



THE YEAR 8 CURRICULUM@ ALDERBROOK

2025 - 26



'The willingness to show openness to experiences are the key dispositional factors that relate to achievement'

John Hattie

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

Ambition for our Year 8 Curriculum:

Our very broad and balanced Year 8 Curriculum offers a wide range of subjects led by specialist teachers. This includes a fortnightly PSHE lesson and three Life Ready Days throughout the year.

Class assessments take place at the end of a topic during normal lessons, to check overall understanding of a topic and retention of prior topics. Opportunities are created for students to revisit content and address misconceptions where needed. Year 8s will sit formal assessments twice across the year (AP1 and AP2) which will test their learning from the start of the year. This process of revisiting learning content is important as it allows students to practise strategies for revising and develop long term memory. We know that the more times students visit learning content in different ways – the more likely they are to remember.

The development of literacy and numeracy remain vital skills in Year 8. All Year 8s should carry a reading book with them. They will participate in our reading initiative 'Uniquely Portable Magic' during form and will continue to take part in the Accelerated Reader programme, led by the English Faculty, which encourages them to check their comprehension of books they read through a series of quizzes. Reading every day, should be encouraged at home. All teachers will support students to develop their literacy, particularly through reading in lessons and learning key vocabulary. Understanding key terminology now, will support them to make progress next year.

Bravery:

In Year 8, students are strongly encouraged to pursue extra- curricular activities to support their overall confidence and skills. With the increased confidence of 'not being the youngest' in the school, and yet still being very early in their school life, this year is about exploring a wide range of activities and enjoying the breadth of opportunity on offer. The programme of assemblies, PSHE lessons, and Life Ready Days in Year 8 encourage this growth, whilst supporting students to make the right decisions and stay safe.

Kindness:

In our **Pastoral System**, Year 8s continue to have a form tutor and a Year 8 tutor group they will meet each day. This will be the key member of staff who will support your child with any day to day pastoral issues they may have. The Pastoral Manager will provide further support where needed, and the Head of Year will oversee the overall progress of students.

Topic Tracker

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Art	Portrait- MDD	Portrait- Picasso & Cubism	Abstract- Perspective	Abstract -Landscape	Abstract- Landscape	Abstract- Expressive Music
Computing	Computer Systems & Hardware	Analysing data - Spreadsheets	Programming - python	Sound Manipulation in Audacity	Computational Thinking	Artificial Intelligence
Dance	Clip (Street dance)	Clip into Tricks of the Trade (Learning movement skills)	Past, Present and Future (dance based on events in time)	Past, Present and Future (dance based on events in time)	Confrontation (physical theatre duet)	Confrontation (physical theatre duet)
Design and Technology	Timber knowledge	Timber practical	Biomimicry investigation	Idea generation inspired by nature	Polymer knowledge	Polymer practical
Drama	Into Text	Greek	Spoils of War	Hats	Noughts & Crosses	Performance Genre
English	Grisly and Gothic A study of extracts from the gothic genre	Crime & Detective Fiction A study of crime extracts	Inequality & Adversity A study of extracts across a range of fiction & non-fiction texts	William Shakespeare 'The Taming of the Shrew'	Love and Relationships A study of a collection of love poetry	Revolution A study of 'Animal Farm' George Orwell
Food	Healthy eating Carbohydrates	Dietary Fibre Water	British cuisine Gelatinisation	World foods Food processing	Meat Food labels	Producing a food product based on a specification.
French	Un week-end typique: sports, hobbies, free-time activities, weather	Un week-end typique: plans for next weekend, building fluency & spontaneity	Une visite à Paris: transport and accommodation	Une visite à Paris: Planned activities	Une visite à Paris: building fluency & spontaneity	Une visite à Paris: going to a café, 'Le petit Nicolas en vacances' film project
Mathematics	Number	Number and Algebra	Algebra and Formulae	Geometry	Statistics and Probability	Review
Geography	Cold environments	Closing the development gap.	Solving the development gap and 'Queen of Katwe' movie	Tropics	Tropics and issue evaluation on road building in the Amazon	Fieldwork – microclimates. Fieldwork write up. End of year project
History	The Transatlantic Slave Trade	The impact of the British Empire on other nations	Causes of World War One	The impact of World War One	The impact of World War One	The Suffragettes in Britain
Music	Blues and Jazz	Samba and Reggae	Film Music	Pop Riffs	Band Project	Planning a Music Festival
PE	Warm-ups/ cool downs	Components of fitness	Muscles and bones	Leadership/ coaching	Aerobic and anaerobic	Relationships between health and fitness
PSHE	Recovery, hope, wellbeing, relationships	Gender identity and sexuality	Financial health	Drugs, alcohol, tobacco	Positive relationships	Careers and skills
RE	Religious People	Where do we look for God?	Evil & Suffering	The Environment	Human Rights	Christianity in the Modern World
Science	Skills ,Electromagnets, Organisms, Matter		Forces, Genes, Reactions		Waves, Ecosystems, Earth, Energy	



Spanish

Describing your house

Describing your town

Describing a future holiday.

Describing a past holiday.

Healthy living

Ordering in a restaurant

Art

‘All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist when one grows up’ Picasso

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Portrait Drawing skills recap. MDD Mexican Day of Dead, Cubism& Picasso Addition of research and analysis for related artists. Small 3d outcome.	Portrait Drawing skills, recording facial features, understanding proportion, identity and further application of the formal elements and techniques.	Portrait Response encouraging independent learning as students relate to the theme and make links to artists. Evaluate.	Abstract -Landscape Understanding landscape. Taught terminology, plotting a landscape, Perspective. Taught techniques related to landscape, composition texture, and tones.	Abstract-Landscape Introducing the artist. Researching and relating to our world with Hundertwasser and other artists. Environmental considerations. E.g.; melting ice caps deforestation.	Abstract-Landscape Individual response as students realise intentions and potential for collaborative work.
Assessments and End Points	Summative assessment. Targets set.	Peer and teacher feedback in class.	Formative assessment. Evaluations, self-assessment. Career/Option focus	Summative assessment. Targets set.	Peer feedback.	Summative final assessment.
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Delivered through specific worksheets assisting with a01- research tasks and key words.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Aspects of spirituality and culture seen in MDD feature with Portrait . Moral and social change within the Narrative Landscape . Relate to a01 imagery Picasso’s Guernica near remembrance. A series of DIN activities support students with a01 artists , analysis and engagement.					
How you can help your child at home	Take an interest in the wider subject matter especially where year 8 are dealing with death through Mexican Day of the Dead (celebration of life to culture and carnivals) and discussions arise related to our world and endangered species and damaged environment. On You tube series of tutorials- Sally Roundell and http://thevirtualinstructor.com try art exercises outside of the Alderbrook Art curriculum also from https://classroom.thenational.academy/					

Computing

‘The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.’ Stephen Hawking

Year 8 builds on prior learning in Year 7, and prepares students for studying either Computer Science or IT at Key Stage 4. The skills developed this year are also transferrable beyond education.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Computer Systems & Hardware Hardware Components Embedded Systems Memory & Storage CPU	Analysing data – Spreadsheets Intro to Spreadsheets Formatting Spreadsheet Common Function Functions Galore Vlookup	Programming - python Input & Output Data Types & Selection Advanced Selection Subprograms Iteration	Sound Manipulation & Audacity Digitizing sound Jobs in the sound industry Listening and planning Creating an advertisement Finishing and exporting	Computational Thinking Logical thinking Logic gates Algorithmic thinking Abstraction Decomposition	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Neural Networks and Deep Learning, The Ethical Implications of AI, The Future of AI and its Implications.
Assessments and End Points	Do Now activities – retrieval of prior learning Mid-Point Quiz (HW) End of Topic Quiz	Assessment Point 1 – Quizizz Do Now activities – retrieval of prior learning Assessment of Computing skills	Assessment Point 1 – Quizizz Do Now activities – retrieval of prior learning Assessment of Computing skills	Do Now activities – retrieval of prior learning Assessment of Computing skills Mid-Point Quiz (HW) End of Topic Quiz	Assessment Point 2 – Quizizz Do Now activities – retrieval of prior learning Mid-Point Quiz	Do Now activities – retrieval of prior learning Assessment of Computing skills Mid-Point Quiz (HW) End of Topic Quiz
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Literacy – key terminology related to Computing: binary, programming, iteration, macros, procedures, functions, Von Neumann. Extended writing tasks in key assessments, and using technology to aid literacy for project based work. Numeracy – formulas and functions using Excel, logic based maths for programming, binary and hex calculations					
Wider skills and enrichment	Students will have access to an after-school Computing Club if they wish to attend, though this is on a first-come, first-served basis. Opportunities throughout the year to take part in nation-wide competitions and activities related to Computing, such as cybersecurity and cipher challenges. Transferable skills are developed in this subject, namely creativity, problem-solving and resilience.					

How you can help your child at home

Guide use of technology at home for productive tasks such as online research, discuss current issues related to technology to encourage further interest. Encourage students to practice programming and skills learned in class at home. For additional activities go to <https://www.thenational.academy/> or BBC Bitesize.

Dance

'The only source of knowledge is experience' Albert Einstein

Students in year 7 gained an understanding about dance styles from different parts of the globe, learning also about social and cultural influences. Dance in year 8 broadens students' experience through the application of choreography, performance and appreciation of their own work. Students learn about choreographic approaches and how to select actions, dynamic and spatial content in relation to a theme.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Stylistic accuracy, learn about how movement is executed in street dance actions, dynamics and spatial design.	Stylistic accuracy, learn about how movement is executed in street dance actions, dynamics and spatial design. Tricks of the Trade: Learning movement skills: Increase your movement vocabulary and understand what your body needs to do to execute challenging movement.	Choreography based on moments in time. Create imaginative physical images with exciting transitions, using movement from Tricks of the Trade to make your transitions engaging. <i>Look at the headlines in current news</i>	Choreography based on moments in time. Create imaginative physical images with exciting transitions, using movement from Tricks of the Trade to make your transitions engaging. <i>Look at the headlines in current news</i>	An energetic and skill based physical theatre duet. Analyse the moods and behaviours of when two people argue intensely. Focus on facial expression and physical body tension.	An energetic and skill based physical theatre duet. Analyse the moods and behaviours of when two people argue intensely. Focus on facial expression and physical body tension.
Assessments and End Points	Live feedback from teacher and peers in lessons.	Teacher assessment: Performance (confidence, timing, movement memory and stylistic accuracy). Appreciation (Key Street dance terms, why is street dance important in the development of dance?)	Live feedback from teacher and peers in lessons.	Teacher assessment: Choreography: Selection of actions, space, dynamics, relationships and transitions.	Live feedback from teacher and peers in lessons.	Live feedback from teacher and peers in lessons.
Literacy & Numeracy	Literacy: vocabulary is broadened this year as students become more familiar with performance and choreography skills and the choreographic process terminology. Numeracy: Rhythmical numerical connections, sequencing and variation. Connections made to geometry for spatial and positioning design.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Collaborative tasks to promote working creatively with others. Engagement with what the modern world looks like. Provoke curiosity. Interdisciplinary artistic culture.					

Design and Technology

'Many things difficult to design prove easy to performance' Samuel Johnson

Year 8 builds on prior learning in Year 7 and prepares students for studying either Product Design or Textiles at KS4. The skills developed this year are also transferrable beyond education.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	<p>Investigate the different sources and properties of timber. Looking into how the material is shaped in industry to make it into real life products.</p> <p><i>Further information and activities on this topic visit: -</i> https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zkvny4j/revision/1</p>	<p>Develop confidence in using advanced hand tools and machines to shape timber into a functional product. Furthermore, developing drawing skills to create a final design.</p> <p><i>Further information and activities on this topic visit: -</i> https://chaseterraceacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Yr10_RM_KO_Term3.pdf</p>	<p>Develop an awareness and understanding how nature can influence the design work. Looking into the real-life applications of biomimicry.</p> <p><i>Further information and activities on this topic visit: -</i> https://biomimicry.org/what-is-biomimicry/</p>	<p>Practical skills developed for modelling, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting Marking out and cutting Selection of materials and components Materials management The use of specialist tools and equipment The use of specialist techniques and processes 	<p>Pupil will be looking at the source of polymer. As well as the different method that's can be used to shape the material.</p> <p>Students will also explore the environmental implications of this material.</p> <p><i>Further information and activities on this topic visit: -</i> https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrstng8/revision/1#:~:text=Polymers%20%2D%20AQAPolymers,and%20TechnologySpecialist%20technical%20principles</p>	<p>Making -Use appropriate marking out methods.</p> <p>Use specialist tools and equipment for working with polymer.</p> <p>Using and working with materials – how to shape and form using abrasion, cutting and addition</p> <p>Use of production aids</p> <p>Surface treatments and finishes</p> <p><i>Further information and activities on this topic visit: -</i> https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrstng8/revision/6</p>
Assessments and End Points	Formative Assessment 1 Product analysis task.	Formative Assessment 1 Base don their final practical outcome.	Formative Assessment 2 Based on their final practical outcome.	Summative Assessment 2 Written assessment based on material knowledge.	Formative Assessment 3 Based on health and safety.	Formative Assessment 4 Based on their final practical outcome.
Literacy & Numeracy	<p>Literacy – key terminology related to designing, core skills, textiles and its wider use, eco designs and metal. Details annotations explaining thinking. Answering test questions.</p> <p>Numeracy – Anthropometrics, scale, dimensions, accuracy when marking and measuring, working in units.</p>					
Wider skills and enrichment	<p>Students will have access to an after-school Design and Technology Club if they wish to attend, though this is on a first-come, first-served basis. Opportunities throughout the year to take part in competitions and activities related designing and CAD. Transferable skills are developed in this subject, namely creativity, problem-solving and resilience.</p>					
How you can help your child at home	<p>Guide students to study technology at home for productive tasks such as online research, discuss current issues related to technology to encourage further interest.</p> <p>Encourage students to practice practical skills learned in class at home.</p>					
How you can help your child at home	<p>Encourage your child to reflect on their learning in dance by asking questions such as: How does mentally rehearsing choreography help you? If you had to refine your work, what skills would you pay attention to improving? Engage in discussion about current events and ask them to consider how they could explore the event through movement.</p>					

Drama

'What is drama but life with the dull bits cut out' Alfred Hitchcock

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	<p>INTO TEXT Discovering different kinds of play texts and their demands.</p> <p>Attribution and delineation. Page to stage-how to locate action. Interpretation and directorial choice. Playing different sorts of roles. Recognising what is needed in a text.</p>	<p>GREEK THEATRE Understanding theatre in historical context.</p> <p>The witches-ways of playing a text. The role of a chorus of voices. Understanding power and corruption. Using verse and prose text confidently.</p>	<p>SPOILS OF WAR Discovering how to play the real world with truth.</p> <p>Exploring context through drama. Recognising Language change in dialogue. Discovering political focus in drama. Playing for truth in drama.</p>	<p>HATS Learning about roles and responsibilities through drama.</p> <p>Recognising the potential in props and resources. Building a complex scene through improvisation. Using text to create contrasting moods and roles.</p>	<p>NOUGHTS & CROSSES Understanding the history of civil rights and celebrating diversity. Using complex texts to stage a performance. Developing complex relationships in a dramatic scene. Working in groups to move a text from page to stage. Giving and receiving constructive feedback.</p>	<p>PERFORMING GENRE Understanding variety of genre. Constructing narrative using genre. Subverting or parodying genre. Giving and receiving complex feedback.</p>
Assessments and End Points	A performance of an extract of text with lines learnt.	Using chorus and unified movement in performance of an Ancient Greek play text.	Playing for truth in drama, assessed through a devised scene with a whole lesson to rehearse.	Students assessed EITHER through a devised mini-play OR an extract from a play texts.	A performance of an extract form the play text 'Noughts and Crosses'.	Evaluating more than one performance and identifying strengths and weaknesses in their own work.
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	<p>Literacy: Recognising the needs of a performance text, interpreting language, turning language into performance, recognising differences between prose and verse text, using rhyme, rhythm and metre, using language to make a play, using antiquated text in performance, recognising different types of text.</p> <p>Numeracy: Exploring space and dimensions, organising pace coherently, understanding character frequency, using angles to communicate meaning to an audience.</p>					

Wider skills and enrichment	Developing self-esteem and confidence, learning to create with others, communicating an idea, presenting using text and not using text, working with others, learning and being led, learning about the wider world through safe 'play', understanding responsibility and being responsible for others, supporting others.
How you can help your child at home	Line-learning, support with performance anxiety, encouraging participation in drama and supporting extra-curricular work, communicating anxiety to school if required.

English

'Today a reader tomorrow a leader' Margaret Fuller

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	<p>Grisly and Gothic Analysing the writer's purpose and the deliberate effects of linguistic, literary and structural devices.</p> <p>Selecting apt and if possible, judicious quotations to support points and analysis. Selecting relevant subject terminology when exploring a text.</p> <p>Convincingly adapting writing for audience and purpose. Using thoughtful vocabulary to convey ideas.</p> <p>Considering the way structure can be used to make writing engaging.</p>	<p>Crime & Detective Fiction Analysing the writer's purpose and the deliberate effects of linguistic, literary and structural devices.</p> <p>Selecting apt and if possible, judicious quotations to support points and analysis. Selecting relevant subject terminology When exploring a text.</p> <p>Convincingly adapting writing for audience and purpose. Using thoughtful vocabulary to convey ideas. Considering the way structure can be used to make writing engaging.</p>	<p>Inequality & Adversity Identify points of difference in non-fiction texts</p> <p>Comment on the intentions of the author's perspectives</p> <p>Making thoughtful, developed and relevant responses to the themes of adversity & inequality in the wider world.</p>	<p>Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew' Making thoughtful, developed and relevant responses to the themes of love, gender & relationships. Embedding apt, and if possible judicious quotations to support points and analysis. Selecting relevant subject terminology When exploring a text. Exploring the writer's viewpoints and perspectives when studying the novel as a whole and relating these ideas to the social context.</p>	<p>Love and Relationships Making thoughtful, developed and relevant responses to the themes of love and relationships. Embedding apt, and if possible judicious quotations to support points and analysis. Selecting relevant subject terminology When exploring a text. Exploring and comparing the writers' viewpoints and perspectives when studying the poems and relating these ideas to the social context.</p>	<p>Revolution 'Animal Farm' Learning new skills and revising ways to write in a convincing way. Convincingly adapting writing for audience and purpose. Using thoughtful vocabulary to convey ideas. Considering the way structure can be used to make writing engaging. Using standard English and ensuring the employment of spelling strategies for more complex vocabulary.</p>

Assessments and End Points	W- <i>Write the exposition to a Gothic story</i>	R- <i>Identify specific language devices and analyse their effect on the reader</i>	R- <i>Identify points of difference in non-fiction texts. Compare the ways in which the writers present their attitudes.</i>	R- <i>Analyse Shakespeare's methods making contextual links to key scenes.</i>	R- <i>Analyse</i> how the poet presents the theme of... (S+L)	W- <i>Writing to argue & express a point of view</i>
Literacy & Numeracy	Literacy: The ability to build on the skills of reading and comprehension through practising the techniques of skimming and scanning, reading for meaning, note making and question posing when reading a text. Numeracy: Working with the chronological order of sequencing and events.					
Wider skills	Understanding and discussion of issues around identity, social responsibility and retribution (SMSC) through the study of the wider literary texts.					
How you can help your child at home	Knowledge organisers will be issued at the start of a new unit and we would encourage these to be learned at home so that they can support the learning in school. Seneca learning is a great way to consolidate and enrich grammar skills, encourage independent reading and test newly acquired knowledge. https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jnp3					

Food

‘Food is the place where you begin’ Vandana Shiva

In Year 8 we build on nutritional knowledge looking at the Governments healthy eating guidelines and nutritional. We start to investigate the science of food focusing specifically on carbohydrates.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Theory: Introduction to Year 8 food. Recap of healthy eating guidelines Functions of bread ingredients Introduction to carbohydrates. Practical: Focaccia Chicken fajitas	Theory: Learning about the different types of carbohydrates – starch, sugar and fibre. How fibre is used by our bodies and where it can be found Upskilling a recipe What water is used for in our bodies. Practical: Breakfast bars	Theory: British cuisine- the influences, types of British foods, history of British cuisine. Gelatinisation- Types of starch-based sauces, the science behind gelatinisation. The function of ingredients used to make a white sauce. Practical: Victoria sponge cake Mac and cheese	Theory: World food- Cuisine from around the world, the influences of world cuisine, how to cook chicken safely, Using bridge and claw methods. Food processing- Rice as a food source, Primary and secondary processing. Practical: Quick chicken curry Risotto	Theory: Meat- Sources of meat, Nutritional value of meat, Storage and cooking instructions of meat. Food labels- Legal requirements of food labels, designing a food packaging using a specification. Practical: Lamb koftas	Theory: Preparing a food product using a Specification Practical: Cheesecake
Assessments and End Points	Baseline assessment -Recap of year 7	Summative Assessment 1 Covers all work this term	Mini assessment- Mac and cheese practical.	Summative Assessment 2 Covers all work this term	Mini assessment- Lamb koftas practical.	Summative Assessment Based on all topics covered throughout the year
Literacy & Numeracy	Literacy: developing the understanding of new terms/vocabulary. Reading recipes. Command words for plan of making. Numeracy: Developing accuracy in weighing, measuring and timing. Understanding ratios. How to work out an average from a set of results.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Resourcefulness-developing problem solving with investigative and practical work. Developing creativity with practical work. Reflectiveness-seeking and responding to feedback. Time management and personal organisation with tasks set. Reciprocity-Working as a team in a practical context.					

How you can help your child at home

Encourage organisation to bring ingredients for practical lessons.
Encourage your child to help prepare and cook dishes at home.
Further information, activities and recipes can be found at www.foodafactoflife.org.uk

French

“Learning a new language is becoming a member of the club – the community of speakers of that language.” – Frank Smith

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Introduction to ‘La Francophonie’. Recognising and pronouncing key sounds Providing personal information Describing likes and dislikes Describing where you live	Describing own appearance and personality Describing members of the family Developing grammatical awareness: adjectival agreement and position	Building spontaneity and fluency Developing writing and speaking skills Developing grammatical awareness: asking questions	Describing school and its facilities Talking about school subjects and teachers. Giving positive and negative opinions. Developing grammatical awareness: negative structures	Talking about school subjects and teachers Describing school uniform Giving justified opinions Developing grammatical awareness: modal verbs and infinitives	Building spontaneity and fluency Developing writing & speaking skills Film project based the film ‘Le petit Nicolas’
Assessments and End Points		Mid-point assessment: reading, listening, translation into French	Assessment Point 1: writing and speaking		Mid-point assessment: reading, listening, translation into French	Assessment Point 2: writing and speaking

Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Learning key grammar concepts, identifying word type (noun, verb, adjective) and conjugating verbs. Using a bilingual dictionary. Use of arithmetic to practise numbers in French and analysis of patterns. Vocabulary learning and spelling. Gradually increasing the level of complexity of language used, for example, using negative structures.
Wider skills and enrichment	Cultural Capital – Research on a French-speaking country, learning about Christmas traditions in a French-speaking country. Comparing differences between schools in the UK and French-speaking countries. Skills for Success – developing communication skills via short role-plays and using the target language (French) as much as possible.
How you can help your child at home	At the front of every pupil work booklet are sentence builders that you and your child can refer to for support. In addition, your child will be given clear instructions on how to access www.sentencebuilders.com which is the website that the pupils will use for homework and independent study. Regular homework using this website will be set on ClassCharts. We recommend www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize for further online support – head to the secondary curriculum where you will find the French resources.

Geography

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	<p>Cold environments Locate cold environments on our planet Key physical features Opportunities and challenges in cold environments Conflict in cold environments Antarctica Russia Arctic Assessment feedback and target setting</p> <p>Videos and tasks on cold environments and Russia found at: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/the-geography-of-russia-ce05</p>	<p>the development gap World population What is development? North/south global divide Development – understanding the definition and indicators used Causes of uneven development - the gap Fair trade Solving global inequalities What is the pattern of global development? What is life like in an NEE mega city</p> <p>Videos and tasks found at: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/population-d3f0</p>	<p>Solving the development gap and campaign message Taking all that students have learned about why there is rich and poor in the world, and then designing a campaign that can close this gap. Opportunities and challenges for development in Lagos, Nigeria. And comparing them to a HIC – Birmingham Life and improvement of slums in Katwe, Uganda – watch the film ‘queen of Katwe’ Reducing the development gap and TNCs role Practising a 6 mark question Assessment feedback and target setting</p> <p>Assessment feedback and target setting</p>	<p>Tropics The location of the tropics – latitude and longitude embedding Biomes of the tropics – Savannas, deserts and tropical rainforests Issues for tropical rainforests and solving them</p> <p>Videos and tasks found at: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/weather-and-climate-ac9e</p>	<p>Tropics continued Tropical storms and case study of cyclone Kenneth Assessment feedback and target setting of 6 mark question</p>	<p>Microclimates fieldwork investigation of Alderbrook school Use investigation skills to conduct a study on the microclimates of Alderbrook school</p>
Assessments and End Point	<p>Create a mini project on why these environments are so fragile and need protecting.</p>	<p>Mini assessment on key terms and global development https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/population-d3f0</p>	<p>Assessment point 1 – Cold environments and closing the development gap</p>	<p>Mini assessment on why resources have issues and embedding of previous topics</p>	<p>Mini assessment on latitude and longitude of the tropics and associated biomes Assessment point 2 - Cold environments, closing the</p>	<p>Write up of microclimates of ABK fieldwork</p>



<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/development-c36b>

development gap and
tropics

Literacy & Numeracy

Literacy – Defining and Understanding the meanings of what plate boundaries, TNCs, biomes, resources, tropical storms, sustainability and climate change mean in Geography. Numeracy – being able to read and locate places on an atlas using latitude and longitude, and on an OS map using 6 figure grid references. Being able to read the story behind the data on graphs. To create a Demographic Transition model.

Wider skills and enrichment

Students will start to place themselves in the wider world and their impact upon today's global issues. They will study the experience of lives for people in other places on the planet and will compare it to their own. They will connect with the role they play as citizens of this planet and the role they play in solving its issues. They will learn how to conduct a study on the sustainability of the world around them and begin to think of ideas on how to improve it.

How you can help your child at home

Talk to them about their local place, particularly anything you understand about Birmingham as there will be a focus on this. Point out the motorways and train lines you are traveling on and where they connect Birmingham/Solihull to. Students will be set activities in 'DODDLE' which will enable themselves to track their own progress over the year. Encourage revision of work. Transferable skills are developed in this subject, namely collaboration, thinking skills, problem-solving, map and atlas skills, data reading and presentation, and answering questions in a structured way.

History

"The more you know about the past the better prepared you are for the future" Theodore Roosevelt

Building on the year 7 study of British history, students explore events in European and world history. In turn this develops a greater sensitivity of global concerns so that an academic maturity is reached. To achieve this, students are facilitated towards the development of GCSE skills such as questioning the author of sources and reaching strong historical judgements.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The British Empire. - The slave triangle. - The abolition of slavery. - Using evidence to make historical claims. - Reaching historical judgements <p>Information can be found at: http://abolition.e2bn.org/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The impact of the British Empire on various nations around the world. - Change - Social and economic history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term causes. - Short term causes. - The causes of warfare. - Historical skills such as cause and consequence. - Using evidence to make historical claims. - Reaching historical judgements. <p>Info can be found at: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/how-far-did-the-assassination-cause-the-first-world-war-f270</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trench warfare. - Shellshock and mental health. - Life in the trenches - Inference skills. - Judging different perspectives <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zy2ycdm/revision/1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life in Britain during World War One - The terms of the Treaty of Versailles and its impact on Germany - Inference skills. - Judging different perspectives <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zy2ycdm/revision/1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Women's Suffrage. - Opposition to women gaining the vote. - Causation - Change <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zy2ycdm/revision/1</p>
Assessments and End Points	Assessment: In class extended writing	Assessment: In class extended writing	Assessment: Essay writing	Assessment: In class extended writing	Assessment: In class extended writing	Assessment: In class extended writing
Literacy & Numeracy	Literacy: key terminology related to history such as empire. Development of literacy through essay writing and the development of inference skills in order to judge different perspectives.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Transferable skills are developed in this subject, namely analysing facts, data and situations through historical analysis. Respect of other peoples' cultures and value system is also developed as well as the consequences of intolerance.					
How you can help your child at home	Encourage students to read around the topics studied throughout the year and encourage them to take advantage of the various opportunities available such as dramas, documentaries and interactive media.					

Mathematics

'Nature is written in mathematical language' Galileo Galilei

The work in every year is crucial we strengthen and build on the foundations that are essential for GCSE; you must be fully confident with these topics.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sequences - Fractions - Properties of numbers - Negative numbers - Area and perimeter - Rounding and estimating - Using algebra - Fractions, decimals, percentages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formulae - Applying mathematics in a range of contexts -Pythagoras' Theorem - Drawing and using graphs -Using ratios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Written Calculations - Using a calculator - Formulae and expressions - Drawing graphs - Transformations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geometrical Reasoning - Constructions and Loci - Circles facts and Theorems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratio and Proportion - Negative numbers - Review Sequences the nth term - Congruent shapes - Tessellation - Drawing graphs review - Area Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentages - Probability - Measures - Algebra Review - 3-D Objects - Bearings and Scale drawing - Decimal Review
Assessments and End Points		Class assessments based on topics covered.			End of Year tests, cumulative assessments based on Year 7 and Year 8 work	Full GCSE paper (old spec)
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	We will revisit the essential skills learnt in Primary School and build on them. These include skills for life such as Decimals (to help with money), Fractions (useful in recipes), Percentages (essential in shopping, tips and business), Interpreting charts and graphs, calculating perimeter and surface area, finding an average, adding units of time, and converting between measures. It is crucial to have confidence in these areas.					
Wider skills and enrichment	We have a week where the focus is on Finance that will help you with your future so you can budget, to be able to afford the things you want like holidays, cars, houses, etc.					
How you can help your child at home	Ensure they complete all independent study and encourage them to use the online support such as Hegartymaths.co.uk and vle.Mathswatch.co.uk .					

Music

'Music awakens the soul' Lailah Gifty Akita

Skills and knowledge learnt this year are great preparation for the year 9 units. These skills include creativity, teamwork, independence as well as the knowledge based around the elements of music, instrumentation, history of music as well as developing instrumental skills.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Blues and Jazz - Students will learn about the history of Blues music through time and its influence on Jazz Music. -Students will learn how to play the 12 bar blues on ukulele and keyboard as well as learn how to play a walking bass line. -Learn the art of improvisation through listening to it then playing it	Samba and Reggae -Students will perform from rhythm notation using the Samba instruments. -Students will develop an understanding of the culture and traditions of Samba. -Students will perform and compose a series of authentic rhythms. -Students will learn about the life and history of Bob Marley.	Film Music -Students will learn about techniques that are required to compose an effective piece of Film Music. -Students will compose leitmotifs and background music to a film track. -Students will perform a series of themes and leitmotifs on the keyboard.	Pop Riffs -Students will learn famous riffs and hooks on the keyboard. -Students will develop their instrumental skills with a focus on technique. -Students will work effectively in pairs and perform to the class.	Band Project -Students will work in groups to develop their instrumental skills across a range of instruments. -In this unit, students have the opportunity to work as an ensemble to create a short performance. -Students will perform to the class and offer feedback.	Planning a Music Festival -Students will understand what needs to be done to organise a successful Music Festival. -Students will work in teams to plan and create their own music festival -Students will design a map and consider the different job roles that go alongside this. -Develop and understanding of jobs in the Music Industry.
Assessments and End Points	End of unit performance of their improvised piece.	End of unit performance of a Samba or Reggae piece.	End of unit performance of their film composition	End of unit performance.	End of unit performance.	Presentation to the class of their Music Festival.
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Students will be developing their music vocabulary this year by learning about more in-depth terms linked to the different units. They will use these throughout the year and will be embedded within each lesson. Numeracy is developed through rhythmic notation and looking at eras of composers through time.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Students will develop a range of skills within lesson such as ambition, collaboration, responsibility and creativity. There are many opportunities for students to join extra-curricular music groups such as choir, rock and pop bands or mini orchestras. Students also could attend curriculum-based trips as well as taking part in the Arts Award.					
How you can help your child at home	Students are encouraged to revise over key terminology regularly. Regular practice on an instrument can be beneficial so if they have an instrument at home, please encourage their practice. Participation in extra-curricular music groups is also advantageous.					

P.E.

‘The principle is competing against yourself. It’s about self-improvement, about being better than you were the day before’- Steve Young

Use a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition through team and individual games. To develop their technique and improve their performance and refine techniques in competitive sports.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Warm ups/Cool downs · Invasion games · Net games · Dance · Gymnastics · Problem solving · Fitness · Develop tactics · Improve techniques · Introduce competition · Analysis of performance · Intellectual and physical challenges · Dance techniques	Components of fitness · Invasion games · Net games · Dance · Gymnastics · Problem solving · Fitness · Develop tactics · Improve techniques · Introduce competition · Analysis of performance · Intellectual and physical challenges · Dance techniques	Muscles and bone functions · Invasion games · Net games · Dance · Gymnastics · Problem solving · Fitness · Develop tactics · Improve techniques · Introduce competition · Analysis of performance · Intellectual and physical challenges · Dance techniques	Leadership/Coaching · Invasion games · Net games · Dance · Gymnastics · Problem solving · Fitness · Develop tactics · Improve techniques · Introduce competition · Analysis of performance · Intellectual and physical challenges · Dance techniques	Aerobic and anaerobic · Athletics · Net games · Striking and fielding Working at/near maximal levels · Develop tactics · Improve techniques · Introduce competition · Analysis of performance · Intellectual and physical challenges	Relationships between health and fitness · Athletics · Net games · Striking and fielding Working at/near maximal levels · Develop tactics · Improve techniques · Introduce competition · Analysis of performance · Intellectual and physical challenges
Assessments and End Points	Peer and teacher formative assessment	Peer and teacher formative assessment	Peer and teacher formative assessment	Peer and teacher formative assessment	Peer and teacher formative assessment	Peer and teacher formative assessment
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Literacy – Key terminology related to physical activity: Health and fitness, anatomy and physiology, preparation for exercise Numeracy – Scoring within activities, leadership tasks and problem solving.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Students learn key skills in leadership, team work, communication, resilience and knowledge of health and fitness. A wide range of extracurricular activities are provided to access greater challenge and develop skills further to encourage collaboration, develop friendships and understand good sporting habits and etiquettes.					
How you can help your child at home	Ensure your child arrives fully prepared for PE on timetables days. Encourage exercise at home, support with extra-curricular clubs and be flexible and support participation with external clubs and organisation					

PSHE

‘One always measures friendships by how they show up in bad weather.’ Churchill

Students build on their awareness of right and wrong, understanding more deeply the notion of dangers and prejudice. They are supported to understand the nuances of friendship.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	ABK Learner Puberty Menstruation Gender identity	Learning disabilities LGBT & bullying Friends, gangs & knife crime	Cost of Living Gambling Financial Risk	Drugs Alcohol County Lines	Positive relationships Intimate relationships Relationship breakdown	Careers and employability skills
Assessments and End Points	Students understanding of the three areas of PSHE : Health & Wellbeing, Living in the Wider World and Relationships & Sex Education are assessed at the start, the midpoint and the end of the school year.					
Important literacy	Key words associated with topics including orientation, prejudice, psychological, financial, employment, apprenticeship					
Wider skills and enrichment	Students are encouraged to reflect on personal experiences and consider how the content of learning will support their overall well-being and happiness.					
How you can help your child at home	Our lessons take place during once per fortnight. Please ask students what they have been learning about and encourage them to articulate their thoughts and opinions. Encourage your child to discuss topics with you at home, sharing solutions and upholding positive behaviours.					

R.E.

‘Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life’ Buddha

Year 8 starts to introduce students to ideas about Philosophy and Ethics.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Evil and Suffering: What types of evil and suffering are there in the world? If there is suffering in the world can God be omnibenevolent, omniscient and omnipotent? What would a Christian say about evil and suffering? Free will. What would a Muslim say? What is original sin?	Where do we Look for God? Do miracles prove that God exists? Does the design argument prove that God exists? Does the causation argument prove that God exists? Can you accept the Big Bang theory if you are a religious person?	Human Rights: The Declaration of Human Rights. Is it ever justified to torture prisoners? What is your opinion about the death penalty? Should everyone have freedom of expression and speech? Religion and Human Rights. What can you do to help those who do not have human rights?	The Environment? How do Christians feel we should treat the environment? How do Muslims feel we should treat the environment? Animal welfare: What might a Buddhist say? Creation stories: How do Hindus believe the world was created? Environmental campaigns: What can we do to protect the environment and animals?	Christianity in the Modern World: Is Britain a Christian Country? Prayer and Publicity. Should women lead the church? What is Charismatic Christianity? The Persecution of Christians.	The length of the topic areas studied in Year 8 mean that they overlap the term endings and beginnings. This means that only five topic areas are studied.
Assessments and End Points	Written assessment. Questions to recall knowledge and give explanations. Exam style question.	Written assessment. Questions to recall knowledge and give explanations. Exam style question.	Written assessment. Questions to recall knowledge and give explanations. Exam style question.	Written assessment. Questions to recall knowledge and give explanations. Exam style question.	Written assessment. Questions to recall knowledge and give explanations. Exam style question.	
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Students learn key terms for each topic area. Students build on their use of PEEL paragraphs and start to write extended writing in a more detailed format for the GCSE questions.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Students are encouraged to be aware of the world around them. Current issues are discussed in lesson times and this is an opportunity for students to consider many points of view.					
How you can help your child at home	It is useful for students to watch the news to enlighten their knowledge of the wider world. It is also useful for students to be able to discuss the topics covered in their home setting and wider social groups.					

Science

'Theory helps us to bear our ignorance of facts' George Santayana

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Scientific Enquiry Scientific Investigation skills The structure and role of the digestive system The structure and role of the respiratory system Health Structure of the atom The periodic table and groups Mixtures and separation Magnets and electromagnets Units of work here: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/electricity-and-magnetism-ab64 https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/biological-systems-and-processes-bf5a		Genes, alleles and DNA Inheritances Variation Continuous and discontinuous variation Chemical reactions – different reactions Word and symbol equations Energy changes Contact and non-contact forces Force diagrams Pressure Work done Units of work here: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/energy-0b08 https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/reproduction-and-variation-f60f		Plant structure and photosynthesis The Earth and the atmosphere Human impact Water waves and sound waves Absorption, reflection and echoes How sound travels Units of work here: https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/sound-waves-0e79 https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/plants-and-photosynthesis-54c3	
Assessments and End Points	End of topic assessment on electromagnets, organisms and matter	End of topic assessment on electromagnets, organisms and matter	End of topic assessment on forces, genes and reactions	End of topic assessment on forces, genes and reactions	End of topic assessment on waves, ecosystem, Earth and energy	End of topic assessment on waves, ecosystem, Earth and energy
Literacy & Numeracy	Equations, constructing graphs and table, extracting data and reading instruments					
Wider skills and enrichment	Pupils are encouraged to read around the subject and bring in any questions that they have to the Science Department. Science news for children can be found here: https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/					
How you can help your child at home	Work through KS3 content on BBC bitesize, information, videos and tests. Support guides can be found on BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p Useful YouTube channels: https://www.youtube.com/c/fuseschool https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4KN50fal7f45fx2DqG7tg https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids					

Spanish

'He who has two languages has two souls' - Quintus Ennius

Skills developed over the course of this year prepare students to become more confident language learners covering both language and grammar points that will be transferred and extended from Year 7. Wherever possible aspects of the GCSE language course are introduced at an appropriate level.

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Component Knowledge	Describing your house. Describing your ideal house using the conditional tense. Using prepositions. Conjugating <i>vivir</i> in the present tense. The difference between <i>ser</i> and <i>estar</i> .	Describing your town. Describing what your local area used to be like, using the imperfect tense. Comparing rural and urban environments. Using the imperative for directions. Using the near future to describe weekend plans.	Using <i>ir</i> with prepositions. <i>Soler</i> in the present tense. Using the near future to describe a holiday. Describing what you do on holiday.	Describing a past holiday. Common expressions and slang. Describing the weather in all three time frames.	Talking about what you eat and drink – <i>comer</i> and <i>beber</i> . Forming negative expressions. Discussing a healthy diet and what constitutes a Mediterranean diet.	Ordering food in a restaurant. Giving opinions on menus. Food in Spanish-speaking countries.
Assessments and End Points	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing	End of Year Exams: all 4 skills	
Important literacy and numeracy developed this year	Reinforcing key grammar concepts by continuing to identify all parts of speech (nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, pronouns). Increased awareness of all time frames. Using a bilingual dictionary. Vocabulary learning and spelling.					
Wider skills and enrichment	Cultural Capital – Research on a Spanish-speaking personality, as well as typical traditional meals and holiday destinations and famous landmarks in Spanish-speaking countries. Introduction to national festivals in Spanish-speaking countries. Skills for Success – developing communication skills via short roleplays/conversations by using Spanish; developing a more interesting approach to writing (choice of vocabulary). Flamenco workshop. Spanish trip to Andalucía.					
How you can help your child at home	At the front of every pupil workbook is an overview of the topic content that you and your child can refer to for support. Reinforce the use of Quizlet (vocabulary learning and practice) and of a bilingual dictionary.					