

**Thematic Overview / Year 8 / Spring Term**

**2016-2017**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Please find attached our Thematic Overview for Year 8 Spring Term.

As explained in my September welcome letter, this year’s Thematic Overviews refer to the YLOs (Yearly Learning Objectives) for the core subjects (English First Language, English Second Language, Mathematics and Science) covered every term at Key Stage 3. You can find the complete list of YLOs for the core subjects for the academic year in your child’s Communication Book.

We hope that this will give you a clear picture of the work being carried out by your child in school and enable you to facilitate their learning at home.

The activities being carried out encourage your child to review past learning, access and retain new knowledge, as well as develop and practise a variety of key skills to prepare them for ambitious goals.

Yours sincerely

Ms L. Gonzalès

Head of Secondary

**English** --------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**First Language**

This term, the students will be looking at a range of poetry and building their analytical skills. They will also be revisiting Shakespeare, looking at extracts from a number of his plays.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

* I can adapt my writing to fit more than one purpose.
* I can make specific inferences about text structure.
* I can make detailed comments about the writer's purpose.
* I can compare texts in detail.
* I can structure my work appropriately to create effect.
* My response to questions about a text are detailed and confident.
* I can analyse specific words and phrases in detail and explore language connotations.
* I can make secure comments on the historical, social and cultural context of a text.

**Second Language**

This term, the students will continue to cover a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and cover a range of skills.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

* I can sustain concentration when listening to speech containing familiar language used in new contexts.
* I can plan and carry out unscripted conversations and discussions, taking into account the views, preferences and ideas of each group member.
* I can use some common idiomatic expressions.
* I can understand longer texts and recognise people’s points of view.
* I can identify and understand familiar language in new contexts when reading longer and more complex texts.
* My letters are shaped accurately and my handwriting is legible at all times.
* I can make notes of new vocabulary items, learn them and reuse them accurately to enrich my language.
* I can use the present tense accurately at all times.
* I place the words in the correct order most of the time.
* I can use common adjectives and adverbs to add meaning when I communicate.

**Mathematics** ----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will be examined against all topics taught to date. They will learn new skills in line with the following objectives.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

* Use inverse operations.
* Use ratio notation.
* Group data, where appropriate in equal class intervals.
* Know the formulae for the circumference and area of a circle.
* Write probabilities in words, fractions, decimals and percentages.
* Use the basic congruence criteria for triangles (SSS, SAS, ASA, RHS).
* Calculate the mean of a set of data.
* Use division to convert a fraction to a decimal.
* Know all the squares of numbers less than 16 and be able to know the square root given the square number.
* Extend the patterns by using the index law for division established for positive power answers, to show that any number to the power of zero is 1.

**Science** --------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will continue to enhance their knowledge and understanding of various topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Yearly Learning Objectives will help the students to be prepared for Year 8 expectations and it is absolutely essential for them to have thoroughly understood them. Continual effort will help prepare them for examinations.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

Biology: Humans as organisms

* I can recognise, model and know the functions of the basic components of the circulatory system and respiratory system.
* I can define and describe aerobic respiration, and explain gaseous exchange and the effects of smoking.

Chemistry: Material properties

* I can give chemical symbols for the first twenty elements of the Periodic Table and understand that elements are made of atoms.
* I can explain the idea of compounds and name some common compounds, including oxides, hydroxides, chlorides, sulphates and carbonates.
* I can distinguish between elements, compounds and mixtures.

Physics: Sound and Light

* I can explain the properties of sound in terms of movement of air particles.
* I can recognise the link between loudness and amplitude, pitch and frequency, using an oscilloscope.
* I can use the concept of light travelling in a straight line to explain the formation of shadows and other phenomena like reflection at a plane surface, and identify the law of reflection.
* I can investigate refraction at the boundary between air and glass or air and water.

**Humanities** -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Over the next term, the students will study two topics in Humanities. The first is a physical geography topic on field work and the second is a history topic on World War One. During the field work the students will study:

* Enquiry planning.
* Hypothesis creation.
* Data collection.
* Data analysis.
* Report writing.

During the World War One topic, the students will study:

* Life in Great Britain in 1900s.
* Causes of World War One.
* Different attitudes to war.
* Life in the trenches.

**Hindi** ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will learn to:

* Communicate orally.
* Exercise their vocabularies.
* Improve their listening, speaking, reading, writing, thinking and study skills.
* Conjugate.

**French** ---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will:

* Talk about themselves and ask questions.
* Memorise new vocabulary relating to food, shopping, holidays, countries.
* Write a short paragraph using accurate grammar and spelling.
* Listen to a short conversation and answer simple questions.
* Read a short text and answer various questions.

**Arabic Second Language** -------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will learn to:

* Speak about their meals.
* Talk about different dates and months of the year.
* Revise their understanding on preposition.
* Talk about themselves and ask questions.
* Gain knowledge of different pronouns.

**Performing Arts** -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term,the students will study two units. In unit 1, they will learn to:

* Investigate ways of making a musical contrast by using various simple melodies.
* Perform a simple melody on the keyboards or tuned percussion and start composing their own variations in pairs.

In unit 2, the students will:

* Tune a guitar, give the names of the strings, and name the types of guitars.
* Accompany a tune with the three basic chords on a guitar.
* Identify and understand the different time signatures.

**Creative Design** -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will continue with the Design project on paper sculptures. They will learn to:

* Create their own paper based, architectural template.
* Create minuscular architectures based on their own template.
* Paint on 3D surfaces.

The students will then move onto another expressive project later during the term. They will learn to:

* Identify two point perspective photos and artworks.
* Create their own two point perspective artworks.
* Identify mistakes in different two point perspective artworks.
* Create monochromatic artworks.

**Physical Education** -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This term, the students will develop a deeper and more complex understanding of aspects of health and fitness in a variety of activities, and the skills required for a variety of different team games in preparation for Sports Day.

The students will learn to:

* Perform movements requiring agility, balance and co-ordination with success and precision.
* Successfully apply correct running, jumping, throwing, catching, and striking techniques within a variety of structures competitive games.
* Improve accuracy, consistency and technique in a variety of skills whilst in isolation and within structured competitive games.
* Develop the ability to make effective decisions within a game situation in order to outwit their opponents.
* Work collaboratively as a team to plan strategies and tactics in a variety of Games.