

MIDDLE 21

STEPPING UP TO SUCCESS

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - AUTUMN TERM 1 AND 2

English	Students will continue to explore Greek myths through their reading of 'The Iliad,' but will also begin a discussion based exploration of the Odyssey, tackling big philosophical questions like, 'What is the value of love?' As well as retelling various stories in the traditional way, the term will culminate in students re-imagining a Greek myth for a modern audience.
Maths	Students will rearrange and solve algebraic equations, learn how to plot linear graphs, be able to identify the gradient and intercept of linear graphs and be able to understand distance time graphs. They will also be able to describe different types of transformation.
Science	Students over the next half-term of science will be answering the question, 'why do we need a healthy diet?' To answer this question we will start by looking at how food is broken down in our bodies and how it gets into the body itself. When we confidently know this information we will then start to apply it to different contexts. To do this we will produce a scenario card game, where the students have to select the correct for random different scenarios. Finally, we will consolidate this term by preparing a short written essay on the digestive system.
Project	Group 1 will be participating in a robotics project using Lego Mindstorms while exploring and debating the question 'Does the rise in artificial intelligence mean the end of humanity?' Group 2 will be trying to protect an unvalued resource to the world, its bugs! To do this students will hunt for bugs, experiment on bugs, design shelters for bugs based on experiments and then inform the public about the importance of bugs. Our aim is to answer the question 'how can we create a minibeast mansion?' Group 3 will focus on the benefits of journaling on achievement and well-being. Students will discuss routines and goal-setting, along with gratitude journaling. They will learn how to incorporate habits that promote productivity and progress into their everyday lives. Group 4 will continue to explore the reasons for global inequality with a focus on how inequality can be reduced through the Global Goals (Sustainable Development Goals). The students will examine these goals and use them to formulate a personal plan as a Global Goalkeeper. Group 5 is all about grit, reflection and legacy. Students will challenge themselves each week to run, walk, or jog a mile and work on mental, emotional and mindset strategies to improve their times and themselves. They will also plan and design a mile track to create in our playground for everyone to use and become more active.
Humanities	In History, students will be exploring changing attitudes to the slave trade across the world. This will involve learning about abolitionists across the world, the Haitian slave revolution, as well as an in-depth study of the role of slavery in the French and American Revolutions. In Geography, students will explore the factors influencing China's population, including the One Child Policy and rural-urban migration. They will also assess the reasons for building the Three Gorges Dam and evaluate the differing impacts of this project for local residents and the country as a whole.
Drama	This half-term Year 8 will be continuing their exploration of the Greek Tragedy, 'Oedipus', considering its themes, characters and performance style. This will culminate in group performances of their own modernised adaptations of the story.
Music	This term students will be exploring the essential question 'How can we turn noise into music?'. Students will be asked to think deeply about what music really is and where the boundaries exist between noise and music. The process will involve composing their own rhythms; honing their ensemble skills; creating 'graphic scores'. The final product will be a performance at the Festival of Light incorporating poetry, visual media, percussion and use of 'makey makey' synthesisers.
PE	EvoSHOOT Experiencing the new fast paced game of NetFives. Exploring different positions and finding the best position for yourself to support the team to score the most goals possible.
Spanish	This half term year 8 will begin reading their second short Spanish novel based around the life of a Colombian sloth while also exploring the food, culture and other animals native to Colombia.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - SPRING 1

English	The theme this term is Dystopia, and students will be undertaking a 'Fast, Immersive Read' of a Dystopian text in order to delve into the genre. This will lead to some protest writing, where students will write opinion pieces about aspects of today's society that they feel are dysfunctional, unfair or harmful.
Maths	This term in year 8 we will be learning about multipliers, percentage change, reverse percentages, writing ratio in the form 1:n and we will also be solving harder problems involving ratio.
Science	This term in year 8 we will be working on light, sound and space. The term will start off by looking at the basics of light and sound (reflection, refraction, dispersion). We will conclude this term by spending some time observing the sky from a planetarium in Greenwich.
Humanities	In History, students will be looking at how women gained suffrage in Britain and comparing this to women gaining suffrage in Australia. In Geography, students will continue to look at Australia and examine the plants and animals that have adapted to the harsh conditions of the Outback. They will also consider how humans have adapted to survive in the Outback and how this environment has influenced the myths and legends of the Aboriginal people.
Drama	This term Year 8 will be developing their scripted performance skills as they prepare for a production of the play 'Mogadishu' by Vivienne Franzmann. As we prepare they will focus upon improving their characterisation skills whilst developing the subject vocabulary to talk about this process confidently. They will also use the lens of theatre and oracy to explore the themes presented within the play including those of: truth, race, and capability.
Music	This term Year 8 will explore how a selection of legendary musicians still impact music that is being written today. They will develop their ensemble skills alongside their individual instrumental mastery. Students will be assessed on the progress they make with their keyboard skills, their ability to read and follow chord symbols and bass tabs, and the way in which they interact as an ensemble.
PE	EvoGLOW is an experimental project which looks at enhancing student well-being through visual stimulation and play through the sport of badminton. Climaxing in the dark/glow in the dark experience.
Spanish	This half term students will continue reading their second Spanish novel, La Perezosa Impaciente. They will explore the way in which reading, writing and telling stories in Spanish can help us to acquire the language without having to memorise. Through the story they will find out more about the culture of Colombia and begin to write their own stories.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - SPRING 2

English	Students will be continuing their exploration of the Dystopian genre through a fast, immersive read of 'We See Everything.' They will then be applying their experience of Dystopia to their perception of the modern world and writing a piece of journalistic opinion writing to protest about something they feel strongly about.
Maths	Students will review the four operations with fractions, including mixed numbers. They will explore probability and frequency trees, as well as learn the parts of a circle and how to calculate the area and circumference. They will learn about scale factors when looking at length, area and volume and finish the half term calculating the volume and surface area of prisms.
Science	This term in Science Year 8 will move on to investigating Sound and how we see things. We will be building our knowledge of sound and hearing, explaining how the ear works and exploring how sound travels through different media. To culminate, we will create our own incredible soundwave videos with explanations of what is happening.
Humanities	In History, students will be looking at how women gained suffrage in Britain and comparing this to women gaining suffrage in Australia. In Geography, students will continue to look at Australia and examine the plants and animals that have adapted to the harsh conditions of the Outback. They will also consider how humans have adapted to survive in the Outback and how this environment has influenced the myths and legends of the Aboriginal people.
Drama	This term Year 8 will be developing their performance skills as they prepare for a devised performance based on the play 'Mogadishu' by Vivienne Franzmann. As we prepare they will focus upon improving their characterisation skills whilst developing the subject vocabulary to talk about this process confidently. They will also use the lens of theatre and oracy to explore the themes presented within the play including those of: truth, race, and culpability.
Music	This term, year 8 are exploring the music and legacy of three influential bands/artists - Queen, David Bowie and The Beatles. This involves small group work putting together performances of a selection of their songs, listening to and analysing their music, and creating merchandise and promotional material inspired by the iconic images of the artists in question.
PE	This term, Year 8 will rotate between project perform and cricket. Project Perform is the mastery of independent body control to produce a routine/ sequence that will showcase a variety of different techniques through gymnastics and trampolining. Year 8 will also be introduced to the basics of quick cricket, developing skills that will allow to competitively play as both a batter and fielder.
Spanish	This half term students will continue reading their second Spanish novel, La Perezosa Impaciente. They will explore the way in which reading, writing and telling stories in Spanish can help us to acquire the language without having to memorise. Through the story they will find out more about the culture of Colombia and begin to write their own stories.
Projects	Tuesdays: The dance project continues this term with students working with their teachers and professionals from Sadlers Wells to develop their routines for a showcase performance. Thursdays: 'Where is the hidden beauty of Stratford?' is a photography project where students will use their iPads to learn about shot composition, lighting and framing. They will go out into the local area each week to take pictures and present these as a gallery in the Middle School courtyard as a final product. 'How can we make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality?' Working with volunteers from Salesforce, CAD and 3D printers, students will create a product that addresses one of the SDGs and present this at a Maker Faire at the Salesforce offices. 'Do I have what it takes to be a Sports Leader?' Students work through the first level of qualification towards becoming Sports Leaders.
Art/DT	This half term students are introduced to the core design principles, form and function. Students learn about the importance of both principles before designing their own ideal chair. During the second part of the project students design and make a Tangram puzzle from wood. They learn about the properties of various materials and tools in order to create and refine their puzzle.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – SUMMER 1

English	Year 8 will be taking part in an author study this term, exploring the work of a particular author selected by their teacher. Students will read and discuss a range of the author's work before crafting some of their own writing in the style of the author. At the very end of the Summer term, all students will be watching, reading and performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as part of a Shakespeare Festival.
Maths	In Maths this term students will be covering Data including averages, representing data with different diagrams including stem and leaf diagrams, scatter diagrams and pie charts. The students will also learn about 3D shape including plans, elevations and nets.
Science	This half term Y8 will learn about acids and alkalis as classes of chemicals. They will use indicators to classify solutions and the pH scale to compare these. They will also begin to explore neutralisation.
Projects	Students have selected between these projects. Tuesday: The Body Worlds Dissection Project has students investigating different body organs each week. They will visit the Body Worlds Exhibition as a part of this. In the Gaming project students will work to code their own original computer games. Can a drawing save a species? Students will practice their critique and redrafting skills on detailed drawings they create of endangered species. These will be professionally made into greeting card packs to be sold with funds being donated to the WWF. Thursdays: Bad Girls of History: Students will investigate women throughout history who broke the rules to change the world. They will redesign dolls outfits and their packaging to represent these women. Salesforce Maker Faire: Students will work with Salesforce volunteers each week to use 3D printing, coding and prototype building to make and then present a product to help achieve one of the Global Sustainability Goals. Legacy Project: A group of Year 8 students will begin planning the events to mark their transition from Middle School to Year 9 and secondary.
Drama	This term Year 8 will be studying Hamlet by William Shakespeare. First and foremost they will be learning about it as a performance text, exploring its themes and ideas and considering how to take the play from page to stage, culminating in a scripted performance.
Music	Over the Summer term, students will be exploring the following Essential Question 'What is your Blues?'. Students will be invited to learn about the Blues- some famous artists who used the style and developed it: John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bessie Smith. We will be exploring the struggles of Pre-civil rights America. Students will be writing their Blueses to reflect their own struggles.
PE	This half term year 8 will be revisiting and further developing their expertise in Cricket, focusing on gaining a deeper understanding of the tactical elements required to be successful in a game situation. Alongside this they will be introduced to rounders, as well as learning the key techniques needed for a variety of track and field events (athletics). This is all in preparation for the middle school sports day which will give pupils a platform to showcase their new skills in a competitive environment.
Spanish	This term, students will take part in an exciting project to present School21 to our partner school in Madrid. "Bienvenidos a Escuela21" will let students create an interactive map of the school with their own cultural videos on lunch time, break, school day, clubs, how they get to school, their uniform and classes. This project aims for students to feel empathy for anyone who is new to the school and will be presented during the Summer exhibition.
Humanities	In Geography, students will be learning about the processes related to weather and climate. They will learn how to describe and measure the weather, as well as exploring the different factors impacting the weather and climate of the UK. They will also explore the ideas relating to global climate change and how this will impact different countries across. In History, they will be learning about the Civil Rights movement in the USA. They will examine why the movement was necessary and assess the impact of the tactics used by different individuals to achieve their aims.
Art / DT	This term year 8 will continue to develop hand woodworking skills and processes through designing and making a wooden automation moving toy. A key aim of the project is to embed workshop practice. Through the project the students will explore different cams, develop an understanding of how the shape can affect the movement of their toy. Students should demonstrate an increased level of skill using the woodwork tools, along with a developed understanding of the woodwork process including careful and accurate measuring and marking.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – SUMMER 2

English	Year 8 will be taking part in an author study this term, exploring the work of a particular author selected by their teacher. Students will read and discuss a range of the author's work before crafting some of their own writing in the style of the author. At the very end of the Summer term, all students will be watching, reading and performing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' as part of a Shakespeare Festival.
Maths	In Maths Year 8 students will be looking at different ways of Representing Data including finding averages from Stem and Leaf Diagrams, Scatter Graphs and Pie Charts. They will also look at 3D shapes which includes drawing 3D shapes from plans and finding volume.
Science	For our last topic this year we will be investigating Climate Change and its impact on the environment. We will be looking at how soils are different from each other, how acid rain forms and its effect. We will explore if pollution in our world is getting worse and what evidence there is to prove global warming is happening. The documentary series on Netflix 'Our Planet' will be used as our stimulus.
Projects	Students have selected between these projects. The Body Worlds Dissection Project continues, with students investigating different body organs each week. In the Coding Projects students will develop their own workshops for exhibition for the public on coding in Scratch, HTML & CSS or Python. Some will also run 3D Printable CAD design also. The Storybook Project pairs Year 8 up with a primary year group to research, write and illustrate original storybooks which will be published. The Civil Rights project investigates the history from 1950s America until today in London, with links to a school in Atlanta in the US. The Film Club Project is where students analyse the question 'What does the future hold?' using a range of dystopian future films for stimulus. Finally, the Legacy Project continues: A group of Year 8 students will begin planning the events to mark their transition from Middle School to Year 9 and secondary.
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