

## Year 8 Summer Curriculum Update April 2024

### YEAR 8 SUMMER TERM OVERVIEW

It has been an incredibly exciting half term for Year 8 with options evening and the selection of their GCSE choices. We have seen a wonderful demonstration of respect and readiness towards our learning environment which has been our focus as a year group. During 'Science Week', we saw a wonderful assembly that was organised and performed by our incredible students – it was a privilege to watch and enjoy – your passion for science and dedication to the task was incredible – it made us so proud to be your head of Year!

Also, a fantastic well done to the boys football team who have won the County Cup, which is a first in a long time for Walton High.

At Brooklands a huge congratulations to 8EHR for their outstanding achievement of positive behaviour points – currently standing at 13533 for the year – this is a fantastic effort for every single member of the tutor group. Also, a huge congratulations for 8VRG who have the highest attendance percentage as a group in Year 8 – this is a brilliant way to show that you are 'ready' to learn with 94.1% attendance as a whole group.

At Walnut Tree 8SAW has the most positive behaviour points with a total of 9,061 and the best ratio of 96% positive to negative points. It is fantastic that 6 students have gained over 400 positive behaviour points, 33 students with over 350 recorded and we also have 42 students who have no negatives at all. Keep up the great work.

We hope you had a restful Easter break, and we cannot wait to welcome you back for the next half term of learning and opportunities, with Diversity Day on 23 April and more amazing ALDs to the Space Centre, Legoland, the Rollercoaster project and an exploration of how Science Meets Art.



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

This term students will explore texts linked to the theme of **Children's Rights**.

In the first half term students were introduced to the United Nations Conventions on the Right of Children and applied this knowledge to classic texts based in the Victorian era, such as: *Jane Eyre* and *Oliver Twist*. Students have learnt a range of approaches to reading, analysing and contextualising texts.

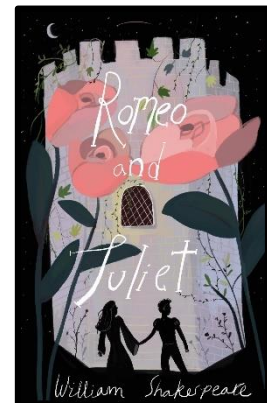


In the second half term, students will look at a range of non-fiction articles and will study the features of writing to interpret and evaluate. They will have the opportunity to debate ideas and produce an argument article inspired by their reading of *Joey: The Small Thief*.

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

This term students are exploring Shakespeare's '*Romeo and Juliet*' through the study of extracts and key scenes. Lesson activities focus on the developing skills in inference and analysis of characters and themes.

Students are enjoying the study of this famous play, particularly the interpretation of relationships between characters. Students will continue their study of the plot, characters, themes and ideas in the second half of the term where they will be assessed on their inference skills in a spoken language presentation, showcasing their ability to articulate ideas.



## MATHS

Throughout the Summer term Year 8 will primarily focus on Powers, Roots, Proportion and Statistics. They will learn how to collect data, how to represent this in different kinds of diagram and most importantly how to interpret and draw conclusions from the data. They will also have the opportunity to do a statistics project 'The average Year 8 student'.



Year 8 will be doing their last formal assessment before the end of the year. Topics assessed will include Geometry, Functions, Sequence, Graph, Equations, Inequalities and Probability.

Some of our top set students have recently taken part in the national Junior Maths Challenge and we wish them the best as we await the outcomes.

## SCIENCE

This term students will test their scientific knowledge and understanding of all topics they have completed in their end of year exam. They will develop scientific skills through numerous experiments and investigations that help answer questions about the world around them. This will equip them with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.



During Biology they venture into 'Our Health and the Effects of Drugs' to cultivate their knowledge and understanding and enable them to make positive future choices. They will have the opportunity to have their voices heard during class debates. Throughout the 'Using our Earth Sustainably' chemistry topic they will investigate the impact that we have on our planet. Then use their new-found knowledge to be part of the solution.

Science week was a great success with enrichment activities in lessons and challenges during lunchtimes.

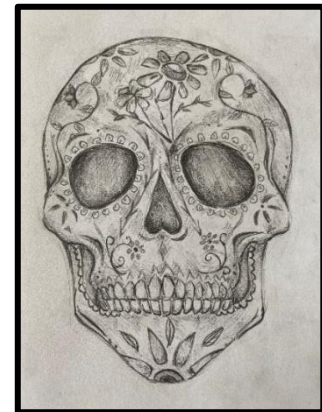
KS3 Science club has continued throughout last term with students performing activities including designing suspension bridges, turning bronze coins to silver then gold and determining the energy contained in food. In the summer term the Science club will change into Eco club to take advantage of Walton High's outdoor facilities and the better weather. KS3 Science club runs on a Tuesday 3:15-4:15 at Walnut Tree and Wednesday 3:15-4:15 at Brooklands.

Year 8 will also have the opportunity this term to take part in the Science Meets Art in an upcoming ALD.

## ART

Students at Brooklands, who study Art in their creative rotation will be influenced by Urban Art to create a multi-layered typography outcome. Students will learn about graffiti developing beyond street art and evolving into gallery worthy masterpieces. Students will explore a range of materials, processes and techniques including stitch, stenciling and print, and develop strong design skills through this unit. In addition to this, students will work on a botanical based project where they use their skills to create a 3D outcome, combining some of the techniques which they have explored in Year 7.

Students at Walnut Tree who study Art in their creative rotation will be engaging in a Day of the Dead Project. Students will experience 2D outcomes exploring pencil, acrylic paint and producing a final skull design. This project aims to build on observational skills and focus on accurate colour mixing. Students will explore the illustrative work of Tim Burton and analyse his work to improve their subject specific vocabulary linking to Flex your Lexis. In addition to this, students will work on a botanical based project where they use their skills to create a 3D outcome, combining some of the techniques which they have explored in Year 7.



A homework project accompanies each creative rotation, so please ask your child about their plans for their independent outcome. Homework is set on Firefly for students to refer to after the lesson.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Throughout this term students will start their journey into the world of Python programming. Year 8's will start off with learning what an Algorithm is to properly plan out their programs. Through this they will learn the theory and syntax needed to start to solve set problems and challenges using Python. To download a free version of the software to use to practice at home click on the below links:



Python for windows PC:

<https://www.python.org/downloads/windows/>

Python for mac OS: <https://www.python.org/downloads/macos/>

Do come along to our support sessions on Tuesdays in BE2 at Walnut Tree and on Thursdays in BC6 at Brooklands to help you enhance your learning in this topic.

## CREATIVE MEDIA

What would you like to be when you grow up? The art of travel vlogging was on the agenda for Year 8s. Working in groups, students have researched and presented their findings about a holiday destination. Airline fares, transport, hotels, local attractions, points of interest, currency exchange rates, local cuisines and delicacies! You name it, our Year 8s are well informed. Whilst developing their presentation skills, each vlog was recorded in front of a state-of-the-art green screen. The final edit includes music, voiceovers and images.



## DANCE

This half term students have been introduced to contact work and safe lifting. Students have learnt the key safety elements to consider whilst exploring certain counterbalances and counter tensions through practical exploration before piecing these together to create a duet using the stimulus 'water'.



Next half term students also work through an intense application of dance activities in a series of tier two classes that put movement and dance at the forefront of great fitness routines because they develop core strength, balance, stamina, spring and stretch. We hope that students become interested in a fitness activity that they use on the summer months and beyond.

## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



Through design, experimentation and practical application, students are building on prior learning of timbers, as well as new knowledge – mechanical movement.

## DRAMA

We go back in time this term by looking at Greek theatre and how chorus and unison were used in drama right from early days. We learn how to use chorus and unison by adapting the well-known myth of Prince Theseus and the Minotaur. By the end of this unit we draw on group skills, devising skills, leadership skills and performance skills to retell a myth that puts the bravery of young people at the heart of a story.

We finish the year with a summative unit that in a similar way to Greek Theatre adapts a well-known story, this time a fairy style into a different genre, say comedy or horror. These units tests all the skills learnt over this two-year course and students usually create a final performance that is strong, moving and powerful. It is great to celebrate their time together over these two years.



Watch out for our MKET's got Talent competition this term and Art on a Summers Evening to end the year.

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

Students will build on knowledge learnt in Year 7 adding more detail and understanding of the Science of Food. They will cover healthy eating in more detail looking at macronutrients and micronutrients and the functions in the body. They will enhance their knowledge on food safety and



hygiene by learning about conditions for bacteria growth and food poisoning. Students will develop their practical skills managing heat on a hob, sauce making, dough making and finishing skills. Student will prepare for GCSE Food by developing their skills in investigating ingredients and researching and evaluating.

## GEOGRAPHY

In Geography, Year 8 students will conclude their Key Stage 3 studies by turning their attention to the continent of Europe. We will develop our map skills by looking at how the height and shape of the land is shown and looking at landforms across the continent and how they can be formed and change over time.

Students will consolidate their learning from the past two years by creating group projects about a variety of Geographical themes from the continent – looking at events, biomes and landforms.

Finally, students will look at the differences between East and West Europe and the impact of this.



Students with a keen interest are encouraged to attend the geography enrichment club. We will also be encouraging students to take part in the Royal Geographical Society's 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition, launched this term.

## HISTORY



The military campaigns of World War II dominated the first part of the Summer Term for Year 8 with work being undertaken on significant events such as the evacuation of Dunkirk, the Battle of the Atlantic and the D Day landings. The World War II Scheme of Learning gives repeated opportunities for students to develop their grasp of turning points as well as helping them to place each historic event within the broader historical context of the war.

The History Curriculum Area, at Walton High, ensures that students are exposed to a wealth of human stories in the latter part of the Summer Term, when students spend time examining and reflecting upon the Home Front, the bombing of Hiroshima and the Holocaust. There are a number of great historical fiction reads set at the time of World War II, suitable for Year 8 students, held in the school library. Suggested reading lists can be found in the 'Student' section on Firefly.

## LANGUAGES

### FRENCH

Year 8 students will learn how to describe where they go on holiday and how they normally travel, as well as the different types of accommodation they can stay in. They will use their prior knowledge to say which free time activities they normally do on holiday. They will also make use of the future and past tenses to say where they went on holiday last year and where they will go next year. They will finish the year with a cultural project about the Paris Olympics.



### SPANISH



Students will be learning about careers and jobs with a close focus on careers in the tourism industry. This topic will enable students to think about their future and broaden their horizon to different types of careers in the Spanish speaking world. They will learn to talk about their ideal lifestyle and discuss advantages and disadvantages of certain professions. This will improve their communication skills and their understanding of the world around them.

## GERMAN

This term, Year 8 are doing lots of work on the perfect tense in German. They are currently learning about activities in the past tense and learning how to form the perfect tense with regular and irregular verbs. They will then move on to describing a holiday in the past, using their knowledge of countries and activities. They will finish the year with a cultural project looking at the Berlin '36 Olympics and its impact on Germany and the Olympic movement.



## LATIN

In this final term students will be completing cultural projects about the origins of Latin culture, famous people, landmarks and important technological developments that continue to affect our world today.



## MUSIC



Students are working on Variation form, exploring musical devices to compose a set of variations. In the final half term students will explore a range of ensemble opportunities combining voices, keyboards, drums and ukulele.

## PE

In lessons this term students will be developing their skills and knowledge in athletics track and field lessons, striving to maintain and improve on distances and times achieved in Year 7. As well as athletics, striking and fielding lessons in cricket and rounders will focus on implementing tactical game play and strategies to support their skill development.

Attendance to the summer term clubs has been brilliant with rounders, cricket and gym all available to students so come along and get involved. We also have an external cricket coach from the ECB coming to support our cricket club so come along for some expert tutelage.





## PHILOSOPHY

Students have completed their exploration of Christianity by looking the question 'Is there life after death?' This has involved investigating the death and resurrection of Jesus. Students have taken on the role of detective and investigated the mystery of where the body of Jesus has disappeared to?



Who might have been motivated to take it and why?

Following this, students have immersed themselves in the world of Saudi Arabia at the time of the emergence of Islam. Students will explore the early life of the Prophet Muhammad and the origins of the Islamic religion to conclude their study of the 6 major world religions, set within six major philosophical and ethical questions.