



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Year 8 Curriculum Map: Spring Term 2024



The purpose of this curriculum map is to give you a general outline of what your child is learning in school during this term. We are hoping that this will allow you to support more effectively and further enable you to have an open dialogue about learning. 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	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
Computer Science	Introduction to Python programming: This unit introduces learners to text-based programming with Python. The lessons form a journey that starts with simple programs involving input and output, and gradually moves on through arithmetic operations, randomness, selection, and iteration. Emphasis is placed on tackling common misconceptions and explaining the mechanics of program execution. Students will learn and be able to implement the core programming constructs, Sequence, Selection and Iteration using Python.	For programming we will use the online Python IDE: https://replit.com/new/python3
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. 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. Travel through time at the Museum of Costume and Textiles in Nottingham. (Free Entry)
English	This term, students will be exploring Shakespeare's play <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . They will not only read the play, but also have opportunity to explore the text in performance, watching clips and extracts. Where possible and relevant, students will be encouraged to make links to the play's context, including some knowledge about Shakespeare's life and times. The unit culminates with an analytical essay, commenting on the presentation on characters and themes in the play. Students will also put key characters on trial: Friar Lawrence and Juliet's nurse.	If at all possible, students would benefit from seeing a live production of the play, or another suitable Shakespeare play. This will support their understanding of Shakespeare's language and how his play's work in action. Guides on the play are available online: BBC bitesize is an excellent resource and both Schmoop and Sparknotes provide student-friendly explanations of the text, characters, themes and language.
Drama	In Drama students will be exploring a range of extracts from plays. They will be considering how they would make key decisions as a theatre maker to bring these plays to life on stage. Students will explore different types of staging and create a clear artistic vision for each performance.	The students could independently explore visit the theatre to look at all aspects of being a theatre maker and the impact of these decisions have on an audience.
French	This term, students will be embarking on the topic of festivals and celebrations. They will start by using the near future tense to describe their New Years Resolutions. They will learn vocabulary concerning food when looking at what is eaten for different cultural festivals across the French speaking world. They will revisit the perfect tense to describe a visit to a restaurant.	Use online website such as www.linguascope.com to revise and extend key vocabulary and www.languagesonline.org.uk to practise verb tenses. Reading French books/ magazines in the school library and language classrooms. Embrace the wide offer of movies and TV shows in French streaming platforms.
Geography	Coastal Landscapes: The focus will be on how the coast is shaped by the waves by studying a range of erosional and depositional features; including headlands & bays, arches and spits. We will investigate the impact of coastal erosion on people and the economy. The unit then focusses on how we manage the coast in order to protect land and homes from erosion, by using a range of soft and hard engineering methods.	Watch the BBC series 'Coast'. Use the mini movies on www.gatm.org.uk - Geography at the Movies to view a range of clips related to coasts. Visit the coast and look out for real life examples of the features studied in class. Sketch or photograph the features. If you or a relative is going on holiday collect a post-card showing the coast.

History	We will be studying the causes of the Industrial Revolution in Britain and the impact it had upon the people of Britain	Visit the Soho House in Birmingham. Take a walk along the canals in Birmingham to get a sense of how goods were transported. Visit the Jewellery Quarter and its excellent museum, to see the impact the Industrial Revolution had on the city of Birmingham.
Maths	In number , we will work with the concept of a ratio and take the “basics”, covered in year 7, to a new level by looking at ratios within ratios. In algebra , we explore the properties of straight-line graphs and focus upon the meaning of gradient. Curved graphs will be accurately drawn. Real life graphs will be studied with a look at distance-time graphs in particular. In geometry , we investigate the interior and exterior angles of polygons and look at whether a polygon will tessellate. We also use bearings and scale in a variety of settings. In statistics , we calculate probabilities from two-way tables and Venn diagrams and use relative frequency to estimate probabilities. We will introduce the idea of a “set” and work with set notation.	All students have a log-in and password for the Dr Frost website through which they can find maths challenge papers, puzzles and further thinking questions. TEAMS will include student support booklets for each unit of work studied.
Music	This term’s work is based on the Blues. Students will explore the cultural and historical roots of the genre through listening and appraising. They will then learn appropriate accompanimental patterns associated with the Blues before going on to compose a Blues-style song which fuses these elements together.	Join an extra-curricular music group (Gospel Choir, Chamber Choir, String Ensemble, Sinfonia, or one of the Wind Ensembles) If you haven’t got a keyboard at home you may like to consider getting one – they are not too expensive and are a fun and easy way to develop your Music skills. Listen to music on the radio – try to listen to music in a different style / genre to which you are used to. Attend a live performance or concert: http://www.thsh.co.uk/events
PE	During the spring term students will follow a course that includes dance, trampolining and football. Each unit of work will last for five weeks. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the ‘Evening of Dance’ in February, following on from their work in dance lessons. In these activities, students will be introduced to the core skills of the sports and develop their knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations governing the sports. In all activities students will continue to develop their leadership skills in the role of an official, judge or umpire. Students will get the opportunity to perform as well as develop their evaluation and analysis skills in all activities.	Look out for our extra-curricular activities weekly plan and join in some of the activities. Get involved on the Evening of Dance. Make sure that you are making every effort to take part in regular exercise. A minimum of 1 hour a day is recommended. Research different sporting activities to try out in our area. Visit the www.change4life website for ideas on how to improve your active, healthy lifestyle. Watch the videos, take the tests and work as a family. Watch top class performances live, on the TV or on the internet to help your own performance and to see how the officials and coaches carry out their roles. Listen to how the experts analyse performance. Feedback is vital to help you to learn. BBC Sports Academy has a wealth of information.
Religious Studies	In RS, students investigate a unit on Death and the Afterlife . Students are encouraged to discuss their own beliefs about the afterlife, as well as evaluating pieces of evidence for its existence. They also explore different religions’ beliefs about the afterlife and consider concepts such as reincarnation, heaven and hell . In the second half of the term, students will be learning about Hindu Dharma . They will be investigating Hindu Dharma through the lens of our character strengths, by learning about important beliefs and concepts such as monotheism, the Trimurti, and Hindu ethics. They will also consider diversity within Hindu Dharma, by looking at different Hindu sects, and the roles of different deities. Finally, students will learn about the story of the Ramayana and how it influences the festival of Diwali.	Discuss ideas and experiences of death as a family, exploring different opinions and traditions. Have a look at Diversity - RE:ONLINE(reonline.org.uk) and other websites, to help you further explore and understand just how diverse Hindu Dharma is, and how this is shown throughout the world. Read through Festivals - Practices in Hinduism- GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize to learn about even more interesting festivals in the Hindu faith.
Science	In Physics , students will complete their studies on forces by looking at terminal velocity and moments. Students will then develop their understanding of heating and cooling through conduction, convection, and radiation. In Biology , students will investigate the heart, respiratory system and exercise to complete the supplying the cell topic. They will then start looking into microorganisms and how they can be both useful and harmful. In Chemistry , students will complete their learning about acids and bases. They will look at neutralisation and how different salts are made. Students will then study metals, metal reactions and the reactivity series.	Investigate balance and moments using this online lab https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/balancing-act/latest/balancing-act_all.html . You could also research the science behind travel cups that keep drinks warm or cold! You could investigate food stuffs within your house researching to see if any of them required microbes in their manufacture. What information can you find about metal extraction on YouTube? How are pure metals obtained? What are the effects of obtaining metals from their ores on local surroundings? Why is it important that metals are recycled?
Spanish	Claro 1 Unit 3: Talking about hobbies and sports; giving detailed opinions; learning how to form the Present Tense of regular verbs; describing the weather; learning about famous Hispanic musicians; talking about music and television programmes; making comparisons.	Use the website www.languagesonline.org.uk to revise key vocabulary. Teach friends/family vocabulary seen in class which will help you to practise your pronunciation and retain new words and expressions.