

**Thematic Overview / Year 8 / Autumn 1**

**2016-2017**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Please find attached our Thematic Overview for Year 8 Autumn 1.

As explained in my welcome letter, this year’s Thematic Overviews refer to the YLOs (Yearly Learning Objectives) for the three core subjects (English First Language, Mathematics and Science) covered this half term at Key Stage 3. You will be able to find the complete list of YLOs for the academic year in your child’s Communication Book as soon as the subject teachers have completed their class discussions on how to use them to inform next learning steps.

I would like to take the opportunity of this booklet to highlight the importance of daily school work and Home Learning routines, healthy diet and regular sleep pattern on a child’s achievement.

We hope that this Thematic Overview 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**

During this half term, the students will explore Dystopian Literature through the study of a range of texts. The students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups developing their communication and interpersonal skills. Throughout the unit, the students will develop their analytical and creative writing skills.

Yearly Learning Objectives covered:

* I can make specific quotations that support my ideas and allow me to make detailed inferences.
* I can make specific comments about the writer's viewpoint and overall effect on the reader.
* I can use a wide and varied vocabulary throughout my writing.
* I can use a range of techniques to influence the reader.

**Second Language**

The students will be following the Cambridge Global English curriculum as part of their preparation for external assessments at the end of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. This half term, the students will cover topics including languages, e-communication, and rivers and coasts. Each topic is designed to broaden the students’ vocabulary and help develop their language skills to a highly functional standard.

Key Objectives covered:

* I can listen to words and phrases while someone speaks.
* I can listen to interviews and show an understanding of key points in the conversation.
* I can listen to extended audio readings and show an understanding of what has been said.
* I can compare and share my opinion about different texts.
* I can use relative clauses in my writing.
* I can ask and answer a series of questions.
* I can use abstract nouns in my writing.

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

This year, the students will work towards two official exam weeks. They will also have regular exams hosted in class to review learning over shorter time scales. This is all to benchmark and feedback to your child as well as yourself the progress and areas of development that need further support to establish mathematically-able and confident students. In support of this, the students will be studying the following this half term:

Yearly Learning Objectives covered:

* Order fractions, decimals and percentages.
* Interpret simple diagrams and charts.
* Solve simple two-step linear equations with integer coefficients, of the form ax ± b = c, e.g. 3x + 7 = 25.
* Construct a simple (no boundary data) frequency table with given equal class intervals for continuous data.
* Use the rule that the sum of the exterior angles of any polygon is 360°.

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

This half term, the students will continue to enhance their knowledge and understanding of various topics in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Year Learning Objective swill help the students to be prepared for Y8 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:

# Scientific enquiry

*Ideas and evidence*

* Discuss the importance of developing empirical questions, test predictions with reference to evidence gained that can be investigated, collect evidence, develop explanations and use creative thinking.

*Plan investigative work*

* Select ideas and turn them into a form that can be tested.
* Plan investigations to test ideas by identifying important variables, control and measure.
* Make predictions using scientific knowledge and understanding.

*Obtain and present evidence*

* Take accurate measurements by appropriate use of a range of equipment.
* Discuss and control risks to self and others.
* Present results appropriately in tables and graphs.

*Consider evidence and approach*

* Make simple calculations, identify trends and patterns in results (correlations) and compare results with predictions.
* Identify anomalous results and suggest improvements to investigations.
* Interpret data and secondary sources, communicate these clearly to others and present conclusions to others in appropriate ways.

Biology

*Plants*

* Explore how plants need carbon dioxide, water and light for photosynthesis and describe the absorption and transport of water and mineral salts in flowering plants.

# Chemistry

# *States of matter*

* Show how the particle theory of matter can be used to explain the properties of solids, liquids and gases, including changes of state, gas pressure and diffusion.

Physics

*Forces and motion*

* Calculate average speeds and interpret simple distance/time graphs.

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

This half term, the students will explore ecosystems and will learn:

* To comprehend and explain what an ecosystem is.
* To list the components of an ecosystem.
* To comprehend and describe the meaning of adaptation.
* To understand how humans fit into an ecosystem.
* To understand what the Savanna is and where in the world it can be found.
* To discuss why soil is so important to farmers.
* To describe and explain what a rainforest is.
* To explore how animals adapt to a rainforest.
* To investigate life of indigenous people of the rainforest.
* To assess the impact of deforestation.

The study of ecosystems is vital for our students to gain a better understanding of the world around them and how they can affect it. Alongside other smaller graded tasks, the students will produce a project during the term, which will count for thirty percent of their grade, and complete an end-of-unit test, which will count for the other seventy percent.

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

This half term, the students will work on:

* Revision and vocabulary taught in the classroom.
* Developing translation skills from English to Hindi and from Hindi to English.
* Using the correct conjugation of verbs in present tense.

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

This half term, the students will:

* Talk about themselves and ask questions to someone else about various topics.
* Memorise, say, write, read new vocabulary relating to the family, jobs, numbers, weather and activities.
* Read a short text and answer various questions.

**Expressive Arts** ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This half term the students will:

* Learn about the history of reggae music and understand how reggae music evolved from earlier Jamaican music.
* Perform a traditional Caribbean song with chords and bass line.

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

This half term, the students will learn to:

* Create printmaking designs.
* Create architectural drawings of Qatar and their home town.
* Simplify the form of an image.
* Use foam boards and biro pens to create their print designs.
* Use print rollers and the right pressure for the prints to develop successfully.
* Create monochromatic colour gradations using tempera paint.

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

This half term, the students will develop movement composition, an understanding of Health and Fitness, and the skills required for a variety of different games. The students will:

* Perform movements requiring agility, balance and co-ordination
* Develop and improve running, jumping, throwing, catching, and striking skills
* Improve accuracy, consistency and technique in a variety of skills
* Continue to develop a basic understanding of how the body responds to exercise
* Apply a variety of fundamental skills with consistency to different games
* Continue to develop specific and accurate shooting techniques required in different games
* Pass the ball accurately and consistently between teammates in a variety of games
* Use a range of tactics and strategies successfully to outwit the opposition in games