

YEAR 8 SUBJECT SUMMARIES

Art	<p>This term, Year 8 students have been exploring the vibrant world of African-inspired patterns in their Art lessons. They began by studying the work of contemporary Kenyan photographer Thandiwe Muriu, known for her bold use of colour, pattern, and cultural symbolism. Inspired by her striking visuals, students then developed their own original designs, drawing on traditional African motifs and modern interpretations.</p> <p>Using these designs, students created poly board prints, learning about the printing process while experimenting with colour and pattern layering. The result is a unique and personal artwork that reflects both their creativity and an appreciation for African artistic traditions.</p> <p>We're proud of the thoughtful work students have produced this term!</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: rosie.knowles@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
Drama	<p>We are proud of the thoughtful work students have produced this term! This term, Year 8 drama students have been developing their creative and performing skills through a Romeo and Juliet scheme. Building on their understanding of Greek Theatre from earlier in the year, they explored creative ways to perform the Prologue, experimenting with chorus techniques and dramatic delivery. They also worked on a second scene, using stage directions and characterisation while rehearsing, refining, and performing with attention to stagecraft and scene transitions. Working in consistent groups over six lessons, students were challenged to demonstrate resilience, collaboration, and a commitment to improving their work through rehearsal. As we move into the new term, students are doing an improvisation scheme, giving them the freedom to invent their own characters and explore a range of scenarios. This will continue to strengthen their creativity, communication, and collaboration skills whilst giving them the opportunity to play and create together. I have been particularly impressed with the class for their excellent collaboration and strong recall of prior learning. I'm really looking forward to seeing what they create this half term.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: rachel.quince@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
English	<p>Year 8 have covered a lot of material this year so far. We began by studying Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, challenging students with philosophical ideas and complex writing. This allowed students to approach a 19th century novel and build up confidence with analysing unfamiliar texts. They then built on their previous knowledge of Shakespeare and learnt the play of Romeo and Juliet, focusing on themes of Fate, Determinism, Love and Patriarchy. After the Christmas holiday, we studied a range of poetry relating to Social Justice across different eras, focusing on close language analysis and examining the writer's intention. They also spent some time refining fiction writing skills, working hard to make their writing authentic, clear and confident. Overall, the class have been</p>

	<p>brilliant at tackling new, challenging texts and discussing big ideas. This term we will be turning to dystopian fiction and reading a series of short stories within this genre. Every week, Year 8 are set 300 SRP on Sparx Reader and completion of this is generally excellent.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: emma.kraemer@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
French	<p>Y8 French Students have so far covered three units this year including talking about holidays, free time activities and health + lifestyle. Currently, they are being re-introduced to school building on from Year 7 prior knowledge on the topic. The academic year began with introducing the students to speaking in the past tense to discuss holidays, and this grammar point has been regularly revisited throughout the other units covered. Now, students are in a better position to speak and write in the past, present and future tenses which is essential to reach the top grades in French before their end of year assessments. In lessons along with learning key grammar and vocabulary, students regularly practise all essential language skills such as Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking and Translation. These skills are then consolidated at home with weekly online homework on platforms such as Language Nut or Seneca to help best prepare them for assessments. In Year 8, students have already been assessed in all five core language skills to give a broader understanding of their overall progress in French.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: james.agar@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
Geography	<p>Year 8 have just started the 'Ecosystems' unit, which looks at different biomes e.g. the Amazon rainforest, and ecosystems – how different plants and animals interact and are influenced by climate and geology (among many other things!). Before this, we studied 'Tectonics' which focused on volcanoes and earthquakes, and how humans can manage living near these hazards.</p> <p>I have been very impressed with the questions being asked by the class and bringing in knowledge they have gained in science such as animal adaptations. Homework is set once a fortnight on Google Classroom and should take no more than 30 minutes to complete.</p> <p>I am looking forward to teaching the class for the last term of this academic year!</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: michael.major@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
History	<p>Last half-term, Year 8 began investigating the roots of the British Empire and its impact on various colonies, focusing on the experience and impact in India between the 1700-1900s. Students have been focusing on why India was such an important colony to the British and how it fuelled the Industrial Revolution, as well as the violence this led to as Britain attempted to hold on to India. This half-term, students will continue to look at the colonial experience in Canada and Australia, before moving on to focus more on the Industrial Revolution. Prior to this, Year 8 had studied Tudor England, African Empires in the Middle Ages, and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. I have been particularly impressed by the level of focus in class and the quality of their written work!</p>

	<p>If you have any questions, please email me on: sameeul.haque@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
Maths	<p>Year 8 has just completed their second Progress Point assessment, which tested the students' knowledge and understanding of direct proportions, fractions, decimals and percentage calculations. The class has been working very hard and has shown great amount of ambition in maths so far. This summer term, Year 8 will be sitting their end of year assessment, which will be divided into two papers (calculator and non- calculator). The assessment will test the students' knowledge and understanding of everything covered in Year 8 and in Year 7. The next topics being taught this term are ratio, area of circles, statistics and averages. The full curriculum map for this academic year can be found in students' exercise book and on our school website. In maths, students are set SPARX homework on a weekly basis. SPARX creates an hour's worth of tailored practice homework for each student driven by our department's scheme of work. As a department, we also offer homework club every Wednesday after school or lunchtime on Tuesday in MA5 and Friday in MA2 for students that need extra support with SPARX.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: sylwia.urbania@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
RE	<p>Year 8 are currently studying the 'Philosophy of Religion' topic which they are finding very engaging. This includes big questions such as the nature of God and evidence for His existence. You can support your child at home by asking them what arguments they have learnt about in lessons and whether they find them convincing; this will help develop their critical thinking skills.</p> <p>If you have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to contact me on jordan.bonner@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
Science	<p>Year 8 are currently learning about Forces in Action, exploring the effects of forces and everyday simple machines like screws, inclined planes, and pulleys. Once we complete this topic, we will begin revising for their PPE exams. Homework is set weekly on Sparx Science, due every Wednesday, and should take no more than an hour. Students seem to be enjoying it!</p> <p>Students are respectful and engaged, making lessons a pleasure to teach.</p> <p>If you have any questions, feel free to email me Ilke.Aumeerally@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
	<p>Y8 Spanish Students have so far covered three units this year including talking about holidays, free time activities and health and lifestyle. Currently, they are being re-introduced to school building on from Year 7 prior knowledge on the topic. The academic year began with introducing the students to speaking in the past tense to discuss holidays, and this grammar point has been regularly revisited throughout the other units covered. Now, students are in a better position to speak and write in the past, present and future tenses which is essential to reach the top grades in Spanish before their end of year</p>

Spanish	<p>assessments. In lessons along with learning key grammar and vocabulary, students regularly practise all essential language skills such as Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking and Translation. These skills are then consolidated at home with weekly online homework on platforms such as Language Nut or Seneca to help best prepare them for assessments. In Year 8, students have already been assessed in all five core language skills to give a broader understanding of their overall progress in Spanish.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please email me: james.agar@walthamstow-academy.org</p>
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