



PUTNEY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GDST

# Curriculum Guide For Year 8 2020–21



## CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR YEAR 8 – 2020-21

### ENGLISH

You will produce extended pieces of writing of different kinds, including writing about the lives of others. Speaking and Listening tasks will also 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. You will be encouraged to extend your personal reading. There is a tailored booklist for Year 8, but ask at the Senior 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:

Ratio and Proportion

Pythagoras' Theorem

Trigonometry

Scale drawing and bearings

Circles

Area and Volume

Polygons

Correlation Algebra including Solving Equations and Rearranging Formulae

Inequalities

Transformations

Straight Line Graphs

This will be in addition to reviewing and extending some of the work covered in Year 7 such as Fractions, Percentages, Estimation and Constructions. 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 two tests in the autumn term, one in the spring term, and a summer examination based on the full year's work (two papers). You will be placed into sets for this subject to allow for a pace that best suits you.

### SCIENCE

In Year 8, the three Sciences (**Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics**) are taught together by one teacher. Pupils build on their knowledge from Year 7, and establish a firm foundation for their international GCSE studies.

In **BIOLOGY** you will study the processes that maintain ecosystems and the ways in which organisms are adapted to their habitat. You will also learn about the inheritance of characteristics with an introduction to genetics.

In **CHEMISTRY** you will investigate mixtures and different techniques to separate them. You will learn more about the Groups of the Periodic Table and the reactivity of different elements.

In **PHYSICS** you will learn about the nature of electrical charge and investigate current and voltage in circuits. You will also learn about the effect of pressure, and how to describe the motion of objects.

All of these topics are supported by a number of experiments. As the year progresses, you will develop your practical skills and learn how to plan an investigation.

## LANGUAGES:

### FRENCH

French in Year 8 builds on the basics of grammar studied in Year 7 (regular verb conjugation, adjectival agreement etc) and develops through the study of new topics such as 'Lifestyle', 'Holidays', 'Sport and Leisure' and 'Daily Life in French-speaking Countries'. You will add to your knowledge of grammar by learning to use the past and future tenses, as well as a wide range of other grammar to enrich your work and make it more sophisticated. Alongside the in-class activities there are many useful resources and fun apps available to help you practice outside the lesson.\*

### GERMAN

This one-year course revises and builds 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, your home, daily routines, media, health and holidays. You will start to use the past, present and future tenses and a variety of sentence structures. Your confidence in both the reading and listening tasks will increase over the year as you begin to employ more strategies. Alongside this, you will, of course, celebrate German Christmas and Easter and also play games which help you remember what you have learnt.\*

### 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. We will revise the present tense and you will learn how to express yourself in the past and future, as well as being able to give a range of opinions. You will have further opportunities to sing songs, play games, watch video clips and participate in role plays.\*

\* There are plenty of fun apps to download on your iPad such as Puppet Pals, Duolingo, Quizlet, Kahoot, Linguascope and Languagesonline.

### MANDARIN

This one-year course will build on what you have learnt in Year 7. We will continue to work on daily conversations and expand on the 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 both written and spoken Mandarin. We shall, of course, 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. You will develop your 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, you will 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.

## 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 fieldwork 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

You will explore the History of Ideas. We look at events from the Reformation to the Renaissance, Elizabeth I and the New World, The English Civil War to the French Revolution, as well as Slavery and the Abolitionist Movement. We also build on the skills acquired during Year 7, particularly essay writing and source analysis.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Following our study of Judaism in Year 7, the focus this year will be on Christianity, whilst including relevant reference to other religions. We will study the life and teaching of Jesus, and beliefs and practices of the Christian Church. Many topics are philosophical in nature and encourage debate and evaluation, including evidence for the historical Jesus, the role of Jesus and his disciples, individuals as sources of authority; the status of the Bible particularly with reference to parables and miracles, the role of the local church, Christian celebrations and festivals, and places of pilgrimage.

## ART

In Year 8 you will continue to record and evaluate your art journey in sketchbooks and develop your creativity through Making, Investigating, Knowledge and Evaluation (*known as MIKE assessment objectives used in Art@PHS*).

You will be introduced to more challenging techniques, processes and experimentation and a range of exciting artists to inspire and inform your developing knowledge and understanding. The first theme 'Everyday Objects' is based on the 'Still Life' and 'Pop Art' genres with emphasis on observational drawing skills, using a range of media and experimentation to make exciting digital art works. You will learn about different artists and their contextual importance and produce your own creative mixed media composition. The second main project is 'Urban Landscapes.' You will be introduced to architecture and have the opportunity to learn further drawing and printing techniques, and there are strong contextual elements to inspire your knowledge and creative work. In the summer term you will complete a range of different workshops to support your developing creative skills, enabling you to experiment and embed your understanding of the MIKE assessment objectives.

## MUSIC

Building on the foundations from Year 7, 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 concert

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY:

### TEXTILES

In Textiles you will continue to develop your skills in terms of design and manufacture. We will design and make a tote bag with the focus being sustainability. We will learn a range of construction and decoration techniques to equip us with the skills to create a more meaningful response. Ideally we will make a creative but functional product.

### PRODUCT DESIGN

The study of Product Design will involve the creation of a range of functional outcomes that develop your designing and manufacturing skills using a range of tools and machinery. The complexity of these projects will build on the experiences you gained in Year 7 in a linear approach that will prepare you for future studies in Product Design. You will develop your practical skills by manipulating metals, plastics and timber and experience electronic circuitry and extension experiences in CAD/CAM.

### DRAMA

You will continue to build on and develop the skills learnt in Year 7. We begin by investigating the theme of 'Stolen Lives' – looking at different people and cultures affected by war. We explore aspects of *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuels, use of propaganda in World War 2 and look at the experiences of the Windrush Generation nurses. 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. This year we are also offering a Year 8 Drama Club and an online House Drama Club, 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 each week. A PE lesson at school and a games afternoon which will be off-site. Netball, lacrosse, gym, dance, badminton, volleyball and trampolining are taught in the autumn and spring terms. Tennis, athletics and cricket 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.

### LIBRARY

Due to Covid restrictions there are two library sessions for Year 8 each week - Thursday lunchtimes and Friday from 4 to 5pm. In normal times 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 start to progress from the Teenage Fiction section to begin 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: 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.

## EVENTS

During this year, you will be involved in the choice of Languages for Year 9: you will select three choices from Latin and the four Modern Foreign Languages you have studied. We enhance the curriculum with many workshops, the Junior Maths Challenge and a very wide range of Co-curricular activities and clubs. Please see the Co-curricular page on Firefly for further information: <https://putneyhigh.fireflycloud.net/co-curricular-1>.

## MARKING & ASSESSMENT

Homework marked by the teacher in Year 8 will receive feedback in the form of written comments.

Where appropriate, grades will be given using the descriptors below. These grades are Attainment grades and provide an assessment of the level of the work submitted.

Grade	Explanation
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 the expected level.
M	U
Misunderstood The task was misunderstood or not addressed correctly. Helpful discussions between pupil and teacher are needed. Work may need to be redone.	Unacceptable Some more serious or persistent errors; task not adequately completed. Helpful discussions between pupil and teacher are needed. Work may need to be redone.

## 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.