Curriculum Information
Spring 2015-16
Year 8

Non Mihi, Non Tibi, Sed Nobis
English as a 1st Language (Ms Emily Cosnett)

This term, the focus will be on using a literary text as an inspiration for a piece of creative writing. The students will specifically study Gillian Clarke’s poem ‘Cold Knap Lake’ and consider how a childhood memory can affect us, and how memory is susceptible to change. The students will then produce their own piece of creative writing about a childhood memory of their choice, employing the same techniques as Gillian Clarke including figurative language, varied punctuation and sentence structures and sensory description.

English as a 2nd Language (Mr. Michael Hayes)

Students will be studying the novel ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar. In the first part of the term they will focus on creative writing based on the text, creating a leaflet and later a newspaper article. Students will then move onto more analytical tasks - for example, writing a PEA paragraph and using the narrative voice. They will be able to write empathetically from the point of view of a character in the novel in the form of a diary entry. All graded tasks will be based on skills needed for the Checkpoint exam at the end of Year 9.

Maths (Ms. Yogeswari Boghan)

This term, students will be learning about four main components: Numbers (fraction, decimal and percentage); Expressions, equations and formulae (solving linear equations, substitution and formulae); Geometry (angles and coordinates) and Transformations (Reflection, rotation, translation, combination of transformation, enlargement and scale drawing). These contents are all underpinned by problem solving which provides a structure for the application of mathematical skills. Besides that, mental strategies are also a key part of the Numbers topic.

Science (Ms. Hui Yen - Biology; Mr John - Chemistry; Mr John - Physics)

Biology: The majority of the topics this academic year will cover the different systems found in the human body, from the digestive system to the reproduction system. Students started off this term by learning about blood content. They will be exposed to the circulatory systems in our body and learn the importance of being fit and learn the reasons why people have heart attacks or strokes. This will then lead on to the respiratory system where students learn how lungs and their surrounding structure helps us to inhale and exhale. Students will also spend some time learning to identify trends in experimental results and how to communicate their findings in a written form.

Chemistry: Students will be studying the unit of Material properties. Students will learn how to differentiate elements, compounds and mixtures, to know the differences between metals and non-metals, to know some of the methods of separating mixtures such as filtering, decanting, evaporation, distillation, fractional distillation and chromatography, and how metals are separated from their ores.

Physics: Students will be studying the unit of Forces which includes speed (interpreting simple distance-time graphs) and acceleration (interpreting speed-time graphs), and how to present results in tables and graphs.
**History (Ms Jan Crompton)**

Students this term will continue with their exploration of the overarching question for Year 8: How have peoples around the world gained their rights? For the UK section of this question, we shall be studying workers’ rights in Industrial Britain, with a study of how the working classes struggled within the rapid Industrialization of the 19th Century. Students will then consider the methods some ordinary people took to gain more power in parliament, firstly looking at the Chartist movement and then focusing specifically on rights for women with a study of the Suffragettes.

**Geography (Ms Elena Kathiraven)**

This term our topic is ‘Weathering, rivers and coasts’. The aim of this unit is to understand how river valleys and coasts are affected by erosion, transportation and deposition. Students will also learn how coastal erosion could cause severe problems for people. They will be looking at methods used to help reduce coastal erosion, such as sea walls, groynes or rip-rap. The second half of this term will focus on different types and distribution of farming, how farming affects the landscape and how the farming industry has changed in recent years.

**ICT (Miss Shafinaz)**

In the first half term, students will be exploring the spreadsheet using Ms Excel. Students will refine models with rules and variables, create simple models and using the sort and absolute cell references in models. Students will also use formulae and operators to perform spreadsheet calculations and will present the information in charts. In the second half term, students will learn about data handling. This unit covers designing a simple questionnaire, creating a simple data structure, entering and checking data for validity, creating new information from data, sorting and searching a simple database and drawing conclusions from data.

**Business Studies (Ms Elena Kathiraven)**

During the first half of this term, students will learn about Market Structure. Students will learn how a handful of dominant firms may have sufficient market power to restrict competition and influence the market price in their favour. They will also look at some monopolies that are able to spend a large amount of money on product improvements and more efficient production processes. The second half of this term will be dedicated to Advertising. Advertising is often used to create a brand image for a product to grab the attention of consumers and tempt them away from rival products.
**Mandarin as a 1st Language (Ms Pang Sook Yee)**

Students will develop their understanding of techniques used in fiction and descriptive writing. Lessons will focus on their descriptive writing during this term, especially the flashback writing skill. Through these lessons, they will also improve their narrative skills and will evaluate some good essays. They will also be encouraged to read more Mandarin story books by recording in their Mandarin Reading Report Card. At the end of the term, students will be able to write compositions of around 400 words.

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**Mandarin as a 2nd Language (Ms. Soon Saw Imm)**

Students will be focusing on practical day-to-day vocabulary. The topics that will be focused on this term are “weather” and “holidays”. Students will use brainstorming techniques as well as creating mind maps to further enhance their creative writing. This will enable them to also look at the construction of compound and complex sentences in their writing. The students will also be exposed to descriptive texts which are on a particular theme; the subsequent grammar and vocabulary will be related to this. Listening skills and speaking skills will be improved through the Chinese Made Easy CD. The students will be expected to write 60-80 words using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structures.

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**Bahasa Malaysia as a 1st Language (Ms. Rabiahtul Bazariah)**

Throughout this term in Bahasa Malaysia, Year 8 students will be working around the topics of sports and healthy living. They will be developing their skills in all four areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be exploring different styles of writing in Bahasa such as script writing for drama with the title “Dendam”, narration and factual text. They will continue to work in groups as well as independently and will have the opportunity to expand their grammatical knowledge in order to further manipulate the language. There will also be opportunities for some project based learning so that students can work collaboratively to explore new areas of the curriculum.

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**Bahasa Malaysia as a 2nd Language (Ms. Pattmagowri Muniandy)**

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### French (Ms Harriet)

Year 8 will be looking at the unit of work around school and daily life. We will look at how French schools differ from British schools, making comparisons and expressing opinions. They will also describe their routine, learning how to conjugate reflexive verbs. We will also be developing our understanding of the use of the negative and how to use the verb ‘vouloir’ with an infinitive.

In the second half term, students will be talking about family, making introductions and descriptions. We will also be learning how to talk in the past tense and use expressions of time which will develop students’ writing and add interest to their work. We will also learn more about demonstrative adjectives.

### Art and Design (Mr Hasfis)

This term, Year 8 will be studying about basic design process. They will be exposed to design skills such as perspective drawing, rendering, idea-exchange and model making skills. They will use new media such as markers, air dry clay, design paper and so on. The focus point is to let them learn about something new and engage their interest in art. They also will improve their skills in drawing and colouring. They also will present their work to the class and boost their confidence about their work.

### Performing Arts (Ms Ellie Saunders)

Music this term is about chords and composing using harmony. The pupils will develop their aural awareness alongside theoretical knowledge. The pupils will use the keyboards as their main compositional tools. As always, the pupils will continue to expand their musical vocabulary. The second half term will be focused on writing in groups, developing the same harmonic understanding from half term one.

In drama, the pupils will look at an emotionally challenging topic called ‘Let Him Have It’ which surrounds the issue of capital punishment. The pupils will share their opinions and develop ideas as they devise a piece in small groups. By working together and providing peer feedback within their groups and to other groups, they will also develop a critical approach to playwriting.

### Physical Education (Mr. Kam Yin Boey)

This term, group 1 will complete a unit on Netball, where they will learn about the different positions on the court and the legal areas that each position can go. Students will complete a range of activities that will improve key skills required to perform well in netball including different types of passing techniques (and knowing when to use each), using the pivot effectively, catching a ball with control and moving to create space for their teammates. Group 2 will complete a unit of Rounders this term, learning about ways to score points for their team when batting and also when fielding. Students will complete a range of activities to improve their ability to hit a ball with good contact and bowl legally with more accuracy. Basic catching and throwing techniques will also be recapped throughout the unit.
Personal, Social, Health Education (Mr Andy Crompton)

This term, students will focus upon the theme of Healthy Living. During the first half-term, students will explore the theme of physical health; during the second half-term, they will explore the theme of emotional and mental health. Students will consider how they can maintain healthy lifestyles through regular exercise, sleep habits and through well-judged choices about what they eat and drink. In the second part of the unit, students will consider a range of habits and strategies that will protect their emotional health. Through discussion and reflection activities, students will think about positive models of behaviour and occasions when problematical choices need to be made about prospective actions and about the potential effects of those actions. As they progress through the unit, students will develop collaborative skills and essential literacy skills. Lesson activities will include collaborative investigation, pair and group discussion, independent reflection and writing for a range of purposes.

Sejarah (Ms. Rabiahtul Bazariah)

This term students will be exposed to various interesting topics about Malaysia, including The Indian Culture and Indigenous People in Malaysia. These topics will cover the short history about migration, geographic distribution, education, cuisine, media and performing arts. Students will gain knowledge about Malaysian society from various perspectives, as well as help children develop the skills required in the modern world - to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions properly and to have the confidence to express their own opinion.
1-square, Tingkat Mahsuri 1,11950 Bayan Lepas, Penang. (Behind PDC)
T: +604 643 1815   E: info@sisgroup.edu.my
## Upcoming Events

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<td>19 January</td>
<td>Year 6/9/11 Parent Workshop</td>
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<td>Thaipusam Holiday</td>
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<td>29 January</td>
<td>International Award Expedition</td>
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<td>1 February</td>
<td>Year 6/9/11 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>1 March – 4 March</td>
<td>Book Week</td>
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<td>14 March</td>
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