



Curriculum Information
Autumn 2017-18
Year 8

Non Mihi, Non Tibi, Sed Nobis

English (Mr David Geary and Ms Karlie Walsh)

This term the pupils will be studying the novel 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo. Within this unit of work the pupils will learn about the social and historical context of the novel, specifically World War One and Britain in 1914, and they will begin to develop an understanding of how the events of that time, including trench warfare, influenced Michael Morpurgo's writing. Furthermore, the pupils will develop a clear understanding of the key characters and themes in the novel. They will be working towards an assessment where they must firstly demonstrate their comprehension skills, and their ability to retrieve key information from a text. Additionally the pupils will begin to develop an understanding of how to analyse the language used by the writer to create a particular theme or character by using the iceberg paragraph structure.

Maths (Ms Yogeswari Boghan and Mr Shahrul)

This term student will be learning about four main components: Numbers (add, subtract, multiply and divide integers, squares, cubes and roots, multiples and factors, rounding, decimal), Expressions (simplifying expressions, expanding brackets, and functions), Shapes (Constructing arc and triangle, bisector, congruency, symmetry) and Measurement (metric units, area, volume and capacity, imperial units). These concepts are all underpinned by problem solving which provides a structure for the application of mathematical skills. Besides this, mental strategies are also a key part of the Numbers topic. The students will also be exposed to actual Cambridge Checkpoint exam-type questions as part of their continuous preparation for the exam when they reach Year 9.

Malay Language (Mrs Rabihtul Bazariah and Mrs Saththiawathy)

The themes for this term include 'Keluarga Kreatif', 'Sekolahku' and 'Sentiasa berhemah, semua selamat'. The main objective is for students to acquire balanced proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking. New vocabulary will be introduced from time to time to enhance their foundation in grammar, reading comprehension, conversation and essay writing. In addition, they will also learn the language by reading newspapers, educational articles and academic papers. During lessons, students will be exposed to three major components throughout the semester: Essay writing (Penulisan), Reading Comprehension (Pemahaman) and Grammar (Tatabahasa). In addition, such lessons will also help students to improve their presentation skills through essay writing and oral presentations.

Sejarah (Mrs Rabihtul Bazariah)

This subject will incorporate project based learning, which requires students to find information on the task or topic given. This term, the students will be exposed to Malaysia and Malaysian history, society, culture, politics and economics. They will be exposed to the local Malaysian eco-system, climate and seasons. Students need to determine the dangers faced by the tropical environment and how to create awareness about saving our environment. They will also have to prepare portfolios or PowerPoint slides to be presented during lessons. The values of 'Straits Seven' and 'IDEALS' will also be taught to them during the learning process.

Personal, Social and Health Education (Mr Chris Terry)

This term students will explore the first two Round Square IDEALS: Internationalism and Democracy. The Internationalism unit will take the format of a competition in which students will work in groups to research and present rival bids from cities across the world to host the 2024 Summer Olympics. Through this students will learn about their adopted host culture as well as gaining experience at project management, and giving a persuasive presentation in front of their peers. Meanwhile the Democracy unit focus on the rights of minority groups within democracies, how they can be discriminated against and how this can be best tackled both individually and as a society.

French (Mr Michael Hayes)

This term Year 8 will be consolidating their knowledge of French from previous years and using it to adapt to new vocabulary and expand their work. We will be focusing on the four key skills in each lesson: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Students will learn how to communicate about food, school and home and talk about their family and pets in French as well as expressing and justifying their own opinions using connectives. They will develop their ability to construct accurate sentences independently and conjugate verbs in order to talk about other people as well as themselves. The students will be studying French through a variety of mediums, not just the text book 'Tricolore 2', but also authentic French stories, songs, plays and poems as well as creating their own story as a class and individually.

Edmodo Code: qyzvaf

Science (Mr Anthony Binger and Mr John Foo)

Biology: At the beginning of this term, students will be learning further about the need of plants for carbon dioxide, water and light for photosynthesis, and that this process makes biomass and oxygen. Students will be exposed to the organs and functions of the alimentary canal (digestive system), and the function enzymes in digestion. After the half term break, students will learn about food and a balanced diet, and the effects of deficiencies (lacking certain nutrients) to the human body.

Chemistry: Students will learn the characteristics of elements, mixtures, and compounds and be able to distinguish between them. They will learn to explain the change of states, gas pressure and diffusion in terms of particles and the three states of matter. They will gain knowledge about the structure of the atom and be able to name and to give the chemical symbols for the first twenty elements of the Periodic Table.

Physics: Students will learn about the concepts of light energy and its characteristics. They will learn about how light travels and the formation of shadows, and how non-luminous objects are seen. They will develop an understanding of the laws of reflection and refraction. They will investigate the dispersion of white light using prisms, and understand about colour addition and subtraction, and the absorption and reflection of coloured lights.





History (Ms Maryam Wallace)

This term Year 8 will be exploring the topic of the British Empire, firstly through the era of the Empire in America, and secondly through the British in India. Pupils will explore why Britain built an Empire, factors leading to the development of the Empire, and the problems the Empire created for the British. Pupils will also delve into the complicated relationship the British had with the Indians through the role of Gandhi in British India.

Pupils will be consolidating the skills of extended essay writing already developed in Year 7 whilst developing new skills of source analysis and the questioning of evidence. Through these topics students will develop the ability of writing balanced, evaluative essays with structure and accurate use of evidence. In addition, pupils will be exposed to a range of source types and begin to explore the different ways of interpreting historical evidence.

Mandarin as a 1st Language (Ms Pang Sook Yee)

This term, the lessons will focus on the students' descriptive writing, especially flashback writing skills. They will also learn how to rearrange the outlines of their essays to achieve the flashback writing purpose. Through these lessons, they will improve their narrative ability by appreciating some good essays and practice. They will also be encouraged to read more Mandarin story books. At the end of the term, students will be able to write compositions of around 400 words.

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

Students will be learning the language for the purpose of practical communication in daily life. This term, the students will focus on the topics 'colour' and 'clothing'. The students will use brainstorming techniques as well as creating mind maps to further enhance their creativity in terms of writing skills. 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 theme-based and the subsequent grammar and vocabulary will be related to this. Listening and speaking skills will be improved through the use of the 'Chinese Made Easy CD'. Students will be expected to write 60-80 words using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structures.

Performing Arts (Ms Ellie Saunders)

Music this term will be a composing unit using Fanfares as inspiration. Pupils will develop their understanding of music for a purpose alongside their knowledge of music theory. They will include musical devices and techniques in their Fanfares such as using a key effectively, dotted quavers and arpeggios. Later in the term, we will move onto a performance topic on Reggae and the music of Jamaica.

In Drama this term, the pupils will continue to look at the three key areas of Creating, Performing and Reviewing. We will develop pieces called 'Let Him Have It' around the topic of the death penalty. This challenging topic will allow the pupils to develop strong characters which require carefully devised characterisation techniques including script work.

Art and Design (Mr Mohd Shahrul Hasfis)

This term, students will learn about drawing and painting. For the first half term, they will learn about Penang 'urbanscape' drawing by using a variety of different media and styles. They will experiment with different types of building drawings and will develop new skills by copying the style of other artists. For the next term, they will learn about water colour painting and focus on specific and various styles and techniques. Other than that, they will recap about art critics in order to create a story of their work, improve their ideas and improve their weaknesses.

Geography (Mr Jeff)

The first half of the term students will explore climate change, including the natural and human causes. We will also look at problems that people will face in the future due to climate change and the energy solutions that can help fight climate change. The second half of the term will focus on economic activity. Students will be introduced to primary, secondary and tertiary sectors and cover topics such as farming, manufacturing and tourism and how they change as a country develops.

Humanities (Mr Jeff)

The first half of the term students will be reviewing a number of important Geography skills that are paramount to them having success in Geography lessons in their school career. Once review is completed, students will then delve into a number of methods to display geographical information and the strengths and weaknesses of each. Finally, students will be creating their own displays based on information that they researched and collected in class. The second half of the term students will be practising the ability to identify different landforms from OS maps and creating their own cross sections.

ICT (Mrs Haniza Hussin)

During this term, students will learn two main topics: Finding and Presenting Information and Web Design and Creation. For the Presenting Information topic they will focus more on case studies involving fake information published on websites and evaluate them. They will be asked to identify and evaluate some of the famous wiki sites and evaluate the content in those sites. For the Web Designing topic, students are exposed to HTML tags and CSS tags. Students are expected to use software to create a basic website. They will also explore some advanced level software and programming languages for website designing.

Physical Education (Ms Rowan, Mr Dennis and Mr Vinod)

During this term, students will participate in Touch Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. Students will learn techniques to improve accuracy for throwing and catching while on the move during modified games and team play. Students will develop an understanding how to score points, while improving agility for defence and teamwork. During the second half of term, students will participate in a variety of running events, ranging from short to long distance and learn how to be competitive. Students will learn the correct technique for a crouch start in sprinting events and how to run more efficiently by co-ordinating the movement of key body components. Throwing and jumping techniques will be a focus for field events within the Athletics unit.

Business Studies (Ms Lily Ho)

In the Autumn term students will learn about basic business trading. They will investigate how individuals and groups attempt to satisfy basic needs and wants by utilizing scarce resources. Students will then investigate how the Marketing and Research and Development departments work by producing a new chocolate bar for a specific target audience. They will need to explore the full process and fabricate the same process for their new product.



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Upcoming Events

28 August 2017	First Day of Autumn Term
21 September 2017	Malaysia Day School Celebration
22 September 2017	Awal Muharram (Islamic New Year)
13 October 2017	Deepavali School Celebration
14-22 October 2017	Half Term Break
18 October 2017	Deepavali
26 October 2017	Halloween Disco
1 December 2017	Prophet's Birthday
18 December 2017	Parents Evening
19 December 2017	Christmas School Celebration
19 December 2017	Last Day of School