



April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**YEAR 8 CURRICULUM, STUDENT WELL-BEING, AND HOW BEST TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD
HALF TERM 5**

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 4, 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	Romeo and Juliet - Studying high quality works by Shakespeare; Studying plot and character; Understanding how the work of dramatists is communicated effectively through performance.	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
Mathematics	Unit 8– Sequences and Graphs (Links to Unit 4 and 5) Nth term Functions $Y=mx+c$ Real life graphs Unit 9 – Further Angles Angles in parallel lines and polygons Problem solving Plans and elevations	HT 5 Assessment – testing knowledge of skills taught in Units 8 and 9
RE	Judaism Introduction to Judaism; Key beliefs; What is a synagogue; Sabbath; What is Passover; Key festivals; Birth and death in Judaism; Holocaust; Prayer as a Jewish person	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
Science	Earth and Space Recap Y7 Forces Explore how stars and planets have formed. Learn about how our ideas of the	Summative assessment



	solar system have changed over time. Use models to explain the movement of planets and moons and why we have years, day and night, seasons. Explain how our solar system and universe can be explored. Apply the force equation for gravity and know the light year as a unit of astronomical distance Enquiry – how orbital distances affect year length	
Geography	What is the importance of different types of industry? Shopping as a tertiary activity OS work; Quaternary industry; Science park; R and D	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
History	Why did people campaign against child labour? Case-study: Quarry Bank Mill (Joint cross-curricular trip with the English Faculty; Why did the working-class protest in the 19th century? (The electoral system / Chartists / Luddites / Tolpuddle Martyrs / Peterloo) Why did women get the vote? (Position of women in the 19th century / Suffragettes)	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
PE	<u>Boys</u> Athletics/Cricket <u>Girls</u> Athletics/Rounders	Ongoing peer, self and teacher assessment
MFL – French/Spanish/German	Healthy living and lifestyle Pupils will learn to : Talk about food and what they eat Talk about German meals Say what they do to stay fit and healthy Understand and give health advice	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
Food and Nutrition		
Textiles		



ICT	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	
Resistant Materials		
Art	Principles of Portraiture Develop proficiency in understanding proportion and drawing portraits from primary observation.	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	Romeo and Juliet - Metamorphosis	Ongoing formative and summative assessment
Music	Four chord songs and ukulele skills	Weekly class performances throughout the topic to assess work
PSHCE	Unit 9 Finance Money management Cash, cheques, credit and debit cards Debt Credit cards, loans and APR Finance tips for the future Martin Lewis documentary including finance at university Unit 10 Citizenship Democracy Democracy in the UK, voting and political parties Rule of Law Rights and responsibilities Unit 11 Wellbeing Resilience Why resilience is important and how can we build resilience Self Esteem Building a sense of self worth	

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
- 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



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- 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)