



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

Year 8 Curriculum Information Booklet

Pentecost Term 2023



Faculty of RE, Geography and History

Religious Education:

Pupils will study the topic of Moral Issues and Ethical Decision Making. This will include the following areas:

- The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount.
- Virtue and Situation Ethics
- Environmental Ethics
- Animal Ethics
- Just War Theory and Christian applications of this.

In the second half term, pupils will look at the religion of Judaism. The unit will include the following aspects:

- Christian and Jewish beliefs about God
- The synagogue
- Key beliefs about prayer
- Who is Abraham
- Key Festivals
- Survivors of the Holocaust.
- What responsibilities did Christians have to help Jewish people?

Geography:

During the first half of term students will study the Geography of Conflict. This module considers how Geography can be used to understand conflict at different scales around the world.

After half term, they will study Geography related to the management of oceans around the world. This includes the topics of piracy and plastic pollution.

History:

During the first half of the Pentecost term, Year 8 will explore thematic study of World War II and its causes. They will look at major events like the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. A focus will be on the Homefront in Britain and what was done to support the war here. Students will also study the Holocaust and how we can prevent atrocities like this from happening in the future.

After half term, Year 8 will looking at post war tension in the decades after World War II. This will be followed by studies on equal rights and how they have evolved in Great Britain over time through different campaigns and activists. Finally, students will do an enquiry about the impact that the World Wide Web has had on the world.

Independent learning will be a combination of knowledge tests and videos to top up what they are learning in the classroom. A detailed schedule of students' home learning can be found on itslearning.

Faculty of Languages

English:

During the Pentecost term, in preparation for skills required in the Key Stage 4, students will read a selection of poems that explore a sense of culture and identity. This will equip students with the knowledge and skills of exploring patterns of language and how writers use language to create an effect. They will also be able to identify and comment on general themes in the poems studied. In the second half of the term, they will be working on writing skills in the 'Voice of the Voiceless' – rhetoric unit. This will provide students with an opportunity to explore a range of texts that emphasises the voiceless in our society. Key skills explored are the construction of various sentence structures and how vocabulary and carefully selected language techniques create meaning.

Languages:

How can you help your child to make fantastic progress in languages?

Throughout Year 8, students will continue to build their vocabulary whilst simultaneously practising their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. This will include the ability to give opinions with reasons. You can help at home by testing your child's vocabulary, whether formally, or at other times such as when in the car. The more often students practise, even if in short bursts, the more confident they will become! Your child will be using 'Language Gym' to help them learn key vocabulary. Please do check that your child has created a free account and has joined their class group. Your child can also use the school login details for www.linguascope.com, which will give them access to a variety of games to practise the language. These are displayed in each of the MFL classrooms.

What will your child be learning?

This half term students will be completing a creative house project. They will learn how to describe where they live and to give opinions about their house. Do ask them to show you the house they will be creating! After half term, there will be a cultural focus, as students will be learning about countries where the language is spoken.

Faculty of Mathematics and Science

Mathematics:

In the Pentecost term, Year 8 will be studying mathematics in the contexts of Expressive Arts, PE and Magic. These will include topics from the following range:

- Number Tricks in Magic to allow students to see algebra and number rules being applied and to apply them themselves.
- Sport where we analyse and use graphs.
- Mathematics of Design
- How artists use mathematics in their work

Short assessments for this year group will take place at the end of each module. These will take place in the classroom. The pupils will also have an examination-style assessment at the beginning of the term in the classroom.

Some websites which may be of interest in helping them to further develop their understanding.

- ItsLearning
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.mathswatch.co.uk
- www.connect.collins.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.corbettmaths.com

Science:

Half term 1: Plants, Ecosystems and Photosynthesis (PEP)

This unit focuses on the amazing world of plants and how they are an intrinsic part of life on this planet. Students will learn what plants need to perform photosynthesis along with the adaptations they have in order to survive and reproduce in the vast array of environments they live in. An independent practical will be performed to investigate a factor that effects seed distribution thus giving students the opportunity to practice their practical write and collaboration skills. Continuing on in the term students will be introduced to interdependence between plants and all living organisms as seen with food chains and food webs and their links to biodiversity and bioaccumulation.

Students will be assessed on:

- Their ability to work collaborate together and analyse their data from practical work.
- The ability to take given information and apply it to unfamiliar situations.
- The ability to see and explain how plants are fundamental to life on this planet.

Half Term 2: Birth to death (BTD)

This unit focuses on the progression of life from birth to death, and all the factors that can influence reproduction and survival. Students will at first understand the process of reproduction, how new life may be formed and its early development, including links to maternal health. This is then linked to puberty and the menstrual cycle, processes that are necessary for reproduction to occur. Continuing on from this students learn about the relationship between the DNA they have inherited and that of their parents, and how this variation within a species can drive their survival. Finally student will then link this to biodiversity and other environmental factors that may affect the survival of different species, how extinction occurs and how conservation efforts may help to prevent this for some species.

Students will be assessed on any component of the half term at three intervals, and in three formats:

- One set of multiple-choice questions to practice their recall.
- One set of questions based around a practical they have conducted to practice demonstrating skills in identifying variables, processing data and evaluating practical procedures.
- One longer answer question to practice their extended writing and making links between concepts.

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Toward the end of this half term students will sit a paper that covers the topics studied in Year 8, including:

- Waves and Energy Transfer (WET – Advent 1)
- Motion, forces and sound (MAFS – Advent 2)
- Reactions and Bonding (RAB – Lent 1)
- Earth and Space (EAS – Lent 2)
- Plants, ecosystems and photosynthesis (PEP – Penetcost 1)
- Birth to death (BTD – Pentecost 2).

Faculty of Communication and Design

Design and Technology

All pupils at St. Paul's Catholic School follow a Design and Technology programme of study at Key Stage 3.

Design and Technology is a subject that allows pupils to be creative and encourages them to develop new skills and knowledge through practical activities.

In Year 8 pupils continue to undertake explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments that enable them to become more competent in expressing their creativity and skilled in the manufacture of their design solutions.

The Design and Technology course is based around the three principals of Designing.



Alongside the exciting explore, create, evaluate, and problem solving assignments Year 8 pupils will undertake a series of technical principal lessons. These technical principals are the underpinning theoretical knowledge which pupils will need to have mastered by the end of Year 8 and culminates in the sitting of a second technical principal's exam.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY ROUTES

Pupils at St. Paul's follow a carousel of 3 subjects during Years 7 & 8. The idea is to give them a grounding in the specific skills and knowledge relating to Design and Technology. Year 8 pupils have already completed courses in two areas and are currently completing their third and final project. Pupils will have the opportunity to select which single subject area they would prefer to study during Year 9.

The material specific areas offered are:

1. CAD/CAM with Electronics.
2. Food Preparation and Nutrition.
3. Graphics.
4. Engineering Design
5. Engineering Manufacture
6. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
7. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

Computer Science

Python programming and web development

Python Programming:

Key concepts of programming will be taught such as:

- What is programming?
- What is a variable?
- What is an algorithm?
- How to do a sequence of instruction to achieve a goal.
- How to repeat a set of instructions using loops.
- How to construct a decision making structure in python.

Web design:

Key concepts of designing and the creating a website for a given audience will be covered including:

- Planning a web page.
- Rules of what makes good design such as use of white space.
- Use of HTML
- Use of CSS
- Use of software such as Dreamweaver in creating a webpage/site.

Faculty of Expressive Arts

Art:

Portraiture

Pupils will continue to explore portraiture. So far their work has involved looking at the work of a broad range of styles and processes in order to be able to develop competence with a range of materials to include printmaking techniques including digital manipulation. By the end of the year they will have experienced a variety of approaches to the genre and be able to draw portraits with a degree of accuracy. This knowledge will support their skills and creativity through GCSE Art and Design.

Drama:

Pupils will be using a range of drama conventions to explore the play '*Arson About*'. They will be considering the use of staging and will consider the roles of directors and performers when interpreting a text.

Pupils should focus on developing their ability to use the following key skills:

- Still image
- Marking the moment
- Hot seating
- Characterisation
- Script delivery
- Interpretation
- Physical theatre
- Body props

After half term pupils will be extending this text work to the play and will be considering how they might approach different scenes as an actor, director and designer.

Music:

Term 1: In the first half of the Pentecost term, pupils will be studying a scheme of learning called *Theme and Variations*. Students will continue to develop their understanding of music notation and theory through performing and creating different variations of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.

Term 2: In the second half of the Pentecost term, students continue to develop their performance skills through the topic, *The Axis of Awesome*. Students will collaborate in small groups to perform a series of songs using a range of pop and rock instruments, as well as music technology.

Physical Education:

During the Pentecost term the pupils will follow a programme of study which will include team games, as well as athletics and striking and fielding. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils will work in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. During Year 8 the focus is on developing three key concepts through their PE lessons, these include Competence, Determination and Knowledge and Understanding. Within physical education, the pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal organisation, perseverance and development of care and concern for others.

This term there will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours, through the extra-curricular programme which includes athletics, cricket, softball and rounders. Inter form fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition which includes rounders, cricket and softball and our annual sports day.

All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport.