

**Year 8
Overview of
Learning**

This term we are learning about
"What's the matter?"



Our Change Maker principle, this
term is 'Share'



English	Maths	Science	Computing & Careers	PSHE/RSE
<p>Year 8A - English - Animal Farm This half term, Year 8 will be studying <i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell. The focus of this unit is to develop young people's understanding of how writers use stories to explore big ideas such as power, control, fairness, and leadership.</p> <p>Young people will learn what an allegory is and how characters and events in the novel link to real historical ideas. They will explore the characters, key themes, and important moments in the story, as well as developing their skills in reading comprehension, inference, and written analysis.</p> <p>There is a strong focus on building confidence with explaining ideas clearly, using evidence from the text, and understanding why writers make certain choices. Lessons include discussion, matching activities, short written responses, and creative tasks to help embed understanding.</p> <p>Year 8B - English - Stormbreaker</p>	<p>Coordinates and graphing</p> <p>This unit builds pupils' confidence with the Cartesian plane and straight-line graphs: they will practise plotting coordinates, reading and interpreting points in all four quadrants, and drawing linear graphs from equations of the form $y = mx + c$. Lessons focus on understanding gradient (steepness) and y-intercept, using graphs to solve problems (for example finding where two lines meet), and translating real-life situations into graphical form. Pupils will develop skills in accuracy, drawing using rulers, and checking answers by substituting values into equations. You can support your child by encouraging them to practise plotting points on graph paper, discuss how gradients affect steepness, and try simple graph-reading activities such as comparing</p>	<p><u>The Particle Model</u></p> <p>Students explore how substances change state when heated or cooled, using water as the main example. They investigate melting, freezing, evaporation, boiling, and condensation. Through practical experiments, they observe ice melting, water boiling, and steam condensing, while measuring temperature changes. They learn that during melting and boiling the temperature remains constant because energy is being used to change the arrangement of particles rather than increase their temperature.</p> <p>The topic also covers thermal expansion. When materials are heated, their particles move faster and spread slightly further apart, causing the material to expand. Students relate this idea to real-world examples such as the Eiffel Tower getting taller in the summer and the rise of liquid in a thermometer.</p> <p>Finally, students study density in relation to the particle model practically investigate the</p>	<p>Computing</p> <p>Students will develop their image editing and manipulation techniques by developing their own "fantasy world" concept. They will learn about design processes and develop an understanding of how to work to a brief. This unit of work serves as good preparation for the demands of Creative iMedia for those students who wish to follow this course in Year 9</p>	<p>In Year 8, lessons will help students develop a deeper understanding of emotional wellbeing, mental health, body image and healthy coping strategies. These lessons encourage pupils to recognise and talk about a wide range of emotions, understand that mental health can change over time, and learn ways to support themselves and others. Children will explore how social media, peer pressure and stereotypes can influence body image and self-esteem, and they discuss the importance of respecting diversity and developing a positive sense of self. Through discussion, reflection and practical activities, pupils also learn coping strategies such as problem-solving, seeking support from trusted adults, managing stress, and using healthy habits to maintain wellbeing.</p>

<p>Year 8B will be studying <i>Stormbreaker</i> by Anthony Horowitz as part of their work on fiction and genre. This unit focuses on spy fiction and what makes a story exciting and engaging for the reader.</p> <p>Young people will explore the main character, plot structure, and genre features such as action, suspense, heroes and villains. They will practise identifying key information, summarising events, and explaining how language is used to create tension.</p> <p>Writing tasks will help young people develop descriptive skills and structured responses, while discussion activities will encourage them to explain opinions and justify ideas using evidence from the text.</p>	<p>journeys or temperature changes.</p>	<p>density of irregular shaped objects. Throughout the unit, students carry out investigations to develop their practical skills and deepen their understanding of how particle behaviour explains everyday phenomena.</p>		<p>Overall, the lessons aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to build resilience and make informed, positive choices about their mental and emotional health.</p>
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Geography & History	Art and DT	PE & Music	MFL & RE
<p>Geography:</p> <p>This half term students are starting a unit on the continent of Africa. They will be focused on the physical and human geography of Africa, as well as case studies on Ghana and Nairobi.</p> <p>They will consider how the continent is development and the impact this is having on the population, as well as the impact on nature.</p> <p>History:</p> <p>This half term students will finish the unit on World War 1 by looking at the Treaty of Versailles and the impact this treaty had on Germany's ability to recover. We will then focus on the inter-war years, starting with the rise of dictators like Hitler and Stalin, Britain's response to the rising threat of Nazi Germany and Chamberlain's policy of appeasement and the road to World War 2. We will then start our World War 2 unit by looking at the start of Blitzkrieg warfield and the Battle of Britain</p>	<p>Food Technology:</p> <p>Pupils will learn about the processes of boiling, melting, freezing, evaporating, condensing and solidifying. They will follow step-by-step plans, choosing the right equipment and ingredients to prepare and cook a variety of dishes using a range of cooking techniques, especially demonstrating an increasing confidence in techniques such as measuring, mixing, chopping, baking and cooking. Pupils will cook or bake a product and make sure that it looks attractive, being able to explain the process that they have used.</p> <p>Art</p> <p>This term your child will study colour theory, developing practical and visual understanding of the colour wheel and key concepts such as primary, secondary and tertiary colours, tint, shade and tone, and complementary and analogous relationships. Lessons focus on colour-mixing skills across media (paint, coloured pencils and digital work), using observational studies and experimental swatches to build confidence with hue, saturation and contrast. Pupils will apply these skills to a sustained practical project and a short written or annotated reflection in their sketchbook, demonstrating creative choices and understanding of mood, symbolism and composition. You can support learning by encouraging your</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>Young people will engage in enhancing their physical skills and artistic expression. Additionally, young people will develop their technique in gymnastics, fostering both fitness and teamwork. Areas of learning will involve key actions, travelling, balances, rolls, jumps and sequences. A key component of our programme will involve analysing their performances against previous efforts, encouraging them to demonstrate improvement and strive for their personal best.</p> <p>MUSIC:</p> <p>In music this half term we will be looking at traditional folk music - identifying key features, learning to sing and play some songs, and improvising and composing our own folk songs</p>	<p>MFL:</p> <p>This half term students will focus on the vocabulary needed for conversations in a café. They will learn the words for different items that you might buy in a café and the conversation you might typically have in a café setting</p> <p>RE</p> <p>The pupils will be learning about how Buddhists see life and what they believe helps people live happily and peacefully. They'll explore key Buddhist ideas such as kindness, mindfulness and the importance of understanding our thoughts and feelings. The class will learn about the Buddha's teachings, including how Buddhists try to avoid harm, show compassion and make sensible choices. They'll also find out how Buddhists use practices like meditation to help them stay calm and focused. Throughout the topic, the pupils will be encouraged to ask questions,</p>

child to talk about colour choices at home, allowing time for sketchbook work, and visiting local galleries or online collections to discuss how artists use colour in different ways.

share their own ideas and think about how these beliefs link to their own experiences of making good choices and treating others well.