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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Directors: Mrs R Smith and Mrs J Gardiner
Headteacher: Ms S Dangerfield

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Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start off by saying how proud Year 8s made me while I was on Paternity Leave, working so hard and producing such amazing work!

It is incredible that it is already time to write and tell you what we will be learning about this half term. We have had a very productive half term, working hard, having fun and making some wonderful connections between different areas of the curriculum, which has been superb.

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:

English

During this term, students will be learning how to speak and write persuasively! They will create persuasive leaflets, persuade people to attend our school as well as create an advert to persuade people to visit Japan; our focus will be all around Japan and this will link with our Geography lessons of Asian countries. Our reading book this term will be 'My Awesome Japanese Adventure'. This is a book all about the adventures of someone visiting Japan, and discussing the culture, traditions, and places of interest within Japan.

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.

Useful Website - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zg3496f#z2xsf82>

Geography

In Geography we will be starting a new topic World Geography with a specific focus on the continent of Asia. We will look at specific countries from this continent including India, China and Japan. Within this we will look at human geography features including population, The Great Wall of China and look at regional differences within China. We will also look at physical geography features such as the Indus River and natural resources.

Useful website: [China introduction](#)

Skills we will be focusing on this half term include using an Atlas to locate countries in Asia and producing a piece of work comparing two countries in Asia.

RSHE

We shall be exploring and discussing the following topics: Drugs, alcohol and tobacco; Managing Risk and Personal Safety; Puberty and Sexual Health.

Interventions

We will continue to explore many different areas of Personal Development, building on our Speech and Language skills, and discovering new memory Aides.

Philosophy and Ethics

Students shall continue to look at Crime and Punishment, discussing capital punishment. Students will also highlight features of a democracy and alternatives to democracy and finally create a presentation to identify the UK's main political parties.

Maths

During this half term, students will be learning about the following topics: Multiplication and Division, Geometry, Time and Money (Stages A-D) or Algebra (Stage E and F). Students will also continue to focus on the learning and recall of times tables. Students can be supported at home with times tables learning through working on TT Rockstars and/or recall practice with parents/carers at home (please see your child's planner for details of which times table they are focusing on and TT Rockstars login).

Science

In Science this term Year 8 will be continuing to study two topics. Health, Fitness and Disease 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>

Computing

In this unit, entitled "Representations: From Clay to Silicon", students will be introduced to the idea that humans have used symbols to record, process and transmit information for many, many years. We will introduce binary digits to the learners as the symbols computers use to perform these information-based tasks and focus on the representation of text and numbers.

Art

In art lessons, year 8 students will continue to explore the theme 'Human Figure'. After developing an understanding of the history of the human figure, students will now begin to explore Japanese anime and manga artwork in relation to the human figure.

PE

In PE this half term Year 8 students will be introduced to skills and knowledge in gymnastics at North Walsham Gymnastic Centre and basketball at Broadland Sports Centre.

Music

In music this half term, year 8 will be exploring the keyboards, looking specifically at how we build chords. We will be performing *Lean on Me* and *Heart and Soul* on the keyboards and filming our performances.

Drama

This half term we will be introducing and exploring new drama techniques and skills – using mime and non-verbal communication as our focus

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!

Students will also be visiting both Tolhouse Gaol and Time and Tide Museum as part of their Philosophy and Ethic studies and will be visiting Norwich City as part of their social intervention and Geography work.

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, Mrs Parmenter and Mrs Montgomery

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