

Autumn term 2023- what we are learning in year 8

Faculty of English, literacy and communication

What will your child be learning?

Pupils will explore the overarching theme of 'Crime and Punishment'. In English we will develop reading, writing and oracy skills through the exploration of this theme. Pupils will read and analyse a range of texts, including the play 'A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time', that deal with issues such as culpability, guilt and innocence. Pupils will take part in a range of paired and group discussions around the topic in order to develop oracy and reasoning. Pupils will have a range of writing opportunities that allow them to develop writing for a range of purposes, using the rich content of this scheme of learning as a starting point.

What can you do to help?

Have discussions at home to explore key words such as motive, innocence, justice. Discuss the learning that has taken place in school and practise giving opinions and supporting these opinions using evidence (In my opinion because...) Ensure independent learning tasks are completed on the Google Classroom on a regular basis.

Faculty of mathematics and numeracy

What will your child be learning?

During this term your child will be continuing to practise their written calculations using the four rules of number and BIDMAS to ensure calculations are done in the correct order. They will be practising adding and subtracting negative numbers, and dividing decimal numbers. Pupils will be collecting and presenting data accurately and in a variety of different formats including pie-charts and scatter graphs. In geometry, pupils will be looking at properties of shapes, calculating angles around points and on parallel lines and, drawing plans and elevations.

What can you do to help?

You can support your child by discussing the learning completed in school and apply skills learnt in lessons to real life context. Ensure independent learning tasks that are given and set on Google Classroom are completed by the set deadlines. Encourage them to practise their times tables and use apps/games/competitions with yourself for fun to aid faster recall.

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Faculty of languages and culture

Faculty of STEM

What will your child be learning?

In science your child will be learning about the role of plants as producers in the food chain and how plants make their own food from the sun. Moving onto explore pollination and fertilisation in plants linked to variation and genetics.

In DT pupils will be studying food and nutrition, they will have the opportunity to explore different foods and learn how to cook.

In ICT pupils will develop further their ICT skills using on data analysis and presentation work.

What can you do to help?

You can support your child at home by helping them to practise new skills. Independent learning tasks can be found on the Google Classroom and each task is linked the the topic. For every task completed and submitted, pupils will earn achievement points, these points will contribute to our faculty rewards scheme. Below are some useful links:
<https://classroom.google.com>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
<https://stemlearning.wistia.com/medias/nko2ux2p4i>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpwmxbn/revision/1>
<https://wordwall.net/en-gb/community/photosynthesis-game>

What will your child be learning?

Languages

Your child will be learning key vocabulary and phrases around the topic Ysgol/ El colegio (school). They will be learning to introduce and give opinions on school subjects, uniform, school rules and the school environment. Pupils will work through all skill areas, oracy, reading and writing and continue to develop their proof-reading skills, where they are able to recognise and correct spelling, punctuation and basic grammatical mistakes in a text.

Expressive Arts

Your child will be exploring the theme of crime and punishment, studying the texts Jekyll and Hyde and Iniquity (Camwedd) we will discuss the idea of personal responsibility and identity. In art based lessons we will develop portrait drawing skills and consider who we see in the mirror. Pupils will continue to develop performance skills as they create responses to the text and techniques learnt.

What can you do to help?

Languages

You can support your child at home to repeat learnt vocabulary which will help their memory of key words, this will support them in regular vocabulary tests at various points over the term. Also encouraging your child to subscribe to a free online learning platform such as Duolingo, Memrise, Quizlet or Linguascope will support them with vocabulary recall. Pupils will also benefit from watching Welsh medium television programmes or listening to Welsh language radio to improve pronunciation and understanding of spoken Welsh.

Expressive Arts

You can support your child at home by ensuring that all work set on Google Classroom is completed by the deadline, including learning lines and rehearsing for practical performance.

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Faculty of life

What will your child be learning?

Humanities

Pupils will be learning about crime and punishment, and changes to crime and punishment through time. They will explore the impact of crime, and how the criminal justice system works. They will explore similarities and differences across periods, and developing their source inference skills. Pupils learn about the impact of slavery, and how attitudes and laws have changed.

RVE

Pupils will be exploring the following questions through an enquiry led approach:

Do all religions view forgiveness the same?

Are there organisations that promote peace and equality? What makes a crime, a crime?

Is it ever justified to hurt others?

Well-being

This term, your child will further develop skills, knowledge and experiences of health and fitness. Your child will learn about various topics on health and fitness and how it contributes to their overall wellbeing and creating a healthy active lifestyle. Your child will continue to explore individual sports including gymnastics, dance and trampoline. They will be able to use their creativity and produce a sequence, a dance or a routine that will incorporate clarity of shape and fluency through transitions.

How can you help?

Humanities

You can support your child by discussing crime and punishment laws in this country and comparing them to other countries. You could explore how our laws and punishments have changed over the years. Further, you could support your child to complete their independent learning tasks that are set on Google Classroom.

RVE

Discuss the key questions with your pupils sharing your own views and considering the views that may be different to your own.

Well-being

Please ensure that your child brings and wears the correct PE kit to these lessons. You could also discuss the benefits of regular physical activity and explain how this reduces the risk of illness both in the short and long term and how it is linked to positive mental health outcomes. You could also explore the type of physical activity that your child enjoys most and help them to incorporate that into their weekly routines.

