



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Students Year 8 Curriculum Map: Autumn Term 2021



The purpose of this curriculum map is to give you a general outline of what your daughter is learning in school during this term. We are hoping that this will allow you to support your daughter more effectively in her studies and further enable you to have an open dialogue about learning with your daughter. Each department has made suggestions as to activities that will further support learning in their subject “outside the curriculum”.

Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
Art	During this term students will study Portraiture. During the project they will develop skills in observational drawing and reinforce understanding of the visual elements. Students will also develop their knowledge about several well-known artists. At the end of the project students will have produced four detailed drawings/paintings of the face and found relevant research on the selected artists.	Visit Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery or another gallery that has a selection of portraiture and identify artists and art movements that you personally like. Use the annotation sheet that has been used in class to analyse the work to extend your knowledge.
Design	In DT students will analyse a range of existing products that support a phone/tablet. They will then design and manufacture their own using acrylic, timber, cast polymers and either nuts and bolts or screw fixings. They will be using a wide range of traditional tools and modern processes such as laser cutting. In Food and Nutrition , students look at staple foods and the functions of ingredients with a focus on bread and pastry making skills. They will study the Eatwell Guide in more depth and adapt recipes to develop a product suitable for a leisure venue using local and/or seasonal foods. In Textiles students use Gaudi to study hand sewing techniques and crazy patchwork. This culminates in them making a tote bag.	For DT maybe visit the new Museum of Making in Derby. It is free and no appointment is needed. www.derbymuseums.org/museum-of-making Alternatively, try taking something apart that you no longer need to see how it works. Make sure you ask for adult help first to make sure this is safe for you to do. For Food and Nutrition – why not try making bread together at home? It’s fun and easy. Spending time together in the kitchen at home will help to develop practical skills. Travel through time at the Museum of Costume and Textiles in Nottingham. (Free Entry)
English	The year begins with a focus on creative writing as students study and craft their own writing. We will be looking at a range of styles and considering the effects of specific techniques in order to better understand how writers shape their work for particular purposes. We will then be studying Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, reading the novella and responding to characters and themes as we focus on analytical skills and understanding how contexts can influence our understanding.	Students should continue to develop their wider reading, making use of library resources both in and out of school. They can enjoy a range of genres and should consider longer novels, short stories, poetry and non-fiction texts. Students could read or watch other tales by Dickens. They might enjoy Great Expectations, David Copperfield or Oliver Twist.
Drama	In Drama lessons this term students will learn how to use a range of semiotics and conventions to communicate meaning to an audience. They will be using improvisation responding to a stimulus and also bringing to life key extracts from plays in a ‘Page to Stage’ unit and they will explore characterisation, plot, the different types of staging, set design, lighting and sound effects and the impact these will have on their performance.	Visit the Midlands Art Centre which frequently has interactive exhibitions or drama workshops. The Royal Shakespeare Company often runs free workshops during school holidays which can be good taster sessions for everyone from beginners to experienced performers. Go to local theatres such as Birmingham Rep/Library Theatre/Hippodrome/Lichfield Garrick which offer excellent performances all year round.
French	This term brings an introduction to the general topic of Local Area and Tourism. Students will learn to talk about places in town, what there is or is not, allowing them to discuss their opinion and being able to justify them. This allows them to talk about making plans with friends on different days, inviting somebody out and responding to invitations, before moving on naturally to ordering snacks and drinks in a café. This term culminates with the introduction of a new tense, the immediate future, that will enable our students to talk about future plans.	Complete activities on Active Learn. Learn and revise vocabulary using tools such as quizlet.com on a very regular basis. Use online website such as www.linguascope.com to revise and extend key vocabulary and www.languagesonline.org.uk to practise present tense verbs. Continue corresponding with Year 7 French pen friends.
Geography	Our focus in the first term is Population Geography. Unit 1 ‘People Everywhere’ is an overview of current population issues including; population density and distribution, birth and death rates in contrasting locations worldwide, census information, migration and current population issues in the news. Towards the end of the first term studies in Geography move on to ‘Coasts’. In this unit we explore coastal processes, landforms and coastal management.	Population issues are newsworthy on a daily basis. It is important to keep an eye out for interesting and up to date articles and TV programmes. When travelling from place to place it is useful to identify different trends in population characteristics and compare and contrast locations. It would also be beneficial to study the neighbourhood statistics website (www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk) to analyse recent census detail. Vacations may play an important role in identifying coastal features and processes.
History	The focus in History will be ‘Slavery and Civil Rights’. We will find out how and why African people were enslaved, what it was like on the plantations and how slaves won their freedom. We will also consider how Civil Rights developed in the USA during the 1950s and 1960s.	Students can read the recommended books on their overview sheets to widen their knowledge of the topic. For example read ‘The Help’ by Kathryn Stockett or the ‘The Secret Life of Bees’ by Sue Monk Kidd. Both are fantastic stories that will help you

		understand what it was like to live in a country where you were separated by the colour of your skin.
Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
Computing	This term students will learn about computer networks. They will learn about the different types of networks, network hardware and topology. They will also learn about cloud and virtual Networks. Students will continue to develop their computational thinking skills and how to apply these in Computer Science. After the half-term they will all take part in the national computational thinking competition called the Bebras Challenge. Students will learn how to develop algorithms using flowcharts.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zc6rcdm/revision/1 has topics and an end of unit test on computer networks.
Mathematics	In Year 8 we learn about Pythagoras' theorem and its applications. In number we will look at both standard form and time calculations, including use of the calculator for these. Our ease with percentage calculations will be assisted by the use of decimal multipliers. In algebra, we will further our solving of equations by looking at cross-multiplication. We will extend our knowledge of expanding and factorising into double brackets and begin to rearrange a variety of formulae. In geometry, we will look at the circle, its area and circumference and extend to applications and problem-solving.	Mymaths.co.uk has lessons on all of the topics, as well as puzzles, games and extension materials. (Students have been issued the current password by their Maths teachers). Dr. Frost and Corbett Maths provide extra practice and challenge. Have a look at nrich for more demanding puzzles.
Music	In Music we will be exploring the Music of Latin America in the first half term. Students will listen to examples of samba drumming from the Rio Carnival before performing a whole class samba using percussion. Students will then split off into small groups and compose their own samba, learning about syncopation and call + response. In the second half term students will study Fanfares; their purpose and construction. Students will compose their own fanfares and then develop these into larger group compositions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join an extra-curricular Music activity within school Consider buying a keyboard if you have not already got one at home Try to attend a live performance of Music. Birmingham has a huge wealth of Music from different cultures and genres. www.thsh.co.uk will list all performance at Birmingham's Town Hall and Symphony Hall.
PE	The PE curriculum is broken down into four week blocks. In each block the students participate in a programme of study for one activity area. In the Autumn term students will take part in trampolining, dance, netball and hockey. Throughout each lesson the students will be developing their performance skills, fitness levels as well as their ability to officiate and lead. Students will also get the chance to take part in Indoor athletics and recording their results. This gives the students a first attempt at the events that they could get involved in for an inter school Indoor Athletics competition held early in the Spring term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend the extra-curricular sports fair at the beginning of the term to find out about clubs. Look out for our extra-curricular activities weekly plan and join in some of the activities. Research different sporting activities to try out in our area. Learn the rules of Hockey and Netball
Religious Studies	In the first half term students investigate the values of justice, love and forgiveness, and how they are shown within the Christian faith. They will look at Biblical teachings and examples of modern Christians and evaluate the extent to which it is difficult to uphold these values in the modern age. In the second half term students will study key beliefs and practices within Sikhism, focussing especially on the importance of equality and the role this has to play within the faith.	Point out current religious issues in the news that may be relevant to your daughter. Encourage her to be observant of the world around her and to take note of religious issues and debates. Discuss the importance of justice, love, forgiveness and equality, and whether it is necessary to follow a religion in order to uphold these values in their truest sense.
Science	<p>Biology Students study classification during the autumn term. Students learn how to classify organisms into groups and how populations can consist of herbivores, carnivores, predators and prey. Students then link these ideas to the idea of food chains and food webs and consider the impact that external factors can have on the numbers of organisms within a food web. Students will also study different groups of vertebrates.</p> <p>Chemistry During the autumn term, students study chemical reactions. We look at what a chemical reaction actually is and how to recognise one. We then investigate reversible changes, chromatography and burning. We finally examine how chemical reactions can be useful to us and look at the possible causes of global warming.</p> <p>Physics During the autumn term, students learn about space and gravity. We begin with the causes of days, nights and seasons, and the structure of our solar system. Students then go on to look at the causes of eclipses and the nature of comets. Next they will discuss the possibility of life on other planets and the challenges faced in space exploration.</p>	Students could be encouraged to suggest food chains and webs that might exist in gardens/parkland in the local area. They could also be encouraged to examine the impact that local issues (building, crop spraying) may have upon the balance of numbers of organisms in the chain and how the other organisms adapt their habits to cope with this change. Chemical reactions are around us all the time. Students could be encouraged to identify chemical reactions that occur around the home and which are useful and which are not. How do we encourage the useful ones and how do we slow down or prevent the others? A discussion could take place on the idea of the causes of global warming. Students could be encouraged to sit outside on a clear night and examine the stars. Discuss what stars actually are and that some of the objects in the night sky are actually planets in our own solar system. The mobile phone app "Sky Map" allows students to point their phone at the sky and identify the objects that they can see.
Spanish	Claro 1 Unit 2: Counting up to 100; saying if you have brothers or sisters; introducing other family members; saying if you have any pets; describing what you and others look like; describing personality traits. Grammar: possessive adjectives; adjective endings; the present tense.	Use the online websites www.kerboodle.com and www.linguascope.com to practise reading and listening to the material learned in class. Outside of lessons, have a conversation in Spanish with friends from time to time.