



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Students Year 8 Curriculum Map: Autumn Term 2023



The purpose of this curriculum map is to give you a general outline of what is being taught. There are suggestions for activities that will further support learning in each subject “outside the curriculum”.

Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
Art	Culture: In this project students will research and gain knowledge of Cultural Masks through the exploration of various cultures, Pattern, shape, form, colour, texture and meaning. Students will design and make their own mask based upon influences from their cultural research. Students will also learn how African Art influenced Picasso and Cubism.	Visit the Pitt Rivers Museum; www.prm.ox.ac.uk and also the display of Ethnography at BMAG; www.bmagic.org.uk/browse/collection/Ethnography
Design	Students studying DT this term will be designing, making and then racing Sutton Supercars. Every part except the electrical motor and batteries will be made by the students either using traditional hand tools or by Computer Aided Design and Laser Cutting. This gives insight into emerging technologies and experience at handling a wide range of different materials. Who will the winner be?! In Food & 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 continue to progress their understanding about the use of the sewing machine through exploring the technique of crazy patchwork. They also learn about the skill of hand embroidery through explore the theme of Gaudi.	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 & Nutrition – why not try making bread together at home? It’s fun and easy. Spending time together in the kitchen will also help to develop practical skills. Textiles: Travel through time at the Museum of Costume and Textiles in Nottingham. (Free Entry)
English	This term begins with a focus on descriptive and creative writing, providing a range of opportunities to focus on structuring written descriptions; choosing language for effect; proofreading and redrafting; as well as focusing on SPaG skills to ensure writing is accurate and engaging. We then move on to study an 19 th Century novel “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. They will be reading a challenging, culturally significant text and following character and theme development, considering the impact of writer’s language choices on meanings.	Students should continue to read a wide variety of genres and styles. They can be reading modern novels, classics, graphic novels, poetry and good quality non-fiction. Keeping a journal is a good way of practising writing. Students should continue to develop their wider reading, making use of library resources both in and out of school.
Drama	In Drama lessons this term students will learn how to use a range of semiotics and conventions to communicate meaning to an audience. In the first half term the students will be introduced to abstract conventions and how they can be used to communicate meaning. In the second half of this term students will explore ‘From page to stage’ and they will bring to life key extracts from various plays and 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	During the Autumn Term, students will start by talk about the topic of holidays. Learning about the perfect tense will allow students to talk their summer holidays as well as what they have done more recently, allowing for more complex language and structures to be used, such as negatives and questions forms. We will then naturally move to the topic of festivals and traditions, allowing students to include their own culture and talk about their own festivals and traditions, while learning about the francophone world. They will also be exposed to very important transactional vocabulary and structures.	Use online website such as www.linguascope.com and www.quizlet.com to revise and extend key vocabulary. Use www.languagesonline.org.uk to revise and practise grammar. Follow QR codes on Knowledge Organisers Use the French readers available in the school library for further reading. Take advantage of the streaming offer to immerse yourself in French culture by listening to French radio, curating your own French music playlist and watch a variety of films and TV Shows in French.
Geography	Our focus in the first term is Population Geography. We study 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. The second topic will look at coastal landscapes, with students studying the erosional and depositional processed that create a range of landforms. Students will investigate the impacts of coastal erosion on people and look at how coastal engineering can reduce this.	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.
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.
Computing	This term students will cover 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 also learn how to develop algorithms using flowcharts.	Computer Networks. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zc6rcdm/revision/1 has further information and an end of unit test. UK Bebras Challenge Website https://www.bebbras.uk/index.php?action=welcom CyberFirst Girls Competition https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/girls-competition
Mathematics	In Year 8 we learn about Pythagoras' theorem and its applications. We extend our knowledge of perimeter and area by focusing on the circle. In number we will look at both standard form and time calculations, including use of the calculator for these. We work more efficiently with percentages by using decimal multipliers to achieve percentage change. In algebra, we will look deeper into solving equations by looking at cross-multiplication. We will extend our knowledge of expanding and factorising by studying double brackets. A look at formulae will see us attempting accurate substitution of a range of numbers, both with and without a calculator, but also rearranging formulae using our algebraic skills.	Dr. Frost and Corbett Maths provide extra practice and challenge. Support booklets (shared with students) give further examples and exemplification. Have a look at nrich for more demanding puzzles or try some Junior Mathematics Challenge questions off the Dr Frost website.
Music	In Music we will be exploring Samba 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.	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 five week blocks. In each block the students participate in a programme of study for one activity area. In the Autumn term students will participate in handball, netball and dance. Within these units, as well as the sports specific core skills, students will develop specific aspects of fitness, experiencing fitness testing. They will also develop team building and communication skills as well as their ability to officiate and lead. Students will also get the chance to take part in Indoor athletics and record 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. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in interhouse cross country, rowing and handball.	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	Biology During the autumn term students will firstly look at adaptations and the environment. In this we look at how organisms are adapted and how this leads to evolution by natural selection. We then move onto the food and the digestive system topic. In this topic we look at diet, nutrients, the structure and role of the digestive system, and finally look at enzymes. Chemistry During the autumn term, students study the periodic table. We recall our understanding of atomic structure and elements from year 7 and link this to the arrangement of the periodic table. We look at how the periodic table was developed to be the one we use today and identify patterns in chemical and physical properties of the elements. Physics During the autumn term, students learn about electricity and magnetism. They will study how to make electric circuits, how magnets behave, and the links between electricity and magnetism.	Students could investigate how biodiversity is maintained in their local environment by applying what they have learnt in lessons about this. They could also investigate endangered and extinct species online Everything in our world is made up of arrangements of particles of just over 100 different elements. Students can be encouraged to investigate different elements using the interactive table found here: Periodic Table – Royal Society of Chemistry (rsc.org) Student could discuss whether materials, be they solid, liquid or gas, are pure elements, compounds or mixtures. Students could look at magnetic construction toys and the way they can attract and repel. They could also make a visit to an electricity generating station such as the Torrs Mills small scale hydroelectric generating turbine in Derbyshire, run by volunteers to generate green electrical energy.
Spanish	Claro 1 Unit 2: learning numbers up to 100; talking about family and pets; describing physical appearance; describing personality. The grammar covered in this unit includes possessive adjectives, the present tense of 'tener' and 'ser' and frequency adverbs.	Use the online websites www.kerboodle.com and www.languagesonline.org.uk 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.