

Year 8 Curriculum Overview 2026-2027

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)	
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.	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.	Assessment	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: Writing to Change Minds Students enhance their previous Year 7 non-fiction writing skills by examining texts linked to influential historical periods. Students will delve into the art of persuasion and writing to argue. Students will use devices learnt to craft their own piece of non-fiction writing.	Assessment	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.	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.	Assessment

Mathematics	The year begins with ratio, proportion and scale to develop multiplicative reasoning and provide a foundation for future mathematical study. Students then build fluency in algebra through expressions, graphs, equations and inequalities, developing their ability to model and solve problems. Fractions, percentages and multipliers deepen proportional reasoning, while indices and standard form strengthen links between mathematics and science. Geometry topics, including symmetry, reflection, area, volume, density and circles, develop spatial reasoning and support applications across the curriculum. Students also build confidence in statistics and data analysis, are introduced to probability using their prior knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages, and conclude the year with sequences, extending their pattern recognition and algebraic thinking from Year 7.	Ratio • Use and simplify ratios • Share amounts in a ratio • Solve ratio problems • Link ratios and fractions	Coordinates and Graphs • Plot and interpret coordinates in four quadrants • Understand and use equations of a straight line, including lines parallel to the axes • Identify gradients and intercepts	Assessment	Area, Volume and Density • Recognise and name 2-D and 3-D shapes • Calculate the area of 2-D shapes • Calculate the volume of cubes and cuboids • Convert metric units of mass and capacity • Understand and use density, mass and volume	Indices • Use index notation • Simplify expressions with indices • Apply index laws • Use powers and roots	Assessment	Angles in parallel lines and polygons • Apply angle facts • Understand and find angles in parallel lines • Solve problems with angles • Use properties of polygons • Find interior and exterior angles of polygons	Circles • Understand and use circle vocabulary and notation • Find the circumference and area of a circle and parts of a circle • Find area and lengths using arcs and sectors • Solve problems with circles and compound shapes	Assessment
		Proportion and Scale • Use direct proportion • Convert between measures and currencies, including using graphs • Use scale factors and scale diagrams • Solve proportional reasoning problems Algebraic Manipulation • Distinguish between formulae, expressions, identities and equations • Form and use expressions, formulae and identities • Use directed number with algebra • Expand single brackets • Factorise into a single bracket	Multiply and Divide Fractions • Multiply and divide a fraction by an integer • Multiply and divide a fraction by a fraction • Understand and use reciprocals • Calculate with improper fractions and mixed numbers Symmetry and Reflection • Symmetry and reflection • Recognise line symmetry in polygons and other shapes • Identify rotational symmetry • Reflect shapes in horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines • Describe reflections using mathematical notation		Equations and Inequalities • Solve linear equations • Solve equations with brackets and fractions • Solve equations with unknowns on both sides • Understand and solve inequalities including on number lines • Form and solve equations and inequalities Percentages • Convert between percentages and decimals • Find percentage increase and decrease • Use multipliers to solve percentage problems • Express one quantity as a percentage of another • Find original amounts and percentage change	Standard Form • Understand and use positive and negative powers of 10 • Convert between numbers in ordinary and standard form • Compare numbers in standard form • Use a calculator with standard form Interpret and Represent Data • Interpret different types of data • Understand and calculate averages and range • Understand outliers • Compare distributions • Use and interpret frequency tables and grouped data		Tables and probability • Understand and use probability language and notation • Calculate probabilities of single events • Use the fact the sum of probabilities of an event is 1 • Compare theoretical and experimental probability • List outcomes and use sample spaces for 1 or more events • Find probabilities using sample spaces for 1 or more events • Find probabilities using two-way tables and frequency trees	Graphs and Charts • Draw and interpret graphs and charts • Choose appropriate representations • Compare and interpret data • Identify misleading graphs and charts Sequences • Continue and describe linear and non-linear sequences • Use term-to-term rules • Generate sequences algebraically • Find and use nth term rules	

Science	Year 8 students explore key aspects of the 3 different Sciences: Building upon foundations and of previous knowledge in year 7 and introducing new key concepts that develop and help question our student’s curiosity.	Biology: Genetics and evolution and exploring why organisms evolve and introduced to Darwin’s theories Chemistry: Earth structure and rock cycle – Focus on 3 types of rock (Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic) and how they are weathered and eroded. Physics: Waves – light and sound - Exploring the properties of light and sound.	Biology: Genetics and evolution and exploring why organisms evolve and introduced to Darwin’s theories Chemistry: Earth structure and rock cycle – Focus on 3 types of rock (Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic) and how they are weathered and eroded. Physics: Waves – light and sound - Exploring the properties of light and sound.	Assessment	Biology: Variation and Reproduction – Understanding the biological processes of reproduction and variation. Chemistry: Earth – Climate change and resources – Reflecting upon humans’ impact upon planet Earth and the consequences of our actions. Physics: Space - The importance of the moon, stars and how planets orbit.	Biology: Variation and Reproduction – Understanding the biological processes of reproduction and variation. Chemistry: Earth – Climate change and resources – Reflecting upon humans’ impact upon planet Earth and the consequences of our actions. Physics: Space - The importance of the moon, stars and how planets orb.	Biology: Ecosystems – respiration and photosynthesis - Exploring the processes of respiration and photosynthesis and how they are vital for life on Earth. Chemistry: Metals, acids and alkalis – Investigating the properties of metals, acids and alkalis. Physics: Electricity and magnetism – Describe the key properties of electricity and magnetism.	Biology: Ecosystems – respiration and photosynthesis - Exploring the processes of respiration and photosynthesis and how they are vital for life on Earth. Chemistry: Metals, acids and alkalis – Investigating the properties of metals, acids and alkalis. Physics: Electricity and magnetism – Describe the key properties of electricity and magnetism.	Assessment
French	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.	Vive les vacances! Describing a past holiday in detail Perfect tense of verbs with avoir & être Negative with perfect tense Using 2 tenses together	J’adore les fêtes! Describing Francophone festivals and celebrations, Buying food at a market, Talking about a future trip Present tense conjugation (ir and re verbs), partitive articles The near future tense Forming questions Using 2 tenses together	Assessment	Les Loisirs Talking about leisure activities & interests in celebrities, TV & digital technology Making social arrangements & buying tickets Present tense conjugation - irregular verbs Adjectival agreement Forming and answering questions Negatives Using 3 tenses together	Les Loisirs Talking about leisure activities & interests in celebrities, TV & digital technology Making social arrangements & buying tickets Present tense conjugation - irregular verbs Adjectival agreement Forming and answering questions Negatives Using 3 tenses together	Le monde est petit Describing where you live and what you can do there, Weather, Household chores, Daily routine Prepositions, Modal verbs + infinitive, The present tense of reflexive verbs, The perfect tense, Using three tenses together, Understanding questions in different tenses	Le sport en direct Giving opinions on sports Asking for and giving directions Injuries and illness Conversation with a doctor Conducting an interview Comparative structures Using the imperative Key verbs of obligation Asking and answering questions in 3 tenses	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, seprable 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, seprable 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.

