

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

**LOWER 4 (YEAR 8)**

2021-22



# CURRICULUM POLICY

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**OUR VISION** is to be a leading school in the UK, committed to educational excellence in a caring and happy environment that fosters a life-long love of learning.

**OUR MISSION** is that our team of inspiring teachers will instil in each individual the confidence to excel academically, socially and morally. Through an educational experience designed specifically for girls, we are able to give them the skills and the courage to go out into the world and make a real difference.

**OUR AIMS** are that our students will:

- develop their love of learning
- demonstrate creativity and curiosity
- be socially responsible and compassionate
- become independent and reflective learners
- be culturally aware
- be confident with challenge and change

Our leavers will be equipped to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

The Maynard School defines the curriculum as the totality of the learning experience. We aim to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that stretches and challenges all our learners.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

Lower 4 (Year 8)

A two-week timetable will be issued with 40 minutes per subject.



# ASSESSING AND REPORTING STUDENT WORK

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## HOW WE REPORT ATTAINMENT (YEARS 7-9):

This mark will be used on reports and progress checks and is based on the same mark scheme applied to student work in books/files and standardised assessments.

Grade	Explanation
M	Mastery – work shows full understanding of key concepts and students are able to apply them in different contexts
S	Secure – work shows a secure understanding of key concepts
D	Developing – work shows some understanding of key concepts
E	Emerging – students are struggling with understanding the key concepts

## HOW WE ARE REPORTING EFFORT (YEAR 7-YEAR 13) ON PROGRESS CHECKS AND REPORTS:

Effort is split into 3 categories: “**Home Learning**”, “**Attitude to Learning**” and “**Organisation**”.

Quality of Homework and Class Participation use a four-point scale: “**Outstanding**”, “**Very Good**”, “**Good**”, and “**Needs Improvement**”.

**HOME LEARNING:** This grade represents the effort that appears to be put into homework and its quality (but not necessarily level of attainment reached). We do not expect students to spend more than the allotted time on homework but reward focused engagement with tasks. Not all subjects set homework and may display the mark “n/a”.

**ATTITUDE TO LEARNING:** This grade represents engagement during lessons, for example, working well independently or as part of a group when required, getting on with tasks, using initiative and sharing creative ideas. The attributes of effective learning may include:

- Make appropriate contributions in class discussion
- Take a full part in class activities
- Work cooperatively in groups
- Stay focused on their learning
- Seek help promptly
- Review and reflect on their learning

We expect the majority of our students to be “**Very Good**”. The top band “**Outstanding**” is rarely used, and not all homework or classwork tasks routinely give the opportunity for students to demonstrate this.

“**Organisation**” applies to students being equipped for lessons and ready to learn with the correct books and deadlines met on time. This is graded “**well-organised**”, “**mostly organised**” and “**disorganised**”. We expect “**well-organised**” for all students.

### Organised learners:

- Are punctual to lessons
- Bring books and equipment
- Keep tidy and complete notes
- Record homework tasks accurately
- Meet deadlines

## CURRICULUM SUMMARY

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Art & Design	1 period per week
Biology	1 period per week
Chemistry	1 period per week
Computing	1 period per week
Drama & Theatre Studies	1 period per week
English	4 periods per week
Food & Nutrition	1 period per week
Geography	1 period per week
History	1 period per week
Languages (one from French, Spanish, German, Latin)*	2 periods per week
Mathematics	4 periods per week
Music	1 period per week
PE / Games	3 periods per week
Physics	1 period per week
Religious Studies	1 period per week
Textile Design	1 period per week

\*French can be studied as a second language out of the timetable

All periods are 1 hour in length giving a 25 period per week cycle.

# ART & DESIGN

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mrs A Hurley**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The focus of the Lower 4 Art & Design course is to develop students' imaginative and creative abilities. They will develop their skills using a variety of media in 2D, 3D and digitally. There is an emphasis on developing their direct observational drawing skills. All projects engage students in analysing their own and others' work and reflecting on their progress and achievement.

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

### Natural Form

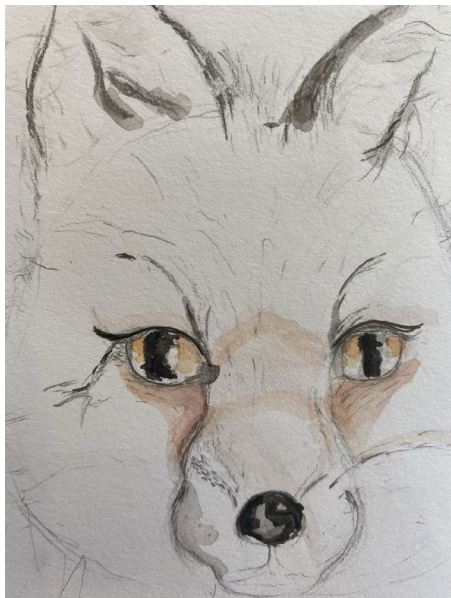
Observational and imaginative mixed media work.

### Fur and Scales

Drawing and illustration.

### Drawing and Pattern

Drawing and designing.



## SKILLS / ATTITUDES

### Natural Form

- Observational studies leading to creative mixed media colour and texture work.

### Fur and Scales

- Developing observational and design skills; using a variety of media, rendering fur and scales.

### Drawing and Designing

- Developing drawing and design skills, using pattern.

### Skills that apply to all projects include:

- Develop drawing skills in different media.
- Study the work of artists related to each project.
- Analyse their own and others' work.
- Research, select, develop and plan own ideas as preparatory work.
- Refine composition/final ideas
- Produce informed and refined 2D/3D outcome.
- Review, reflect and evaluate their own work.

# BIOLOGY

Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Miss J York**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

This is the second year of a 2 year Key Stage 3 course. Students learn the knowledge and skills that give a sound foundation for studying Biology to GCSE. The course is divided into five topic-based units.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

#### Muscles and bones

- The skeletal system
- Muscles and movement
- Joints and movement

#### Microbes

- Microorganisms
- Growing organisms
- Defence against disease
- Vaccines and antibiotics

#### Lungs and gas exchange

- The breathing system
- Gas exchange
- Measuring lung volumes
- The heart and circulatory system

#### Respiration

- Aerobic respiration
- Detecting respiration
- Changes during exercise
- Anaerobic respiration
- Respiration in plants

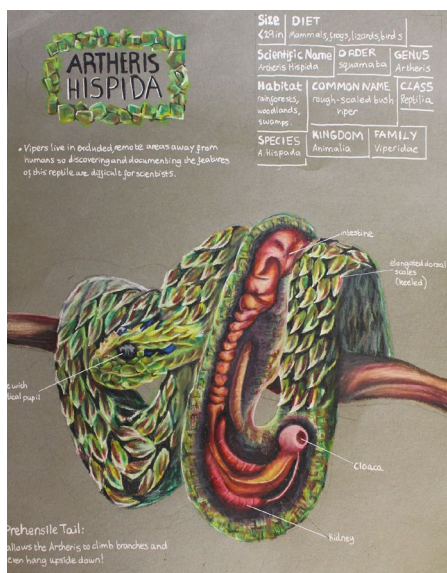
#### Inheritance and evolution

- Variation
- Genes, chromosomes and DNA
- Natural and artificial selection
- Extinction

### WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

Students will learn the following skills in the contexts of the topics studied in Lower 4:

- Planning and carrying out scientific enquiries to test predictions.
- Making measurements and applying mathematical concepts in data analysis. Using tables and graphs.
- Interpreting observations to draw conclusions. Suggesting possible improvements to investigations.





# CHEMISTRY

Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mr I Macdonald**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

This is the second year of a 2 year Key Stage 3 course. Students learn the knowledge and skills that give a sound foundation for studying Chemistry to GCSE. The course is divided into four topic-based units.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

#### Atoms, elements and compounds

- A simple (Dalton) atomic model
- Differences between atoms, elements and compounds

#### The Periodic Table

- The principles underpinning the Mendeleev Periodic Table
- Predicting patterns in reactions using the Periodic Table

#### Extracting Metals

- The reactivity series
- The blast furnace

#### Reactions of acids

- Compounds and acidity
- Introduction to titration

#### Describing reactions

- Representing reactions using formulae & equations
- Different types of reaction

### WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

Students will learn the following skills in the contexts of the topics studied in Lower 4:

- Understanding how the scientific community uses evidence.
- Planning and carrying out experiments to test predictions.
- Applying mathematical concepts in data analysis.
- Using tables and graphs & interpreting observations to draw conclusions.
- Presenting explanations and suggesting further questions arising from their data.
- Evaluating the validity of experiments and suggesting improvements.



# COMPUTING

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mr J Friendship**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The students in Lower 4 will explore Computer Science in greater depth ensuring they are well equipped for GCSE and A-level subjects. A more mature attitude will be taken to e-safety with the students learning ethical hacking, concluding in the creation of an ethical hacking club and competitions at the GCHQ Cyberfirst Girls' Competition.

The students will learn about computing through three distinct learning pathways:

- The National Curriculum (with programming emphasis)
- Computer Training on software they need to extend their learning in all subjects
- E-Safety (keeping students safe in the digital environment)

### NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Understand simple Boolean logic [for example, AND, OR and NOT] and some of its uses in circuits and programming.

Understand how numbers can be represented in binary, and be able to carry out simple operations on binary numbers [for example, binary addition, and conversion between binary and decimal].

Understand the hardware and software components that make up computer systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.

### COMPUTER TRAINING

Understanding Computers. Binary and Hex

Memory, Cache and Secondary Storage

Networking

HTML Coding

Web Development

App Development

3D Printing

Python Next Steps

### E-SAFETY

Ethical hacking – demonstrating online vulnerabilities

Cyber Crime and the Law



# DRAMA

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mrs J Bellamy-Cooper**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

In Lower 4 we begin to explore new techniques around theatre making and devising. We concentrate on text in performance and approaching and creating devised work whether initiated from fact, text or given scenario.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

Introduction to Devising Theatre  
Work using negotiation and critical reflection.

**‘The Diary of Anne Frank’** – using research and group negotiation to create a fully devised group performance piece using full lighting, costume and props.

**‘That’s Unfair!’** Family/Peer Relationships - discussing and practically responding to different stimuli, in order to encourage students to identify with and work out common problems/themes/issues, in various- sized groups.

**Play Reading/Analysis** - extracts from some of the following texts: ‘The Trouble With My Brother’, ‘Frankenstein’, ‘Sherlock Holmes & The Limehouse Horror’, ‘A Feeling In My Bones’.

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

Exploring different structuring techniques to help devise independent and group drama eg - still image, crosscutting, split staging, use of levels, ensemble movement, use of contrast and pace.

Learning to share ideas, discuss problems and look at ways to bring out important feelings and images. Discussion of key themes such as challenging prejudice and identifying oppression. Making sense of ideas and organising them into effective, coherent dramatic pieces. Using lighting, sound, props, mime and still image work to heighten ideas and create atmosphere in order to highlight themes.

Rationalising and developing problem-solving using Forum Theatre. To re-create scenarios from real life where an injustice has occurred and use them as ‘rehearsals for reality’. To practically workshop - conflict resolution, exploring empathy.

Learning to use imaginative and critical faculties, perception and performance skills which bring text to life. Role-playing various characters and using sub-text to rationalise and bring to life aspects of the themes and issues raised by the text.

Assessing and evaluating audience reaction.

# ENGLISH

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mr M Loosemore**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Lower 4 students continue to refine their written skills and begin to develop their appreciation of the English Literary Heritage from studying texts from other periods, as well as promoting cultural understanding by reading texts set in other cultures.

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

Texts are chosen at the class teacher's discretion but must include examples of prose fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction texts. Works covered may include:

### Novels:

- A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- Animal Farm (George Orwell)
- Maggot Moon (Sally Gardner)

### Poetry:

- Conflict poetry

### Drama:

- Shakespeare in performance

### Non-fiction texts:

- Autobiography project
- Magazine project

## SKILLS / ATTITUDES

**Speaking and Listening:** All pupils engage in increasingly challenging role play, debating, drama, discussion, group and paired work. Pupils are introduced to Shakespeare in performance.

**Reading:** Texts are increasingly challenging in content and vocabulary and are investigated in more depth. Pupils discuss and write about language choice and effect with confidence, and learn how to incorporate detailed reference to texts. In poetry more study is made of rhyme, rhythm, structure and form.

**Writing:** Pupils broaden their range of skills to include analytical writing. As well as creating fictional narratives and poems, each pupil must revise the conventions of writing for different purposes (descriptive, persuasive, explanatory and argumentative).

**Spelling, punctuation and grammar:** Pupils develop their vocabulary; emphasis is put on correcting spelling mistakes and revising key spelling rules. Punctuation rules are revisited as necessary and greater import is placed on more ambitious use of punctuation. Pupils are made increasingly aware of how syntax can be manipulated to create a particular effect.

# FOOD AND NUTRITION

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mrs S Fanous**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

At Key Stage 3 we continue to develop the understanding and practice of basic nutrition and healthy eating with particular consideration of the role and function of the current dietary guidelines and how this is applied to everyday meals. Students develop and extend their knowledge of cultural diversity, traditions and ritual foods eaten in the UK and around the world. Students broaden their baking skills and undertake a series of technical and creative baking challenges, through research, designing and developing recipes.

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

### Food Hygiene and safety

- Role and function of the current dietary guidelines for healthy eating and focused practical tasks.
- Starch and fibre, reducing sugar in recipes, fish and carbohydrates.
- World Food Culture and how it influences the food we eat.
- Lower 4 Bake Off challenge



## SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- To extend and develop key cooking skills and to become familiar with adapting recipes.
- To apply knowledge of the Eatwell Guide in recipe selection and food choice.
- To understand and apply the nutritional value of recipes focusing on salt, fat and starchy carbohydrates.
- To understand the importance of fish in the diet.
- To use a range of skills to research World Food Cultures and to design and make a range of suitable dishes. Develop time planning.
- To understand and apply knowledge of the glycaemic index for everyday foods.
- Group and individual, creative and technical baking tasks. Research, time plan, design and develop recipes to be creatively presented.

# FRENCH

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mme C Smith**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

In Lower 4, we provide opportunities for girls to develop and practise the range and complexity of their French enabling them to talk about themselves, their family and friends, their town, their school and daily routine as well as discovering the French geography.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

- Family description (character and physical descriptions).
- Family relationships and marriage.
- Describing your bedroom and your house.
- Describing your town.
- Asking and giving directions/positions.
- Expressing the advantages and inconvenience of countryside vs town
- Talking about issues in your town (environment and others)
- Present and future school studies
- Daily routine
- School rules
- Learning about the French school system

### Grammar

- The present tense in full including all regular verbs, modal verbs (pouvoir, devoir), avoir, être, aller and reflexive verbs
- Negatives
- Adjectival agreements and positions
- Prepositions
- Questions

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- We learn to identify patterns in the French language.
- We develop techniques for memorising words, phrases and spellings.
- We learn to use previous knowledge, context and other clues to work out the meaning of what we hear or read.
- We adapt language we already know in new contexts for different purposes.



# GEOGRAPHY

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mr J Tabb**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

In Lower 4 the curriculum helps pupils enhance understanding and knowledge of places and global issues. Interdependence becomes an important theme and pupils explore the world at different scales. We continue to explore new graphical and GIS skills. We also run a trip to the coast to complete fieldwork and take part in a decision-making exercise.

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

**Population:** Causes of population change, factors affecting birth and death rate. How populations can be predicted and how they change over time. The ways populations can be managed through population policies and the challenges of our changing UK population.

**Power and Borders:** Understanding why we have borders and thinking about how territory is influenced. Considering the opportunities and challenges of migration. Migration between Mexico and the USA. Conflict in the Middle East. Technological borders and control in China and changing borders - Brexit.

**Dynamic Landscapes:** Considering Earth History and Geological timescales. Continental Drift. Geological Hazards. The rock cycle and rock identification.

**Coasts:** Wave formation and characteristics, landforms of erosion and deposition. The challenges of coastal management.

**Coastal Fieldwork:** Fieldwork at the end of Lower 4 is designed to encourage our girls to develop enquiry skills and think through how to design an enquiry, write a methodology and collect data. We use graphical techniques and GIS to present results. Girls learn how to conclude and evaluate their research.

## SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- Debating and synthesising arguments in extended writing and presentations.
- Analysis and construction of climate graphs – drawing annotated diagrams. Measuring the weather/ climate graph analysis in local fieldwork.
- Using GIS to plot fieldwork data.
- Developing graphical skills using Excel.

# GERMAN

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mme C Smith**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Following on from our introductory course we offer a wide variety of activities to allow practice of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. At the same time, we learn to see patterns in the language and develop our understanding of German grammar.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

**Autumn:** Free time and hobbies  
Home

**Spring:** Food and drink  
Local area

**Summer:** Fashion and shopping  
Going on a trip

#### Grammatical focus

- The present tense in full including all regular verbs, modal verbs (dürfen, können, mögen, müssen, sollen, wollen), haben, sein and reflexive verbs
- Word order: inversion and subordinate clauses
- The perfect tense
- The future tense
- The conditional
- Adjectival agreements
- Prepositions and the cases
- Questions
- Comparatives

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- We learn to identify patterns in German.
- We develop techniques for memorising words, phrases and spellings.
- We learn to use previous knowledge, context and other clues to work out the meaning of what we hear or read.
- We adapt language we already know in new contexts for different purposes.



# HISTORY

Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mr J Tabb**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7– 9) the History course explores British History from 1066 to 1945. In Lower 4 our students will focus on the early-modern history, 1500-1750, and undertake a series of enquiries into some of the key events in this period.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

#### Early Modern History 1500–1750

- Brains, beauty or brute force: Who was the most significant Tudor monarch?
- Why did people in the 16th and 17th centuries believe in witchcraft?
- The Renaissance: How were our minds ‘reborn’?
- ‘A world upside down’: Who was most to blame for the English Civil War?
- How devastating was the Great Fire of London?
- Why was there a Revolution in France?

#### Industrial Revolution 1750-1900

- The Industrial Revolution or the British Empire: Which came first?
- What was it like to be a child during the Industrial Revolution?

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- Analysing and evaluating evidence.
- Understanding cause and consequence.
- Exploration of relative importance of several linked causes.
- Development of understanding that change and progress are not the same.
- Understanding chronology and history as narrative.
- Understanding the role of the individual.
- Understanding Britain’s place within the wider world.
- Understanding diversity within Britain.



# LATIN

Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Dr L Keen**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The Lower 4 Latin course continues learning the language in the context of life in Pompeii and Roman Britain.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

**Language:** Be able to identify and translate:

- Nominative, Accusative and Dative cases
- Noun groups
- Personal pronouns
- Comparative and superlative adjectives
- Verb conjugations
- Use of the infinitive
- Translating longer sentences

**Background:** Explore what life was like including:

- Gladiators
- The baths and exercise
- Roman education
- The eruption of Mount Vesuvius
- Celtic and Roman society in first century Britain.

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- Increase understanding of sentence structure.
- Increase skills in analysis and translation.
- Develop derivation awareness.
- Develop memory.
- Latin Reading and Drama: presentation skills and interaction as a group.
- Develop an awareness of the influence of the Roman Empire.
- Increase appreciation of life and attitudes in different societies and cultures.



# MATHEMATICS

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Dr P Merisi**

## AUTUMN TERM

Number	Indices and factors Rounding and estimating Ratio and proportion
Algebra	Expanding brackets, simple factorisation Linear equations
Shape & Space	Pythagoras' theorem

## SPRING TERM

Number	Consolidation of basic operations Revision of directed numbers Fractions and percentages
Algebra	Formulae and equations
Shape & Space	Nets and surface areas of cuboids, prisms and pyramids
Data Handling	Graphical representation of data Frequency tables and calculation of mean, median, mode and range

## SUMMER TERM

Number	Units of measure Distance, speed, time and compound measures
Algebra	Consolidation of earlier work on formulae, equations and use of brackets
Shape & Space	Angles, bearings and maps Circles and cylinders Polygons
Data Handling	Probability

## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Use of non-calculator based methods – Mental arithmetic skills and practice  
– Discussions – Questions – Practical tasks – Functional skills tasks –  
Investigational work on open-ended tasks.

# MUSIC

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Miss A Blackwell**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Pupils will experience the key components of the subject: performing, composing, listening and appraising. They will look at how music is constructed as well as learning about music from other eras and cultures.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

#### AUTUMN TERM

##### Variations

- In tonality
- In ground bass
- In popular song
- Class Concert

##### Building blocks

- Key elements of music
- Listening
- Appraising

##### African music

- Drumming techniques
- Syncopation, polyrhythm
- Musical instruments and features

#### SPRING TERM

##### British Pop Music

- Listening and appraising
- Putting musical developments in social context
- Music from the 1960s onwards
- Learning popular riffs

##### Jazz improvisation

- Blues chords and bass lines
- Swing rhythms
- Seventh chords

### SUMMER TERM

#### Offbeat

- Reggae
- Hooks, riffs
- Bass lines and texture

#### BBC Ten Pieces

- Analysing and appraising set pieces
- Understanding music in context
- Concert etiquette

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- Adding bass lines and chords to melodies.
- More advanced harmonic writing.
- Working with others towards performances and appraising progress.
- Understanding the role of music in different societies.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION & GAMES

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mrs C Gabbitass**

Gymnastics Rolling, twisting, turning, flight, travel, balance	Thematic approach and development of formal and educational gymnastic skills, both on floor and apparatus. Encouraging co-ordination and control, and introducing sequence work. Learning to work with others - support skills. Safety and self-awareness.
Dance	Exploration of a range of dance movements using steps, gestures, formations, body shapes, contact work, and contrasts in dynamic and rhythmic patterning. Pupils will demonstrate creativity by incorporating control, rhythm, timing and aesthetics into sequences.
Netball	Development of ball control and footwork skills, winning/restricting space, emphasis on basic tactics and spatial awareness. Set groups according to ability.
Hockey	Development of stick work and ball control, more emphasis on reverse stick work. Accurate replication and outwitting. Introduction of set pieces, tactics and basic goal-keeping. Set groups according to ability.
Tag Rugby	Introduction to the game of tag rugby. Basic throwing and ball-handling skills. Knowledge of scoring, defensive and attacking play and outwitting opponents.
Cricket	Introduction to the game of cricket. Basic rules and scoring. Batting and fielding techniques to outwit opponents.
Cross-Country	Individual challenge – sustained running for stamina improvement, emphasis on pacing.
Fitness for Life	Introduction to the components of Fitness and the benefits of a warm-up and cool down. Understanding of health and fitness and the importance of these in maintaining a lifelong healthy lifestyle.
Badminton	Introduction to basic racquet skills and accurate replication of techniques, rules and scoring of singles and doubles.
Basketball	Introduction to ball-handling skills. Shooting, lay-up and basic small- sided games, and knowledge of rules.
Athletics	Individual skill acquisition in all event disciplines. Improving personal performance and safety in participation.
Swimming	Developing technique in all strokes. Survival skills and timed swims in all strokes. More emphasis on stamina and water skills.
Tennis	Development of racquet skills including all basic strokes, more emphasis on serve and volley skills. Understanding of rules, scoring and tactics.
Rounders	Inclusion of striking and fielding skills within the game context. Awareness of tactics to outwit opponents.

# PHYSICS

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mr C Ridler**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

This is the second year of a two-year Key Stage 3 course. Students learn the knowledge and skills that give a sound foundation for studying GCSE Physics. The course is divided into topic-based units and students develop and apply 'working scientifically' skills throughout the year.

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

### Waves and sound

- Wave basics
- Sound waves and oscilloscope traces
- The function of the ear
- Pulse-echo location

### Waves and light

- Light waves
- The pinhole camera
- Reflection & refraction
- Dispersion and the visible light spectrum

### Energy resources

- Non-renewable energy resources
- Renewable energy resources

### Exploring Space

- Day, night, seasons and eclipses
- Changing ideas about the solar system.
- The life cycles of stars
- History of space exploration

## WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY

Students will learn the following skills in the contexts of the topics studied in Lower 4:

- Planning and conducting scientific investigations to test predictions.
- Using tables and graphs.
- Applying mathematical concepts in data analysis.
- Interpreting data or observations to make conclusions.
- Evaluating the validity of experiments and suggesting improvements.
- Understanding why scientific models change over time.

Students will learn the following skills in the contexts of the topics studied in Lower 4:

- Understanding how the scientific community uses evidence.
- Planning and carrying out experiments to test predictions.
- Applying mathematical concepts in data analysis.
- Using tables and graphs & interpreting observations to draw conclusions.
- Presenting explanations and suggesting further questions arising from their data.
- Evaluating the validity of experiments and suggesting improvements.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Miss K Gwynne**

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

**AUTHORITY IN ISLAM** (one term)

**Religions focus: Islam**

- The nature of religious authority and leadership.
- The Qur'an and its teachings; the prophet Muhammad.
- The impact of religious teachings on Muslim practices and lifestyles in the modern world.

**SIKHISM AND EQUALITY** (one term)

**Religions focus: Sikhism**

- Equality and inequality.
- Sikh teachings about equality; the Gurus and Guru Granth Sahib.
- Sikh beliefs in practice; the gurdwara and langar.

**RELIGION, ETHICS AND JUSTICE**  
(one term)

**Religions focus: Christianity and non-religious worldviews**

- Exploring different approaches to moral decision-making.
- Attitudes to forgiveness and revenge, justice and punishment.

## SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- Understanding the impact of religious beliefs and teaching on individuals, communities and societies.
- Interpreting and evaluating a range of sources and texts.
- Using religious and philosophical vocabulary.
- Using reasoned arguments and evaluating a range of views.
- Moral awareness, respect for all, empathy, commitment to justice, global awareness, open-mindedness.



# SPANISH

Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mme C Smith**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

In Lower 4, we provide opportunities for girls to develop and practise the range and complexity of their Spanish, building upon learning from Upper 3, and enabling them to extend sentences to include connective devices, more detail and complexity of structure. Girls learn to talk about their house and town, daily routine, free time, hobbies and their preferences.

## SUBJECT / TOPIC

- Describing where you live
- Talking about your home
- Talking about activities you do at home
- Describing rooms in the house
- Talking about your daily routine
- Talking about free time activities
- Telling the time
- Saying what you like to do
- Describing your town
- Places in the town
- Directions
- Weather

### Grammar

- The full paradigm of the present tense, including all regular verbs, radical changing verbs, 'go' verbs, common irregular verbs, reflexive verbs and use of the infinitive. Irregular verbs: hacer, salir, ir and querer
- Using two verbs together with the infinitive
- Adjectival agreements
- Prepositions of time
- Prepositions of place
- The 'going to' future tense

## SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- We learn to identify patterns in verbs.
- We develop techniques for memorising words, phrases and spellings.



# TEXTILES

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Student year: **Lower 4 (Year 8)** Head of Department: **Mrs S Fanous**

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW

At Key Stage 3 (Year 8) we study International Fashion Catwalk Collections and Solarfast Photography in order to design and make a contemporary jersey fashion top suitable for a teenager. We also study silk production and make a high-quality hand painted silk scarf. We create a punched leatherette and stencil printed purse with a zip fastening.

### SUBJECT / TOPIC

- Mood boards and design.
- Fashion design and working drawings.
- Pattern construction and adaptation.
- Customising a garment
- Digital photography and digital image manipulation.
- Solarfast printing onto organic cotton jersey.
- Constructing a completed garment.
- Making a presentation of the design work to include styling a photo shoot.
- Ethical design, environment and sustainability.
- The ancient Silk Road - Silk production.
- Silk painting.
- Accessories and cutwork.
- Stenciled placement prints.

### SKILLS / ATTITUDES

- Understanding and working to a design brief.
- Individual research.
- Developing design ideas from individual research.
- Different types of printing and mark making onto various fabrics.
- Developing an understanding of sustainable fabrics, their construction and production.
- Understanding and implementing fashion and working drawings necessary for pattern design and construction.
- Creating and adapting a made-to-measure personal pattern.
- Professionally machine stitching a quality finished and environmentally considered garment. Use a sewing machine, an overlocking machine and a coverstitch machine.
- Learn to professionally paint a silk scarf using the resist technique.
- Accurately make a hand drawn stencil template, cut out leatherette pattern and stencil print the lining. Insert a working zip.



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MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

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