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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

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

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.

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.

Important resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z4j32sg>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52669132>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zrpw47h>

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

In Maths we will be looking at the topic of Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. 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/>

Humanities

Humanities will continue to have a **History** focus for the rest of the spring term. We will be focusing on an exciting topic - The Industrial Revolution. This includes cotton production, steam engines, iron, coal and looking at children in the workplace.

Through this topic we will be recapping some of our geographical ideas of urbanisation and industrialisation. Once again we will be putting our Historian hats on and looking at sources and evidence to consider continuity and change!

Useful link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zm7qtfr/articles/z6kg3j6#zsqk4xs>

Science

In Science this half-term Year 8 will be continuing to study the topic Waves, Light and Sound and the Biology topic Inheritance and Selection. Waves is a Physics topic introduces waves, compares the differences between light and sound and identifies uses of both. Inheritance and Selection 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.

Computing

The students will complete a unit entitled "Media - Vector Graphics". This unit offers learners the opportunity to design graphics using vector graphic editing software. By the end of the unit learners will have produced an illustration, a logo, or some icons using vector graphics. Vector graphics can be used to design anything from logos and icons to posters, board games, and complex illustrations. Through this unit, learners will be able to better understand the processes involved in creating such graphics and will be provided with the knowledge and tools to create their own.

Art

In art lessons, year 8 students will continue exploring landscape art , while considering the work of artists, including Turner and Goldsworthy. Students will combine what they have learnt about line, shape and perspective to create a landscape final piece.

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

PE

In practical PE this half term year 8 students will be learning about volleyball and table tennis.

Music

In music this half term we will be looking at ukulele performance, building chord patterns and developing our strumming technique. We will explore performance pieces by Jason Miraz and Vance Joy.

Drama

This half term we will be developing our characterisation skills using Superheroes as our theme.

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!

All homework assignments will be placed within Google Classroom.

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!

Jack Hayes