

Year 8 Curriculum Overview 2025-2026

Subject	Overview	Autumn 1 (Weeks 1 – 7)	Autumn 2 (Weeks 8 – 14)	Spring 1 (Weeks 15 - 20)	Spring 2 (Weeks 21 - 25)	Summer 1 (Weeks 26 - 32)	Summer 2 (Weeks 33 - 38)	Assessment
English	Exploring – Year 8 students build upon their Year 7 English skills by exploring more complex texts and ideas. They enhance their writing skills by exploring how texts are transformed, develop non-fiction skills (Discovery & Exploration) and become able to write in the genre style of Gothic Literature. Pupils also explore more complex literature texts; Sherlock Holmes or Stone Cold (prose), Shakespeare - Richard III or Macbeth (plays) and Other Cultures (poetry).	Prose Study: Jekyll & Hyde Students improve their reading skills and gain a good understanding of life during the Victorian era when studying this text. They learn how to analyse a text for the writer's methods and effects created.	Exploration of Creative Writing: Mystery Students build on their Year 7 skills of creative writing while exploring genre. They utilise their understanding of character tropes and write their own piece of creative writing.	Shakespeare Study: Hamlet Students are introduced to the first Shakespeare text of KS3. They begin to develop an understanding of Elizabethan/Jacobean context and build upon their analysis of drama learnt in Year 7.	Non-Fiction: Power of Discovery Students enhance their previous Year 7 non-fiction writing skills by examining texts based around discovery and exploration – looking at both travel and historical moments.	Poetry Study: Culture and Identity Students study a range of poetry from a variety of different cultures. They expand on their poetry skills learnt in Year 7 and develop an understanding of the wider world.	Genre Study: Gothic Students study a range of Gothic Literature and develop an understanding of the narrative arc. Pupils learn the style and key conventions found in Gothic texts and employ these into their own piece of Gothic creative writing.	

<div>Mathematics</div>	<p>By the end Year 8 students will be more confident in transferring skills between different areas of mathematics. They will be able to apply their understanding of algebra to solve problems in geometry and proportion; make connections with sequences and drawing linear graphs and be able to explain the relationship between parallel lines. Students will confidently calculate measures of central tendency and spread, applying these to their own hypotheses; draw accurate graphs to best represent their data and understanding which is the most suitable diagram for their data. Students will have a good understanding of the angle properties of polygons and be familiar with simple proofs. They will be able to calculate the area of some polygons and use this knowledge to calculate the volume and surface area of prisms. Most student will understand the relationship between the circumference of a circle and the radius and will be able to apply this understanding to calculate the area and circumference of a circle. Cross curricular links will have been explored, notably in the analysis and presentation of data.</p>	<p>Percentages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find and work with percentages of amounts, with and without a calculator. Calculate with percentage change with and without a calculator <p>Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform calculations with money, including those where value is the context <p>Indices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about index laws including positive indices and negative indices Simplify expressions using index laws Consider indices in fraction to remove common factors <p>Equations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solving multi-step equations involving basic operations. Solve equations with brackets Solve with unknowns on both sides Construct equations <p><i>(Fractions concludes during the next half term)</i></p>	<p><i>(Conclude Fractions, then move on to the following units)</i></p> <p>Sequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore term to term rules of sequences involving numbers and patters. Explore position to term rules for arithmetic sequences Substitute into position to term rules <p>Ratio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing and simplifying ratios, including 1:n Convert between ratios, fractions and percentages Use equivalent ratios Share in a given ratio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw and interpret scale diagrams 	<div>Assessment</div>	<p>Rounding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounding integers and decimals to significant figures. Estimating calculations <p>Coordinate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculating midpoints between coordinates Working with mixed problem solving <p>Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding areas of parallelograms and trapeziums Converting units of area <p>Circles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying parts of circles Finding the circumference and area of a circle <p>Standard form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using standard form with positive and negative indices <i>(Standard Form concludes during the next half term)</i> 	<p><i>(Conclude Standard Form, then move on to the following units)</i></p> <p>Venn Diagrams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpreting Venn diagrams, calculating probabilities Finding the HCF and LCM using prime factor decomposition <p>3D Shapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with nets of 3D shapes Know the properties of 3D shapes <p>Surface area and Volume</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find surface area from nets Find surface area of cubes, cuboids and prisms Find volume of cubes, cuboids and prisms Convert units of volume 	<p>Linear graphs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plotting and finding equations of graphs of vertical and diagonal lines <p>Transformations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing a translation of a shape Performing a reflection of a shapes <p>Angles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with angles in quadrilaterals Combine angle facts Angles on parallel lines Using quadrilateral properties to find angles Work with angles in all polygons <p>Statistical Diagrams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw and interpret pie charts Draw and interpret line graphs Finding averages from diagrams 	<p>Inequalities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and draw inequalities on number lines Solve single inequalities <p>Brackets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding double brackets <p>Algebra and Fractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review calculating with fractions including mixed number fractions Simplify fractions with algebraic components <p>Recurring Decimals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with recurring decimal notation Converting fractions to recurring decimals 	<div>Assessment</div>
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Science	<p>Year 8 students explore key aspects of the 3 different Sciences:</p> <p>Building upon foundations and of previous knowledge in year 7 and introducing new key concepts that the develop and help question our student's curiosity.</p>	<p>Biology: Genetics and evolution and exploring why organisms evolve and introduced to Darwin's theories</p> <p>Chemistry: Earth structure and rock cycle– Focus on 3 types of rock (Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic) and how they are weathered and eroded.</p> <p>Physics: Waves – light and sound - Exploring the properties of light and sound.</p>	<p>Biology: Genetics and evolution and exploring why organisms evolve and introduced to Darwin's theories</p> <p>Chemistry: Earth structure and rock cycle– Focus on 3 types of rock (Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic) and how they are weathered and eroded.</p> <p>Physics: Waves – light and sound - Exploring the properties of light and sound.</p>	Assessment	<p>Biology: Variation and Reproduction – Understanding the biological processes of reproduction and variation.</p> <p>Chemistry: Earth – Climate change and resources – Reflecting upon humans' impact upon planet Earth and the consequences of our actions.</p> <p>Physics: Space - The importance of the moon, stars and how planets orbit.</p>	<p>Biology: Variation and Reproduction – Understanding the biological processes of reproduction and variation.</p> <p>Chemistry: Earth – Climate change and resources – Reflecting upon humans' impact upon planet Earth and the consequences of our actions.</p> <p>Physics: Space - The importance of the moon, stars and how planets orb.</p>	<p>Biology: Ecosystems – respiration and photosynthesis - Exploring the processes of respiration and photosynthesis and how they are vital for life on Earth.</p> <p>Chemistry: Metals, acids and alkalis – Investigating the properties of metals, acids and alkalis.</p> <p>Physics: Electricity and magnetism – Describe the key properties of electricity and magnetism.</p>	<p>Biology: Ecosystems – respiration and photosynthesis - Exploring the processes of respiration and photosynthesis and how they are vital for life on Earth.</p> <p>Chemistry: Metals, acids and alkalis – Investigating the properties of metals, acids and alkalis.</p> <p>Physics: Electricity and magnetism – Describe the key properties of electricity and magnetism.</p>	Assessment
	<p>By the end of the year students will be able to talk about themselves and their lives around them and express opinions and with reasons, use three tenses, more complex structures (comparative, imperative etc) and develop their knowledge of the Francophone culture.</p>	<p>Vive les vacances!</p> <p>Describing a past holiday in detail</p> <p>Perfect tense of verbs with avoir & être Negative with perfect tense Using 2 tenses together</p>	<p>J'adore les fêtes!</p> <p>Describing Francophone festivals and celebrations, Buying food at a market, Talking about a future trip</p> <p>Present tense conjugation (ir and re verbs), partitive articles The near future tense Forming questions Using 2 tenses together</p>	Assessment	<p>Les Loisirs</p> <p>Talking about leisure activities & interests in celebrities, TV & digital technology Making social arrangements & buying tickets</p> <p>Present tense conjugation - irregular verbs Adjectival agreement Forming and answering questions Negatives Using 3 tenses together</p>	<p>Les Loisirs</p> <p>Talking about leisure activities & interests in celebrities, TV & digital technology Making social arrangements & buying tickets</p> <p>Present tense conjugation - irregular verbs Adjectival agreement Forming and answering questions Negatives Using 3 tenses together</p>	<p>Le monde est petit</p> <p>Describing where you live and what you can do there, Weather, Household chores, Daily routine</p> <p>Prepositions, Modal verbs + infinitive, The present tense of reflexive verbs, The perfect tense, Using three tenses together, Understanding questions in different tenses</p>	<p>Le sport en direct</p> <p>Giving opinions on sports Asking for and giving directions Injuries and illness Conversation with a doctor Conducting an interview</p> <p>Comparative structures Using the imperative Key verbs of obligation Asking and answering questions in 3 tenses</p>	Assessment

German	By the end of the year, pupils will be able to discuss a range of topics, producing sentences in the present tense with a range of pronouns. They will be confident extending sentences with adverbs of frequency and place / time phrases and will be able to state and justify opinions on a range of topics. They will be introduced to the perfect tense and should be confident understanding using a range of common verbs in the perfect tense. Pupils will continue to develop their confidence using the future tense with WERDEN. Pupils will be starting to develop skills and techniques to complete a range of GCSE style questions.	Ich liebe Ferien Comparing cities then and now, saying what you did on holiday, saying how you travelled, describing the weather Perfect tense of common verbs, war/ hatte/ gab	Bist du ein Medienfan? Stating film preferences, discussing TV shows, talking about reading habits, discussing online activities Stating and justifying opinions, weil, dass, perfect tense, gern / nicht gern, TMP word order	Assessment	Klassenreisen Discussing a school trip, school rules, describing a typical day, giving and understanding directions, describing a festival Modal verbs, reflexive verbs, separable verbs, du / Sie/ ihr, perfect tense, imperative	Klassenreisen Discussing a school trip, school rules, describing a typical day, giving and understanding directions, describing a festival Modal verbs, reflexive verbs, separable verbs, du / Sie/ ihr, perfect tense, imperative	Wir gehen aus Clothes, planning a date, making plans to go out, discussing a date Using adjective to describe nouns, wenn clauses, future tense with WERDEN, using and understanding present, perfect and future	Bleib gesund Saying what you eat for a typical breakfast, learning about German food, recipes, healthy lifestyle Present tense verbs, imperatives verbs, modal verbs	Assessment
	By the end of the year students will be able to talk about holidays, food, their free time, their daily routine and where they live. They will be able to use opinions and justify these in their work, and will become increasingly confident in using three tenses. They will also build on their knowledge of the present tense, learning how to use the imperative and reflexive verbs. Pupils will be introduced to the superlative and comparative, to add further detail to their work.	Mis vacaciones Describing past holidays in detail using the preterit and present tenses together. Giving opinions on past holidays. Preterite of regular –ar, -er and -ir verbs Preterite of ser (to be) and ir (to go) Using two tenses together	Todo sobre mi vida Talking about leisure activities, interests in TV, music and other digital technology. Revision of present tense Revision of me gusta(n) + noun Stem-changing verbs Preterite of hacer (to do)		¡A comer! Describing food and eating habits. Giving opinions on food. Using transactional language (usted(es)) to order food in a restaurant. Learn about traditional Hispanic cuisine (from Central and South America).	¡A comer! Describing food and eating habits. Giving opinions on food. Using transactional language (usted(es)) to order food in a restaurant. Learn about traditional Hispanic cuisine (from Central and South America).	¿Qué hacemos? Places in town, activities & making arrangements. Describing clothes, outfits and style. Routines to get ready (using reflexive verbs) me/te gustaría Stem-changing verbs (querer/poder) tener que + infinitive Reflexive verbs	Operación Verano Asking for and giving directions. Describing, past, present and future holidays Describing holiday activities. Describing a (holiday) home using the comparative. ser vs. estar The imperative	

Further reading:

English

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle.
Young Sherlock Holmes Series by Andrew Lane
The House of Silk / Moriarty by Anthony Horowitz
Royal Shakespeare Company:
<https://www.rsc.org.uk/>
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/>
The Woman in Black by Susan Hill
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Mathematics

The Number Devil, by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
The Code Book, by Simon Singh
Alex’s Adventures in Numberland, by Alex Bellos
Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities, by Ian Stewart

Science

What If by Randall Munroe
Curious Minds by Jordan Moore
Ready Player 2 by Ernest Cline

French

BBC Bitesize KS3 French
<https://www.duolingo.com/enroll/fr/en/Learn-French>
<https://www.thefrenchexperiment.com/learn-french>
<https://www.french-games.net/>
<https://www.digitaldialects.com/French.htm>
<http://www.hello-world.com/languages.php/?language=French>
<https://quizlet.com/gb/topic/languages/french/>
<https://uk.language-gym.com/>

German

Duolingo.com
Quizlet.com
BBC Bitesize KS3 German
<https://www.german-games.net>
Senecalearning.com
<https://ukgermanconnection.org/kids>
<http://gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html>
<https://uk.language-gym.com/>

Spanish

BBC Bitesize KS3 Spanish
<https://www.duolingo.com/enroll/fr/en/Learn-Spanish>
<https://www.spanish-games.net/>
<https://www.thespanishexperiment.com/learn-spanish>
<https://uk.language-gym.com>

Suggested family trips/activities to reinforce learning:

English

The Globe Theatre – London
Theatre productions – Norwich Theatre Royal
Reading a range of texts – newspapers/articles/letters/speeches

Maths

Science Museum London
STEM Centre in York
Bletchley Park
Royal Observatory at Greenwich

Science

Natural History Museum

French

Watching age-appropriate French series on Netflix.
Watching French sporting events online, such as Ligue 1.
Listening to French bands and singers on YouTube.

German

Watching age-appropriate German series on Netflix.
Watching German sporting events online, such as the Bundesliga.
Listening to German bands and singers on YouTube.

Spanish

Watching age-appropriate Spanish series on Netflix.
Watching Spanish sporting events online, such as LaLiga.
Listening to Spanish bands and singers on YouTube.