



20th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: YEAR 8 CURRICULUM, STUDENT WELL-BEING, AND HOW BEST TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

HALF TERM 2

The Curriculum at St. James' is the foundation of everything that we do in school, and full information about what your child will be learning at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 can be found on the school website at www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/curriculum. Here, you will find whole school and faculty curriculum statements which sum up our vision of what a knowledge-rich, properly sequenced and challenging education should look like. By clicking on each faculty icon, you will be taken to the curriculum 'progression grids' for each subject, which outline what will be taught each half term and how it will be assessed.

In Half Term 2, this is what is intended to be studied in Year 8 in each subject.

SUBJECT	TEACHING CONTENT	ASSESSMENT
English	Letter writing Multicultural poetry	Reading Response: Analysis of character or theme in the novel. Analysis of one or comparison of two multicultural poems. Writing response: to create a formal letter to a writer; shaping language, structure and tone to suit audience and purpose.
Mathematics	Unit 3 – Data Averages Graphical representation Interpreting and comparing statistical inquiry Unit 4– Algebraic manipulation Further manipulation Solving equations Substitution (powers)	HT 2 Assessment – testing knowledge of skills taught in Units 3 and 4 AND interleaving of topics in units 1 and 2
RE	The New Covenant (Jeremiah) The Last Supper – Jesus fulfils new covenant Jesus' new commandment Beatitudes Ten Commandments	<u>Key disciplinary knowledge</u> State, Describe, Explain, Evaluate. <u>Key Concepts</u> Covenant, Biblical covenant, Ten Commandments, Vatican II CCC, Original sin, The fall Messiah, Incarnation, Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Saviour, Messiah, Christ, Emmanuel
Science	How light waves travel and how they are detected Investigating reflection and refraction and what happens to light when it passes through a prism.	Ongoing formative and summative assessment



	How the Earth was formed and the different structures within the Earth itself. The rock cycle and rock types	
Geography	How does Japan (a HIC) differ from the UK? Location of Japan Physical mapwork Human mapwork- major cities/population distribution Natural Hazards (1) Climate of the main islands (2) Traditional life in Japan Cultural differences to Britain	Understanding the uniqueness of Japan and the physical and Human geography of the country and why it is a developed country
History	How did slavery and the slave trade end? (Parliament / The American Civil War) What was life like for black people after emancipation from slavery? What was the Civil Rights movement and why was it successful?	End of unit assessment
PE	<u>Boys</u> : Football: Basic passing techniques, ball control, possession based drills, conditioned games and small side games focusing on passing, movement and control. Engage in competitive games and sport. Fitness: Baseline fitness test, Introduction to different methods of training Circuit training Continuous and interval <u>Girls</u> : Netball: Progress basic passing techniques and passing on the move, footwork, possession-based drills, movement into space, conditioned games and small side games focusing on passing, movement and footwork. Re-visit Year 7 Badminton: Grip of the racquet, Backhand low serve, basic overhead shot to maintain a rally, drop shot, conditioned games, half court games. Dance: To perform the main dance actions, develop a motif, space,	Individuals are assessed based on their ability and group accordingly in football and after the badminton unit. Individuals are assessed based on their ability and group accordingly in Netball and badminton.



	relationships, dynamics, perform in front of peers	
MFL	Pupils will learn to : Describe their home; Describe their bedroom including using prepositions; Describe a typical day and say what they did in the past; Say what they do to help around the house.	Assessment 2 (Where I live): Reading and understanding, and writing
Food and Nutrition	Pupils study Food and Nutrition, Textiles, ICT and Resistant Materials on a 10 week rotation over Year 8. For full information on the content and practical elements of these subjects, please consult our curriculum website at www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/curriculum	
Textiles		
ICT		
Resistant Materials		
Art	Review, revise and develop proficiency in gradation. Control of materials to achieve appearance of 3D form; Production of 3D 'Optical Illusion' gradation painting; Link to Op Art Movement, exploring Victor Vaserley, Bridget Riley and contemporary Artists. Exploration visual perception, spatial awareness, tonal values, 3D, concave, convex, monochromatic and creation of movement (Rhythm and pulse) in painting. Interleaving of painting skills Independent analysis of Op Artist and their own outcomes. Literacy link - Key words and written evaluations	Formative assessment of pupil progress each lesson-; these will be a mixture of teacher assessments, peer assessments and self - assessments. Summative assessment at end of unit.
Drama	Movement and Frantic Assembly	Peer and teacher assessment both in lesson and at end of unit
Music	An insight into composing music for a commissioned special event and develop an understanding of how the different musical elements will assist in the process. Pupils are to create a well-structured composition based upon a given brief. Pupils can use pictures as a stimulus for inspiration to their composition.	Weekly class performances throughout the topic to assess Key Vocabulary written down to aid future retrieval Independent / partner and class work



	Themes could be "Atmospheric; Thematic; Festive; Event Music etc..." or based on a given rhythm or melodic hook.	
PSHCE	Unit 3 Business & Finance Employee rights Health and safety at work, minimum wage and fair trading practices Finance Budgeting and saving, income and expenditure, credit and debit and understanding tax and national insurance Unit 4 Discrimination Stereotypes Challenging stereotypes in particular when based on appearance Prejudice Making judgments and our perception of others	Ongoing formative and summative assessment

In the coming weeks, you can support your child in a number of ways:

- Your child needs to review work done in Year 8 every week – through mind maps, re-reading information, practicing examination questions. Subject teachers will be able to provide information on this. Further information can be found at www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/homework
- Check that your child is keeping up with their homework on Show My Homework - students should be doing at least **1.5 hours work per night** of homework and/or review of work
- Speak to your child about what they are doing – this could be through asking them what they have done, testing them on what they have written etc
- Ensure that they have regular breaks and get a good night's sleep – work in chunks of time, turn off mobile phones and devices an hour in advance of going to bed
- At the same time, reassure them – at home and in school, we want to challenge our students to do their very best, but we also need to understand the stressful time that we have all gone through (and continue to go through)

Yours sincerely,

Dr. S. Guscott
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Pastoral)