of algebra, geometry and probability and data are extended, and numeracy skills are practised regularly. There is a greater emphasis on using technology (particularly calculators). All students complete a project in the summer term.		
<b>Science</b>	<b>Mr Mullan</b>	<b>7 periods</b>
Topics covered include food and digestion, heating and cooling, atoms and elements, respiration, compounds and mixtures, light, plant reproduction and movement. We also run a popular, weekly, Science Club and actively participate in National Science Week.		
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Mr Day</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students study glaciation, coasts, globalisation and Brazil with a coastal fieldtrip to Norfolk in the summer term.		
<b>History</b>	<b>Mrs Wright</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students study two topics: <i>The Making of the United Kingdom, 1603-c.1666</i> and <i>The Impact of the British Empire</i> . These are assessed in several small factual tests, two major tests and by an end of year examination. The tests and the examination assess students' ability to recall factual material, write extended answers under timed conditions and evaluate source material.		
<b>Religious Education</b>	<b>Mr Hooper</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students study the beliefs and practices of Hinduism. We then look at the concept of equality from a social and religious perspective. All students complete a project in the summer looking at 'spirited Arts'.		
<b>Latin NEW IN YEAR 8</b>	<b>Miss Newton</b>	<b>5 periods</b>
Students follow Book 1 of the <i>Cambridge Latin Course</i> , and are introduced to its main character, Caecilius, who lives in the Roman city of Pompeii. Students learn about 220 Latin words and build up a grasp of basic grammar that enables them to translate Latin stories into English. The course also includes sections focusing on the Roman way of life, and we examine topics such as home life, schools and gladiators.		
<b>French</b>	<b>Mrs Williams</b>	<b>4 periods</b>
We use <i>Studio 2</i> to learn about describing leisure activities, holidays to Paris and extending descriptions and opinions of others and themselves. The past and near future tenses are introduced and the present is extended and practised in games,		

communicative activities, formal lessons and using the audio-visual and ICT materials available.		
<b>German</b>	<b>Mr Killen</b>	<b>4 periods</b>
We use <i>Echo 2</i> to learn about free time, holidays, shopping, pocket money, hobbies and activities. The grammatical aspects covered include articles, pronouns, possessive adjectives, past tense verb forms, modal verbs and present tense which are extended and practised in games, communicative activities, formal lessons and using the audio-visual and ICT materials available.		
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Mrs Reed</b>	<b>4 periods</b>
Students use <i>Mira Express 2</i> to learn about describing their lifestyle, their leisure activities, holidays, food and drink, fashion and health issues. The past and near future tenses are introduced and the present is extended and practised in games, communicative activities, formal lessons and using the audio-visual and ICT materials available.		
<b>Art</b>	<b>Mr McGregor</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students work on a clay project in the first part of the year using the theme of 'fruit and vegetables'. For their second project they look to undertake a still life project.		
<b>DT</b>	<b>Mr Jones</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students will build on their DT experiences from Year 7, developing their design and making skills at the next level. They will produce an electronic lighting device with appropriate graphics. Students will also produce a hand held toy. The course encourages students to use traditional workshop skills balanced with modern manufacturing techniques to create high quality products.		
<b>ICT</b>	<b>Mr Leach</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
The main focus for this year is to take the second Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam in Microsoft Excel. After that students learn HTML coding in order to create their own web pages. This also includes the use of CSS and more able students go on to use Javascript. There is a short session writing programs in Python, and finally some image processing work in Photoshop.		
<b>Drama</b>	<b>Miss Spence</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
In Year 8 Drama we continue to broaden the students' understanding of theatrical styles and skills, including devised and scripted performances. We also have a trip to London's West End in order to complete a theatre project.		
<b>Music</b>	<b>Mrs Perry</b>	<b>3 periods</b>
Students continue to build on the skills developed in Year 7 by composing and performing a variety of tasks. This includes a more focused look at chords, key and compositional structures. Students also perform a popular song and compose together in groups. Theoretical knowledge continues to be learned through practical tasks.		
<b>PE</b>	<b>Mr Higgens</b>	<b>2 periods</b>
Students follow a half termly carousel programme of Basketball, Gymnastics, Water Polo, Strength and Conditioning, Tennis and Athletics which look to build on the movement patterns developed in Year 7 through the use of more conditioned competitive situations.		
<b>Games</b>	<b>Mr Jerram</b>	<b>2 double periods</b>
Boys follow a programme of Rugby (Autumn Term), Football or Hockey (Spring Term) and Cricket (Summer Term); whilst girls follow a programme of Hockey (Autumn Term), Netball (Spring Term) and Cricket or Football (Summer Term). However, the Summer Term choices are currently under review. Students are grouped by ability and there is a focus on both individual and team skills which are supported by after school practices and the opportunity to play competitive matches at the weekend.		