



Year 8 Subject Descriptions

Art

This year the students have completed art work in a variety of media on the topics of Contemporary Art and Stage and Screen. They have produced drawings from primary and secondary sources and have produced research on artists' work practically and theoretically. The students have worked in various styles and methods and have gained experience of working to a vocational brief.

Drama

Students at JFS follow an engaging and challenging Drama curriculum. We promote high standards of creativity by equipping students with a strong command of transferable skills and encouraging versatility and individuality in performance and creative work. In the first term, Year 8 students develop an understanding of crime drama. This topic is explored through techniques such as thought track and character analysis with a strong focus on problem solving and team work. Term two helps students progress into the world of comedy where they develop their understanding of tragi comedy, satire and exaggeration. The final term provides the opportunity to work with scripted texts encouraging students to develop their key literacy and communication skills.

English

The English National Curriculum revolves around Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. This year pupils have studied a variety of texts, including novels, poetry and non-fiction. They have also studied a Shakespeare play.

French

This year students have been provided with opportunities to practise and develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing and to extend their knowledge of grammatical structures. They have studied a variety of topics including sports and leisure activities, the weather, their home and area, holiday destinations and activities. They have been introduced to the near future and perfect tenses.

Games

Students have had the opportunity to take part in various activities and sports including dragon multi skills, rugby, netball, football, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, dance, swimming, athletics, striking games and health-related exercise. Students have been encouraged to develop wider skills such as leadership, working with others and communication through these practical activities.

Geography

Year 8 Geography students will follow three themes as part of the new Humanities thematic curriculum. During the Autumn Term, students have completed various skills-based lessons in Commitment, for example, investigating strategies used to improve levels of development across our planet. The Spring Term theme of Voyage involves topics such as the water cycle and globalisation, with project work designed to develop independent learning skills. The Summer Term will allow the students to immerse themselves in the social workings of our planet, where people live, why they choose to live there and the many issues that arise surrounding population. All topics will build upon the student's ability to: explain, problem solve, analyse, examine and justify opinions and geographical concepts.

History

Students have been learning about John Frost and the Chartism Movement. They have also been investigating the Tudors and Stuarts including the changes in religion and a study of Tudor portraits and what makes a good monarch. Skills that are being developed include extended writing and improving understanding of the causes of events. Students have studied sources in order to develop a valid historical argument.

ICT

In Year 8, students learn how to research safely and to evaluate information, including consideration of purpose and audience. They plan, create and communicate information with advanced use of text, images and sound. Students increase their understanding of sharing and exchanging electronic information safely and develop database and spreadsheet modelling skills. Students learn how a computer stores data and perform calculations in binary.

Maths

This year in mathematics lessons all pupils have studied topics in the four main areas of number, algebra, measures and data handling. The emphasis has been on truly understanding the subject. Pupils have been assessed by class work, homework and four major end-of-unit tests.

Music

In Year 8, students have studied many different genres of music. They have completed several performance assessments both as an instrumentalist and as a singer, including a four chord song assessment as a band. They have also written their own compositions, including a piece of film music. All students have completed a listening exam in addition to classroom appraisal tasks.

Religious Studies

Year 8 have followed a programme of study that involves examining the various religious practices and beliefs of some of the main world faiths. This has included modules on Children's Rights, Worship, Festivals and Rites of Passage.

Science

Pupils have continued to follow a thematic curriculum this year with the theme of Frost Fest in Autumn, Futurama in Spring and The World Around Us in the Summer term. Pupils have been developing scientific skills across the strands of planning, developing and reflecting. They have also had the opportunity to develop their scientific knowledge in areas such as light and sound, energy, magnets, chemical changes, Earth and space, microbes and diseases, electricity and biodiversity.

Technology

Throughout year 8 students have been studying a modular course in Design and Technology. The modules in year 8 consist of Product Design, Food Technology, Resistant Materials and Textiles. Students have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and equipment including computer aided design programmes to assist them with their tasks. In each module they are given a design brief which outlines the basis of the design and make task. Students are taught the design process in each of the modules and are encouraged to develop their design ideas while taking into account factors that can affect their designs such as size, shape, purpose, material availability and cost. Students will be fully involved in the evaluation of their work in each project so that they may make consistent progress in their learning and achievement.

Welsh

Year 8 students are studying 'holidays'. They have practised expressing their opinion and have given factual details about people and programmes. Students have also studied the topics of television and the media, giving descriptive details about people and discussing what they enjoy doing together. This year students have been provided with opportunities to practise and develop their skills in speaking, reading and writing and to extend their knowledge of grammatical structures.