



The Year 8 team and myself are very much looking forward to a new term of teaching our class. This term is a short term but packed with lots of fun and interesting learning!

### **English and History**

In English this term, the students will be learning about Charles Dickens and the book *Oliver Twist*. Students will read *Oliver Twist* as well as watch an adaptation of *Oliver Twist*. Students will produce fact files about Charles Dickens and explain why he was so important to Britain, improve their knowledge of descriptive and figurative language to describe and analyse characteristics of the main characters of *Oliver Twist*.

In line with *Oliver Twist* and workhouses, in History students will be looking at the Industrial Revolution. Within this topic, students will be looking at the following: Cotton Production, Steam Engines, Iron and Coal and Children at Work

You can always help by reading together, either aloud or just encouraging them to make time to read at home. We will be using the school library regularly and will also have a book box that relates to our learning in the classroom. The best homework is to read regularly and this will have the greatest impact on progress, regardless of how fluently they are able to read.

## **RSHE**

We will be exploring and discussing the following topics: Learning Skills, Choices and Pathways, Work and Career and Employment.

## **Philosophy and Ethics**

During this term, students will be learning about Buddhism.

## **Maths**

Across all of the stages in Maths, the students will be learning about statistics and measure.

## **Science**

In Science this half-term Year 8 will be studying the topic Inheritance and Selection. This Biology topic gives an introduction to genetics, DNA and the different ways in which species have evolved over time.

## **Computer Science**

In Computer Science this half term, students will be developing their skills on vector graphics.

## **Art**

In art lessons this half term, we will be continuing with the same project on 'Landscapes'. We will explore the impact of the industrial revolution on landscape artwork, making connections to history lessons, as well as exploring sustainability and climate change. We will then refine our ideas to design and create a final piece.

## **PE**

Year 8 students will be learning about table tennis and volleyball.

## **Music**

In music, we will be learning about the origins of the ukulele and beginning to play simple chord patterns, starting firstly with 'Three Little Birds' by Bob Marley. Towards the end of the half term we will look at how to play simple melodies and learning the basics of ukulele tab.

**Drama**

Characterisation and Role-play - Creating superheroes.

**Homework**

In Year 8, homework will be encouraged but optional. It has the most impact when it is relevant and curriculum related and whenever possible, we will seek to ensure it relates to some aspect of our classroom learning. Please speak to me if you think your child could manage more or needs less!

If you have any questions or want to let us know about anything your young person is achieving or concerned about outside of school or at home, please do let me know. We will be delighted to work together and it is very important to us to see your whole child, not just their school bit!

[jhayes@allsaintslessingham.co.uk](mailto:jhayes@allsaintslessingham.co.uk)