

**Thematic Overview / Year 8 / Autumn 2**

**2016-2017**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Please find attached our Thematic Overview for Year 8 Autumn 2.

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 half 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 half term, the students will be reading ‘The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.’ They will be analysing language, themes and ideas arising from the text.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

* I can use a range of techniques to influence the reader.
* My spelling of ambitious words is generally accurate.
* I can embed quotations in my analytical writing.
* I can use a range of sentence starters, including fronted adverbial clauses and prepositional phrases.
* I can use a wide and varied vocabulary throughout my writing.
* My response to questions about a text are detailed and confident.
* I can find specific quotations that support my ideas and allow me to make detailed inferences.
* I can make specific comments and use relevant terms about writers’ language choices.
* I can analyse a text and make detailed comments on use of imagery, character presentations, themes and symbols.
* I can make detailed inferences about my quotation to demonstrate how it supports my ideas about a text.
* I can analyse specific words and phrases in detail and explore language connotations.
* I can make specific comments about the writer’s viewpoint and overall effect on the reader.
* I can make detailed comments about the writer’s purpose.
* I can make secure comments on the historical, social and cultural context of a text.

**Second Language**

This half term, the students will continue to work through the Global English Checkpoint books developing their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

* I can understand longer passages and recognise people’s points of view.
* I can use the words they understand to work out the general meaning without losing track.
* I can deal effectively with unexpected responses in order to sustain conversations and discussions.
* I can link sentences and paragraphs using appropriate words and phrases in order to produce a coherent sequence of text.
* I can find the necessary vocabulary to summarise a text effectively.
* I can develop and refine vocabulary independently.
* I can develop and improve sentences by adding, rearranging or replacing elements.

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

This half term, the students will need to continue to revise past objectives to ensure they are moving toward mastery of the subject. They will learn the following new objectives.

*Yearly Learning Objectives covered:*

* Use the order of operations with brackets, including more complex calculations.
* Find a percentage of a quantity using a multiplier.
* Generate four quadrant coordinate pairs of simple linear functions.
* Use a multiplier to increase or decrease by a percentage.
* Plot the graphs of simple linear functions in the form y = mx + c in four quadrants.

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

This half term, the students will continue to enhance their knowledge and understanding of various topics in Physics and Biology. 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:*

 Physics: Forces and motion

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

Biology: Humans as organisms

* Identify the constituents of a balanced diet and the functions of various nutrients, and understand the effects of nutritional deficiencies.
* Recognise and know the functions of the organs of the alimentary canal and identify the role of enzymes as biological catalysts in breaking down food to simple chemicals.

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

The students will be studying human geography this half term and will be focusing on development and how it affects the world. They will learn about:

* How we are linked with the world.
* A case study on jeans.
* Nike as a global company.
* Sweatshops.
* Child labour.
* Global logo.
* Fair trade.

Each of these topics helps the students to interact with the world in an equal way and to analyse how the human world works as a whole.

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

This half term, the students will learn to:

- Write numbers (1-40).

- Name family relationships.

- Write days of the week and the months.

- Conjugate some verbs in present tense and continuous tense.

- Name objects used at home and in school.

- Say the names of games and toys.

- Identify colours (masculine, feminine and plural forms of adjectives).

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

This half term, the students will:

* Talk about themselves and ask questions to someone else.
* Memorise new vocabulary relating to activities, weekend and family.
* 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 half term, the students will practise how to:

* Say the name of sport games.
* Write the days of the week.
* Talk about themselves and ask questions to someone else.
* Build correct questions.
* Label the body parts.
* Use prepositions.

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

In this unit, the students will learn:

* The history, origins and development of Blues music.
* To perform the bass line, chords and walking bass line parts of the 12-bar blues chord sequence.
* To understand the difference between ‘straight’ and ‘swing’ rhythms and perform the melody of ‘In the Mood’ in a swing-style.
* To improvise using the notes of the blues scale.

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

This half term, the students will continue to learn to learn about Printmaking. Some of them will also learn about One Point Perspective line drawings. Through these projects, they 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.
* Understand the theories of One Point Perspective.
* Exercise their understanding of One Point Perspective artworks and create an A3 piece
of their own.
* Use colour pencils to create realistic colour gradations for their One Point Perspective artwork.

**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. They 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.