

Curriculum Guide

For Year 8 2019-20



PUTNEY
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

ENGLISH

You will produce extended pieces of writing of different kinds, including writing about the lives of others. There will be pieces of written coursework, extended essays, on texts from English Literature and from the media. Speaking and Listening tasks and the analysis of Spoken English will be included. We will be consolidating work on spelling, punctuation and grammar so your ideas are always presented at their best in creative writing. We will continue to study a range of plays, poems and prose, including at least one play by Shakespeare, such as *The Merchant of Venice*, some autobiographical writing such as *Cider with Rosie* and some modern authors. We aim go to the theatre at least once during the year. You will be encouraged to extend your personal reading. There is a tailored booklist for Year 8, but ask at the school library for more advice. There is also a Year 8 Book Club, which is run by the Sixth Form.

MATHEMATICS

We will start to look at some of the foundations of all mathematics. We will study:

- Pythagoras' Theorem
- Trigonometry
- Scale drawing and bearings
- Circles
- Area and volume
- Data handling
- Algebra
- Transformations
- Plotting graphs (linear and quadratic)

This will be in addition to reviewing and extending some of the work covered in Year 7. The ideas become more useful in a practical sense and will be applied regularly to problem solving. There will be two pieces of homework per week, when you practise techniques learnt in class. There will be tests in October, December and March, and a summer examination based on the full year's work (two papers). During the year, and particularly after the examinations in June, we will undertake some pieces of work requiring computing skills. You will be placed into sets for this subject to allow for a pace that best suits you.

COMPUTING

For half of the academic year, organised on a rotation, one of your three maths lessons each week will be a dedicated session of Computing. This new, bespoke course will introduce you to coding and cryptography, allowing you to hone your skills by programming Swift Playgrounds and Lego Mindstorms kits as well as building your understanding of common computer hardware and software.

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

SCIENCE

Science lessons will be based on the 'Smart Science' course and will build on learning from Year 7 whilst preparing students for the start of their IGCSE course in Year 9. An increasing emphasis will be placed on designing experiments and presenting and interpreting data using graphs and calculations. Students will also have the opportunity to carry out research into the applications of science. Many lessons will involve practical work and there will be a test at the end of each topic. Science lessons will continue to be delivered by one teacher, and will cover distinct modules drawn from each of the three scientific disciplines:

BIOLOGY

A number of topics will be studied across the year based on the overall themes of Animal and Plant Physiology, Genetics Variation and Selection, and Ecology and the Environment. In the summer term a visit to Marwell Zoological Gardens will complement the Ecology and the Environment topic.

CHEMISTRY

The topics studied will be elements and compounds, the periodic table, rocks and the rock cycle and chemical reactions. Lessons will help you understand how ideas have developed about the building blocks that make up the substances around us and developing your practical skills as you make new substances and predict how they will behave. We will be investigating ways of speeding up the chemical reactions and trying to identify unknown substances.

PHYSICS

The topics studied will be Heat (the difference between heat and temperature, insulation and heating and cooling curves), Light (properties of light as a wave), Electric Circuits (measuring current, voltage and resistance in series and parallel circuits) and the final topic covering Moments, Pressure and Density.

LANGUAGES

FRENCH

We begin the year revising key language and grammar from last year and then continue learning a range of topics to be able to describe what we like to wear and do in our free time. Time is also spent discussing holidays so that we can learn key other tenses to talk about what we would like to do and what we are going to do. We continue working on key techniques for learning new language and pronunciation. There will be lots of fun opportunities to put your French into action! Other topics we will study are: sport and leisure and daily life in French-speaking countries. A lot of these topics include opportunities to learn about young people's lives in France and in French-speaking countries around the world through use of digital resources and authentic materials. We also aim to visit France this year to put the last two years of learning into practice!

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

GERMAN

The course will revise and build on the work done in Year 7 and will begin preparing you for GCSE. By the end of the year, you will be able to talk and write about yourself, media, home area, daily routine, health and holidays.

You will be able to use past, present and future tenses and a variety of sentence structures. You will also have the chance to complete a project of your choice allowing you to explore your own interests.

You will, of course, celebrate German Christmas and Easter and also play games which help you remember what you have learnt, and use lots of fun apps like PuppetPals, Quizlet, Linguascope, Kahoot and Duolingo.

SPANISH

This one year course will follow on from what you learnt in Year 7. You will learn how to talk about your holidays and the activities you do with your friends, including the type of music and clothes you like, going out and what to buy for a party. You will also be able to discuss food and order a meal. There will be listening, reading, writing and speaking activities. The present tense will be revised and you will learn how to express yourself in the past and future as well as well as being able to give a range of opinions. You will have further opportunities of singing songs, playing games, watching video clips and participating in role plays. There are plenty of fun apps to download on your iPad, such as Quizlet, Duolinguo and Linguascope.

MANDARIN

This one year course will build on what you have learnt in Year 7. We will work further on daily conversations and expand your vocabulary associated with school, holiday experiences, personality and appearance, clothes, daily routine, weather, places in town and shopping. You will learn more complex Mandarin sentence structures, important grammar points as well as the past and future tenses. This will enable you to express yourself with more sophistication and creativity in written and spoken Mandarin. We shall continue with fun activities such as calligraphy and cultural research.

LATIN

We start the Cambridge Latin Course using textbooks and the excellent Cambridge Latin Course website. Pupils develop their language skills during the course of the year through reading. The stories are set in Pompeii and follow the fortunes of Caecilius and his family and slaves in the months leading up to the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. As well as learning the Latin language, we find out about daily life, Pompeian houses, gladiator shows, the baths and the political life of Pompeii. Classwork and homework will cover a variety of tasks, from written and oral language work and the learning of vocabulary to project work on Roman society.

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

GEOGRAPHY

You will develop your geographical skills and begin to understand more about the global community and physical processes that shape the land. You will study coasts, China, weather and climate and globalisation. We will visit the Sussex coast to carry out field work and data collection on coastal processes but also will explore the microclimates around the school. We aim to make lessons as varied and as lively as possible by using activities and resources that will stretch you academically.

HISTORY

The aims this year are to develop the knowledge and skills acquired during Year 7 and to help you to understand the ways in which events in the 16th and 17th centuries have influenced our country's development. We will study Elizabethan England and then we will focus on the long struggle between Crown and Parliament in the 17th century. We will conclude the year with a look at science and superstition in the 17th century.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND PHILOSOPHY

Following our study of Judaism in Year 7, the focus this year will be on Christianity, but reference will be made to other religions. We will study the life and teaching of Jesus and beliefs and practices of the Christian Church. Philosophical debate will cover topics such as evidence for the historical Jesus; the person of Jesus and his disciples, people as sources of authority; the role of the Bible, particularly parables and miracles, a study of a local church, Christian celebrations and festivals, and places of pilgrimage.

ART

In Year 8 you are introduced to more challenging techniques, processes and experimentation with different artists inspiring your work. You are expected to record and evaluate your journey in sketchbooks. The first theme "Everyday Objects" is based on the "Still Life" genre with emphasis on developing observational drawing skills and using a range of media and experimentation. You will learn about different artists relevant to the theme and produce informed and creative outcomes. The second theme is 'Incredible Bugs: Adorn and Decorate' based in design and craft. You will plan and design your own hybrid 3D relief bug, learning different techniques, and there are strong contextual elements to inspire your knowledge and creative work. In the summer term the Stained Glass Window project introduces different styles of art such as Matisse and his "cutting with colour"; Louis Comfort Tiffany's decorative stained glass and Henri Rousseau's imaginative and exotic forest paintings. You will produce a final piece with a personal evaluation.

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

MUSIC

You will learn about the history of music, researching the roots of musical style and tracing its passage from medieval to modern times. The course covers the study of key pieces, instruments and composers with related listening and composition topics. Another composition focus is word setting and all girls will write their own songs, including Christmas carols in the Autumn Term. Throughout the year, sight singing and instrumental skills are developed and put into practice. There are usually two class concerts and a summer year group concert in which all girls will participate.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: TEXTILES

In Textiles we will continue to develop your skills on the sewing machine and learn how to use the overlocker. We will build on your knowledge and understanding of fibres and fabrics. In practical lessons we will follow the design process to design and make a garment using a paper pattern. We will develop skills in research, designing, planning and evaluation.

PRODUCT DESIGN

In Product Design you will combine your designing and making skills. You will manufacture decorative and functional products. You will develop your practical skills by manipulating metals, plastics and timber. By following the design process you will produce a creative A4 design folio that includes product research, initial ideas, modelling and planning.

DRAMA

You will continue to build on and develop the skills learnt in Year 7. We begin by looking at Victorian Melodrama and you will devise and film your Melodrama of *Sweeney Todd*. We practically explore aspects of *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuels and look at duologues. There is also a unit on Greek Theatre and Devising to develop your presentation and communication skills. There will be an opportunity to audition for the school musical and the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the end of the year, as well as theatre trips and the House Drama Clubs. For girls who are interested in private lessons we also have LAMDA lessons available.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

You will have two lessons of PE. A PE lesson at school and a Games Afternoon which will be off-site. Netball, lacrosse, gym, dance, badminton, volleyball, trampolining, and Strength and Conditioning are taught in the Autumn and Spring terms. Tennis, athletics, cricket and rounders are taught in the Summer term. All skills continue to be developed with the aim that you can participate more effectively in our school teams and clubs.

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

LIBRARY

You will use the Library for silent research and private reading. You may use the library as part of a class visit to research topics or you may be set work which will require you to use the library for your own independent learning. New fiction titles are always being added. You will have progressed from the Teenage Fiction section to reading your way through the general Young Adult Fiction section. You are encouraged to make suggestions for new books through the Library Ideas Box.

PSHE

The theme of responsibility underpins the Year 8 PSHE curriculum. In the Autumn term you will develop your listening skills, improve your understanding of what makes a healthy relationship, and discuss what to do if you face conflict. You will also learn how to have a positive relationship with yourself. In the Spring term you will develop your awareness of drugs and current issues relating to legal highs and the law. The theme of responsibility is then explored in a different context and you will learn what it means to be a good citizen and your responsibility to the environment. You will have the opportunity to develop your debating skills and hear from a range of speakers. The year will culminate with an enterprise competition.

EVENTS

During this year, you will be involved in the choice of Languages for Year 9 where you will select three choices from Latin and the four Modern Foreign Languages you have studied. We enhance the curriculum with many visits and journeys, the Junior Maths Challenge and the wide range of clubs and extra-curricular activities. We usually organise a cross-curricular residential visit, the cost of which is not included in your Educational Visits Account money collected each year.

Curriculum Guide Year 8 2019-20

MARKING & ASSESSMENT

Homework marked by the teacher in Year 8 will receive a grade in line with the descriptors given in the table opposite – in addition to feedback in the form of written comments. These grades are Attainment grades and provide an assessment of the level of the work submitted.

Grade	Explanation
E*	Exceptional: in originality of work or independence of thought.
E	Outstanding: working well above the expected level.
1	Very good: working above the expected level.
2	Good: working at the expected level.
3	Inconsistent: some areas need further development to get to expected level.
M	U
<p>Misunderstood</p> <p>The task was misunderstood or not addressed correctly. Oh dear! Helpful discussions between pupil and teacher are needed. Work may need to be redone.</p>	<p>Unacceptable</p> <p>Some more serious or persistent errors; task not adequately completed. Helpful discussions between pupil and teacher are needed. Work may need to be redone.</p>

FURTHER INFORMATION

You will be taught in groups smaller than your form groups for approximately 50% of the timetable. Classes are further subdivided to use the specialist Design Technology facilities.