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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

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Headteacher: Ms S Dangerfield

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 8! I wanted to get in touch and let you know our plans for this Half Term. Mrs Parmenter and I feel very excited about the term ahead and are looking forward to getting to know our lovely new Year 8 class better.

As you are aware I am currently on Paternity leave until Monday September 15th and Mr Berryman is taking the class until then.

If you would like to support your child's learning at home, we thought it would be helpful for you to have a more detailed idea of what we are learning about...

Poetry

English and Geography will be connected this Half Term – reading the book 'If the World Were a Village'. As we look at this story, the students will be given a wider view of our planet and its human inhabitants, informing us of: who we are, where we live, how fast the planet is growing, which languages we speak and what religions we practice. We will be discussing the common misconceptions of poetry such as, 'how poems **have** to rhyme' and 'there is only one type/genre of poetry'. We will look at a number of famous poets, identifying key components of poetry, different forms of poetry, meanings of poems and creating our own poems.

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.

Geography (Humanities)

We will start the year with a Geography focus. We will be looking at Globalisation, Population and Urbanisation, analysing the world's population and population pyramids, discussing what factors can affect the population, and determining what 'pushes' and 'pulls' someone to a country. We will also be investigating the types of jobs that people can do and how they vary depending on a country's level of development. We will be developing our graph drawing skills by drawing our own population pyramid of the UK.

RSHE

We shall be exploring and discussing the following topics; Self-concept, Mental Health, and well-being.

Interventions

We will be exploring many different areas of Personal Development, building on our speech and language skills and discovering new memory aides. Within the first couple of weeks, we will be setting personal targets and recording them in planners - please have a look and let us know if you see anything at home which supports the target.

Maths

We recognise the diversity of our students and the support that is needed to develop mathematical fluency, reasoning and potential in each student. In order to achieve this, Maths is taught in “Stages” (based on students’ current mathematical understanding) rather than in year groups. This allows teaching to be focused at a level appropriate to students and allows teachers to support any gaps in understanding, misconceptions and allows for consolidation of topics.

Across the stages, this term focuses on the core concepts of place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division. Underpinning this is our aim to develop each student’s confidence, fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills. In the coming weeks, look out for an email explaining how students can be supported at home with the learning and development of their times tables.

Science

In Science this term Year 8 will be studying the topic Health, Fitness and Disease. This topic aims to teach students the names and functions of some major organs in the human body, but also considers aspects of personal health, particularly the way the body responds to exercise and different types of disease, both contagious and non-contagious. We will also be studying the topic Atoms, Elements and Compounds. This develops students’ understanding of atoms as the things that make up all matter and introduces the periodic table.

As always we will have a big focus on the keywords and knowledge required to understand the topic, but also development of scientific thinking skills through practical activities.

Useful website: BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zng4d2p>

Computer Science

Learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of networks, to appreciate the internet as a network of networks which need to be kept secure. They will learn that the World Wide Web is part of the internet, and will be given opportunities to explore the World Wide Web for themselves in order to learn about who owns content and what they can access, add, and create. Finally, they will evaluate online content to decide how honest, accurate, or reliable it is, and understand the consequences of false information.

Art

Human figure- In Year 8, we will start by investigating the history of the human figure in art, exploring artists such as Antony Gormley and Frida Kahlo to discover how these people saw and interpreted human beings in their artwork. Developing self-portraits and using modelling wire to create a sculpture.

PE

In practical PE this half term year 8 students will be learning about football and dodgeball. In football they will work on skills such as passing, shooting and dribbling. In dodgeball they will work on skills such as throwing, dodging, catching and blocking.

Music

In music this term, year 8 will be exploring performance through Boomwhackers, using the pentatonic and major scales. We will also spend time working together as an ensemble and learning to follow a conductor to create music.

Drama

This term year 8 will be continuing to develop their drama skills and exploring mime as an art form.

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!

Mr Hayes and the Year 8Team

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