Year 8 – Explore | Curriculum Overview

Deepening understanding and growing independence

Students **explore** increasingly challenging ideas, broaden their knowledge and make connections across their learning. They develop curiosity, resilience and the confidence to question, think critically and become more independent learners.

What will students learn in Year 8?

Tutor Time	• Enjoy six tutor-led texts: Ruby in the Smoke, The Island at the End of Everything, When the Sky Falls, The Hunger Games, I Am Malala and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. • Explore justice, resilience and voice through language-rich stories, developing vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. • Participate in weekly Great Debates on topical issues, broadening cultural capital and confidence in discussing different viewpoints.	**English**	• Study The Woman in Black, war poetry, non-fiction stories of conflict and the dystopian novel The Giver. • Analyse Gothic conventions, character arcs, writers' viewpoints, poetic techniques and the effects of context. • Develop thesis-led analysis, comparison and descriptive writing to create Gothic atmospheres and dystopian worlds.
Mathematics	• Develop number fluency through fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, indices and reverse percentage problems. • Explore algebraic expressions, factorising, sequences, linear graphs, transformations and vectors. • Apply geometry and data skills to circles, area, volume, angles, scatter graphs and compound measures.	**Science**	• Investigate chemical reactions, metals and acids, electricity, the respiratory system and Earth's structure. • Explore human and plant biology, waves, magnets, variation and evolution. • Apply scientific knowledge and practical enquiry skills through the Witchcraft and Wizardry investigations.
Geography	• Investigate climate change, river landscapes and flood management,	**History**	• Explore the Industrial Revolution, the abolition of slavery and experiences of the

	weighing up different responses. • Explore sustainability in Nansleden and Dhaka, and tourism's impact on Mount Everest. • Consider responsibility for protecting oceans, evaluating environmental challenges and solutions at different scales.		British Empire. • Investigate the First World War, the Holocaust and the importance of remembrance. • Examine changing experiences of prejudice and tolerance, developing analysis of causes, consequences and historical significance.
Spanish	• Describe past activities and local places, expressing and justifying opinions using comparisons. • Discuss sport, healthy lifestyles, music, media, technology, daily routines and future aspirations. • Develop grammatical accuracy and communication while exploring traditions and cultures across the Spanish-speaking world.	**Computing**	• Use spreadsheets to organise, analyse and interpret data. • Explore computer architecture and how binary represents numbers, text, images and sound. • Apply computational thinking and write, test and debug Python programs using sequence and selection.
Religious Education	• Explore Hindu beliefs about deities, worship, reincarnation and contemporary Hindu life in Britain. • Investigate Sikh beliefs and practices, including Guru Nanak, the Five Ks, the gurdwara and sewa. • Study Buddhist teachings, moral choices, meditation and mindfulness and their relevance today.	**PSHE / LIFE**	• Develop understanding of respectful relationships, consent, prejudice, emotional wellbeing and personal safety. • Explore healthy lifestyles, adolescence, online safety, social media, AI and digital misinformation. • Build financial literacy and awareness of careers, citizenship, transferable skills and future pathways.
Physical Education	• Develop sport-specific skills, tactical awareness and decision-making in individual and team activities. • Explore attacking strategies, rules, team roles and ways to outwit opponents. • Participate in a pathway-dependent range	**Music**	• Explore the "magic four chords" used in popular music, learning how chord progressions shape songs. • Develop instrumental, rehearsal and ensemble performance skills. • Investigate music in film and television,

	including athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, football, fitness, netball, rounders, rugby and softball.		composing soundtracks using melody, rhythm, harmony, tempo and dynamics.
Art	• Explore Creatures of the Deep through blackout poetry, combining text and imagery inspired by Tom Phillips. • Use Alfred Lord Tennyson's The Kraken as inspiration for imaginative sea-monster designs. • Develop creative ideas and practical making skills by producing a clay creature.	**Drama**	• Explore Oliver! through script work, Victorian characters and dramatic relationships. • Develop characterisation using voice, movement, facial expression and collaborative ensemble performance. • Investigate theatre through time, from Greek chorus and commedia dell'arte to Shakespeare, melodrama and Brecht.
Design & Technology	• Design, build and test trebuchets, exploring how pivots, loads and counterweights affect range and accuracy. • Use user-centred design, CAD and laser cutting to create a functioning clock. • Explore ergonomics, aesthetics and practical construction through the Top-Notch Torches project.	**Food**	• Investigate how balanced diets, sleep, exercise and hydration influence physical and mental wellbeing. • Explore hospitality safety, food allergies, intolerances, cross-contamination and accurate allergen labelling. • Analyse a competitive gymnast's nutritional needs and design informed recommendations for fuelling and recovery.