



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



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 |
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| Art | ‘Portraiture’ During the term students will continue to develop their observational drawing skills through the study of facial features and portraits. Students will progress to produce a self-portrait reflecting on the purpose and history of portraiture. Students will also be introduced to the grid technique to produce a copy of an existing portrait. | Use the skills organisers available in Teams to further develop their visual vocabulary. Visit local art galleries and enjoy seeing art and photography with family and friends. |
| Drama | In Drama students will be exploring ‘From page to stage’. They will be introduced to a range of texts and explore how they will bring these to life, whilst developing their understanding of stage directions. This will encourage them to consider the role of performers, directors and designers. Students will explore the playwright’s original intentions and learn different techniques when bringing their script to life. | Continue to read plays and consider how they would be performed in the live theatre setting. Why not visit the Theatre? |
| English | During the first half term students will be completing their study Shakespeare’s <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , exploring themes and relationships and the ways that these are conveyed in the language and in performance. Our final unit is a combination of reading and writing skills with a focus on fiction texts and genres. Students will be encouraged consider a wide range of extracts and short stories to challenge them and inspire their own narrative writing. | Continue to read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction, making good use of all library services available to you. If you have enjoyed <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , consider reading another by the same author or if you have enjoyed <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> consider watching another play as a film or at the theatre. Practise writing your own stories and share these with friends and families for reviews. |
| French | This term, students will be embarking on the topic of local area. They will learn transactional vocabulary and activities, allowing them to order and buy things more confidently, arranging to go out and responding to invitations... before moving to the topic of how they help at home, and their daily routine, culminating in the challenging understanding and use of three different time frames. | Use online website such as quizlet.com , bbc bitesize 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 | In the first half of the term students will complete their learning of Coasts by exploring depositional landforms, cliff collapse and coastal management strategies. They will then move on to study tourism – types of tourism and attractions, how a tourist resort changes over time and the impacts of tourism. They will investigate how the negative impacts can be managed through sustainable eco-tourism. | Encourage students to watch documentaries and complete independent research online. For example, BBC travel show, Amazing Hotels, Down to Earth, Coast, etc. |
| History | During the summer term students we will be learning about the First World War, the causes, how soldiers were recruited and life in the trenches. They will have the opportunity to carry out some independent research about the lives of the soldiers. Students will then consider the outcome of the war and the attempts to bring peace through the Treaty of Versailles | Why not visit the Imperial War Museum in London. It has a reconstruction of a trench that allows visitors to experience ‘life in the trenches’ for themselves. |
| Computing | In the first half term learn about how images and sound is represented on the computer using binary. In second half term they will complete a course in App development . Students will work in teams or individually to design and build an app that solves a problem they care about. They will learn about software development life cycle, whereby they will plan, design, implement, test and evaluate an App to meet a user requirement. They will get the opportunity to pitch their ideas to and receive feedback from industry experts. | Representing text, images and sound: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpfdwmn/revision/2 App Development course https://www.appsforgood.org/courses/app-development . Learn to use the MIT App-inventor to create your own App http://appinventor.mit.edu/ |
| Maths | In number , we solve problems involving ratio and proportional reasoning, including best value problems. In algebra , we look at distance-time graphs and begin to plot curved graphs. We extend our work on sequences to look at quadratic sequences. In geometry , we look at differing ways to represent solids in two dimensions and work with both the surface area and volume of a cylinder. We will carry out transformations, to include rotation and enlargement. We calculate compound measures such as pressure, density and speed, including the use of decimal hours. In statistics , we compare data sets using appropriate measures of average and spread. We look at different ways to display data, including back-to-back stem and leaf diagrams. We explore bivariate data using scatter diagrams, correlation and line of best fit. | www.drfrstmaths.com also has a wide range of extension content. Corbett Maths contains questions, challenges and videos linked to the curriculum coverage. All students are entered for the Junior Maths Challenge in the final week of April: practice questions are seen in class but full papers can be accessed in Dr Frost. |

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| Music | Students will study 'programme music' (music which is used to depict a picture or tell a story). Students will look at several movements of 'Pictures at an Exhibition' by Mussorgsky, identifying how the composer has written the music to show the different moods and themes of the pictures in an art gallery. Students will develop their own musical ideas for some of the other pictures for which Mussorgsky composed without having heard his music, and compose their own music in small groups to depict them. These will be either recorded 'live' using classroom instruments (or the students' own instruments), or sequenced using Sibelius music software. Finally students will evaluate the success of their pieces and compare their compositions to Mussorgsky's original. Students will complete the term by looking at the skills used to create a musical arrangement. | Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular music groups to develop their performance skills. Groups include Gospel Choir, Chamber Choir, Training Orchestra, Sinfonia, String Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble and Flute Ensemble. I would also encourage parents to take their daughters to watch 'live' music performances in a variety of styles. Birmingham has a huge amount of live music from a wide range of cultures and styles. Listen to a wide variety of music on the radio, and try out new styles that may not be familiar to you! |
| DT Food Textiles (Rotation) | Students studying DT this term will be designing, making and then racing electric 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. Travel through time at the Museum of Costume and Textiles in Nottingham. (Free Entry) |
| PE | This term's work focusses on developing skills in both athletics and tennis. The students will experience a range of events in athletics from both track and field, looking at technique and performing at maximum levels. This will be preparation leading up to Sports day. Tennis will focus on key racket skills and there will be a new sport called Pickle ball' incorporated within the tennis scheme. The students can apply their skills in the summers inter house tennis competition. They also have inter house rounders to look forward to. Students will also be looking at how well they can take on different roles within the physical activities that they are participating in, how well they can identify strengths in performance and areas for improvement. | Join one or more of the extra-curricular clubs on offer for summer sports in school. We have new clubs this year that include cricket and rugby. Try and increase the amount of regular exercise that you do. For example, play tennis, rounders, badminton, football, handball etc. with family and friends in the park. Start walking (faster/further!), jogging, cycling, swimming, rowing etc. Look out for your chance to represent the school at the Sutton Schools' Athletics Championships, the Sutton Schools rounders tournament or the Sutton Schools cricket tournament. |
| Religious Studies | During the first half of this term, students will learn about Hindu Dharma and investigating the diversity within the Hindu tradition. They will apply Hindu beliefs and practices to the character strengths that we use in school, thinking about for example what a Hindu might believe about Making Good Decisions. In the second half term, students will be learning about the importance of various places of worship for believers and the wider community. Students will have the opportunity to investigate a range of different holy buildings and consider how the features of them reflect the beliefs of the communities who use them. | There is a wide variety of places of worship in Birmingham and the local area. Encourage your daughter to visit a place of worship and consider the significance of the features of the religious buildings they see around Birmingham. |
| Science | In Biology , students will be learning about people and the environment in which they live. Topics will include survival, passing energy on from one organism to another, the cost of food and how we should be living in the future. The way we shape life is also covered including selective breeding, cloning, analysing ideas and evidence, plant responses and behaviour, animal instincts and learnt behaviour. In Chemistry , students will be learning about the chemical reactions of metals and start the unit on rocks, volcanoes, fossils and the rock cycle. In Physics , students will be finishing learning about sounds including the reflection of sound and how sound is used. We will then be moving on to the topic on forces. We will study how forces can be used to explain the movement of fairground rides and how we can use the principles of moments and pressure to our advantage in machines. | For Biology , Twycross Zoo is well worth a visit as it has many primates and stimulating environments in which animals can show learnt behaviour. It is interesting to look at how the animals display their natural instincts as well as learning new behaviours. For Chemistry , students could identify metals being used in the world around them and investigate why that particular metal is selected for that purpose. It would also be great fun to try and find fossils in rocks in the local environment and discuss their formation. For Physics , students could examine everyday devices such as scissors, see-saws and door handles and discuss the parts of the design that make it work so well, using ideas about moments. They could use their knowledge from class to present this to a member of the family! A similar activity could be performed for our use of high and low pressures. |
| Spanish | Claro 1 Unit 4: In Unit 4 students will learn to talk about the area where they live, describe types of house, the different rooms in a house, their bedroom, talk about their dream home using the conditional tense and discuss household tasks. | Use www.languagesonline.org.uk to practise material learned in lessons. Teach family members/friends key vocabulary or phrases. Borrow some Spanish magazines from the library or ask your Spanish teacher about this. |