



ALL SAINTS SCHOOL  
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## **ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL**

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

January 2026

A Happy New Year to all the Year 8 families! The Year 8 team and myself are very much looking forward to a new term of teaching our class. Thank you for all the lovely messages and gifts you sent at the end of last term, we were both very touched and enjoyed opening them on Christmas morning!

### **English**

In English this term, we will be looking at Shakespeare and Romeo and Juliet. We will be learning about who Shakespeare was and themes of Romeo and Juliet. Students will have the opportunity to either perform or/and direct an extract from Romeo and Juliet to perform in front of the class. Students will also complete an end of term assessment all around what they have learnt about Romeo and Juliet.

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 Links:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrxwy9q>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfdj6sg/articles/zwdybqt#z6fc8p3>

### **RSHE**

We will be exploring and discussing the following topics: Positive Relationships, Relationship Values, Forming and maintaining respectful relationships

### **Philosophy and Ethics**

During this term, students will be learning about Pressure Groups, Media and Censorship

### **Humanities**

Humanities will have a **history** focus in the Spring term. We will be focusing on an interesting topic - The Transatlantic Slave Trade. This includes looking at the history of the slave trade and the abolition of the slave trade. We will also look at the legacy that the Slave Trade left behind. We will be putting our Historian hats on and looking at sources and evidence to consider conditions for the slaves on the ships and how the slaves would have felt during this time.

Whilst we are mainly focused on History this term, there will still be some key geography skills e.g. mapping the Slave Trade route.

Useful bitesize link here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkfn9q#z3jbvwx>

## **Maths**

In Maths we will be looking at the topics of Addition and Subtraction as well as Multiplication and Division. Students will continue to work on Maths in the groups that provide them with the right amount of challenge and support. Students are able to practice their times tables using TTRockstars (the link is included below)

<https://trockstars.com/>

## **Science**

In Science this half-term Year 8 will be studying the topic Waves, Light and Sound. This physics topic gives an introduction to Waves, compares the differences between light and sound and identifies uses of both. Year 8 will also be studying Inheritance and Selection, which is a Biology topic that introduces ideas about how species are formed and how they are different. Students will also be introduced to DNA, genetics and genetic diseases.

## **Art**

In art lessons, year 8 students will be exploring landscape art while considering the work of artists, including Turner and Goldsworthy. The artists chosen reflect a more gentle and sensitive approach to the land and ask questions about sustainability and climate change. Students will develop skills in line, shape and perspective while working with a variety of materials to create realistic and imagined landscapes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrnb9ty#z24n3qt>

## **Computing**

In Computing this half term, students will be further developing their programming skills using Scratch.

## **P.E**

In practical PE this half term year 8 students will be learning about Badminton and Fun Fitness.

## **Music**

In music this half term year 8 will be exploring British Folk music, studying artists such as Mumford and Sons, The Pogues and Kate Rusby. We will be arranging our own versions of standard folk songs and putting our own stamp on timeless classics.

## **Drama**

This half term, using a classroom set text, we will be developing our social and communication skills through characterisation and role-play.

## **Homework**

In Year 8 homework for core subjects will be encouraged. 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!

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