



Dear Parent/Carer

**YEAR 8 CURRICULUM, STUDENT WELL-BEING, AND HOW BEST TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD  
HALF TERM 3**

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](http://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 3, this is what is intended to be studied in Year 8 in each subject. Please be aware that due to the current restrictions, the delivery of the curriculum may be subject to change:

SUBJECT	TEACHING CONTENT	ASSESSMENT
English	Non-fiction reading Making critical comparisons across texts Reading a wide range of fiction and nonfiction through extracts Summarising and organising material Supporting ideas and arguments Write accurately, fluently and effectively in a range of genres	Writing to compare
Mathematics	Mental and written calculations (including fractions) Mental methods with decimals and fractions Estimation Using a calculator Triangles; Similarity Congruence Construction	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
RE	Celebration Eucharist as a celebration Passover Sacrifice	Ongoing formative and summative assessment



	Easter Vigil Covenant People	
Science	Breathing and respiration Heating and Cooling	Ongoing formative and summative assessments
Geography	<u>How has Japan managed to build a world economy?</u> Japanese industry Technology; lack of natural resources; historical context Assessment: 2. EoU test <u>What is an ecosystem?</u> Define ecosystem /biome; abiotic/ biotic; key words:map major biomes; link to latitude/climate; focus on Tropical Rainforests/Deserts biomes;	End of unit tests
History	Was the colonisation of North America by the British a success or failure? Why was India Britain's 'Jewel in the Crown'? Why did Britain want to colonise Africa and China? Why did Britain lose its Empire? Why did migrants come to Britain in the 20th Century?	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
PE	<u>Boys</u> Badminton / Table Tennis  <u>Girls</u> Hockey / Football	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
MFL – French/German/Spanish	Pupils will learn to: Say what they do in their town in their free time and how long they have been doing it for; Describe what they did last weekend; Say what they read and discuss likes and dislikes;	Ongoing formative and summative assessment



	Say what they use the internet for Describe the weather in the present and past tense. Describe what they do depending on the weather using wenn	
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 <a href="http://www.stjameschadle.co.uk/curriculum">www.stjameschadle.co.uk/curriculum</a>	
Textiles		
ICT		
Resistant Materials		
Art	Realistic Bugs Explore & understand historical and cultural development of African Art forms	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
Drama	Are pupils able to recognise and perform line stories? Are pupils able to build on their spontaneous improvisational skill? Are they able to empathise with characters and illustrate hot seating?	Ongoing formative and summative assessments of skills and performances
Music	<u>Musical Styles I</u> Pupils will explore a variety of styles through listening, performance and composition activities and demonstrate a good understanding of key vocabulary, compositional devices and characteristics when appraising the music.  Pupils will perform within different styles of music using a variety of instruments (Keyboard, ukulele and percussion)	Weekly class performances throughout the topic to assess work
PSHCE	<u>Unit 5 E-Safety</u> <u>Unit 6 Wellbeing</u> <u>Unit 7 Managing Change</u>	



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

In the coming weeks, you can continue to 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](http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/homework)
- Check that your child is keeping up all of the work on Show My Homework
- 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 faithfully,

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