

# Parents Guide to Year 8



Information about all the subjects studied in

**YEAR 8**

What to expect and how you can help your child succeed.

**2016-2017**

# Key Dates in Year 8

## SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2016/17

Mid Term Holidays						
Term	Term Begins	Terms Ends	Begins	Ends	Term Begins	Term Ends
<b>Autumn 2016</b>	Thursday 1st September	Friday 21st October	Monday 24th October	Friday 28th October	Monday 31st October	Friday 16th December
<b>Spring 2017</b>	Tuesday 3rd January	Friday 17th February	Monday 20th February	Friday 24th February	Friday 27th February	Monday 7th April
<b>Summer 2017</b>	Monday 24th April	Friday 26th May	Monday 29th May	Friday 2nd June	Monday 5th June	Friday 21st July

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Year 8 Interim Report Issued - 17th November 2016

Year 8 Parents' Evening - 13th March 2017

Year 8 Examinations - 12th – 16th June 2017

Year 8 End of Year Report Issued - 14th July 2017

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Telephone: 01792 533066

**Head of Year: Mr. M. C. Luckwell**  
Pastoral Support Officer: Mrs. T. Dyche

School Website: [www.penyrrheol-comp.net](http://www.penyrrheol-comp.net)

Twitter: [@Penyrrheol](https://twitter.com/Penyrrheol)

# Guide for Parents

**W**elcome to the Year 8 Parent Guide! This booklet outlines the subjects that your child will be studying this year and it will hopefully provide you with advice on how you may best help your child succeed.

A reminder of the basics:

## Organisation

**W**e cannot emphasise the importance of good organisation strongly enough and recommend that you encourage your child to:

- ♦♦ Bring all the necessary books, kit and other equipment to school each day
- ♦♦ Pack his/her bag the night before
- ♦♦ Check his/her homework diary to ensure that all homework is completed on time
- ♦♦ Enter any important dates such as examinations, coursework deadlines and trips in their
- ♦♦ homework diary.

## Homework

**H**omework is important – it either extends or reinforces the work, which has been done in class. Please check that the homework diary is kept up to date and sign it on a weekly basis. Please set aside a quiet area with a table and chair for your child to work and try and ensure each night a time when homework may be done, ideally before any leisure activities. Use the homework timetable to keep a check on your child's work.

## Absence from School

**W**e would be grateful if you will:

- ♦♦ Telephone on the first day of absence;
- ♦♦ Send a note with your child when they return to school.

**T**he telephone call helps us to eliminate those children who are legitimately absent and we can then concentrate on phoning the parents of those children who are truanting. In the extreme case it would help us to raise the alarm early on if a child should go missing on the way to school.

## Uniform

**P**lease support us by ensuring that your child wears full school uniform every day. This will enable teachers to spend less time enforcing school uniform and concentrate more on actually teaching. Black footwear should be worn and jewellery must be restricted to one pair of earrings and one watch per pupil.





# Presentation of Work

1. Work must be presented neatly at all times.
2. Always write in blue or black pen.
3. Drawings or diagrams must be done in pencil but labelled in pen.
4. Always write in your neatest handwriting.
5. Lay out your work like this:

**Classwork/Homework**

**Date**

**Title of Work**

6. Put numbers or letters of questions in the margin.
7. Write on the top line of every page and start near the margin.
8. Write on every page. Don't leave big gaps.
9. No Tipp-Ex. Cross out with one straight line. Don't use brackets instead of crossing out.
10. No graffiti.

**It is your responsibility to copy up work missed due to absence and ensure your work is complete.**

# English

**Head of Department: Miss. K. Jones**

What will your child study in Year 8?

Each half term, pupils will focus on a different theme in which they will encounter a variety of fictional and non-fictional texts.

## Reading

Some texts will require very little reading but others will need more in-depth reading and will be more challenging. The texts will require different approaches and responses.

## Writing

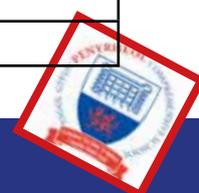
Some of the writing tasks will require a brief response whilst others will focus on extended writing. Pupils will write a variety of different text types, for example, descriptive, narrative, in-structional, informative and persuasive texts. Pupils will work on effective organisation of ideas in their writing but they will also be expected to write with grammatical accuracy and correct spelling: 50% of the marks will be given for spelling and grammar.

## Speaking and Listening

Pupils will be involved in pair / group discussions as well as presenting individually.

How will your child be assessed?

Term	Theme	Key Task
Autumn Term (1st half term)	Mystery and Suspense	<b>Reading:</b> Close reading of a short story.
		<b>Writing:</b> Opening of a story.
Autumn Term (2nd half term)	Gaming and social media	<b>Reading:</b> Common assessment task.
		<b>Writing:</b> A discursive speech or issue.
		<b>Speaking and Listening:</b> Short individual presentation on a related topic.
Spring Term (1st half term)	Heroes and Villains	<b>Reading:</b> Close reading of a non-fiction text.
		<b>Writing:</b> A short narrative.
Spring Term (2nd half term)	Drama	<b>Reading:</b> Close reading of a play script
		<b>Writing:</b> A review of a play.
Summer Term	Choices and Fate	<b>Reading :</b> Close reading of poetry.
		<b>Writing:</b> A formal letter or report.
		<b>Speaking and Listening:</b> Assessed group discussion.





# English Continued

## How can you support your child?

- ◆ Making sure that all homework (written in diaries) is completed
- ◆ Reading with your child several times a week and talking about what you have read
- ◆ Having plenty of reading material at home such as books, newspapers and magazines
- ◆ Going through the spelling of words and testing your child on difficult words
- ◆ Having a dictionary and thesaurus available for use at home
- ◆ Discussing work that is being done and offering ideas and suggestions
- ◆ Checking through written work and helping your child with punctuation, spelling and gram-mar
- ◆ Helping your child use the internet for research purposes.

## English trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

**T**hese change each year but might include: author visits, writing workshops, theatre visits and occasional trips when relevant. Past trips have included a visit to The Harry Potter Studios.

# Maths

**Head of Department: Mrs L. Maclean Quin/Mr. P. Bedford**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

The nature of Maths and Numeracy has changed dramatically over the last few years and is very much focussed on thinking skills and problem solving rather than just showing that a child understands the basic processes. Many children do not understand that a considerable amount of the work given to them now will be unfamiliar questions where they have to identify the skills they have been taught and use them. Very often they will think they haven't been taught the work as they don't recognise the skills. This takes time and patience to overcome! In order to do this we always ask a pupil to attempt a question first then ask if it is correct so that any misconceptions can be seen by the teacher rather than the pupil just saying "I don't understand".

**Leaving questions un-attempted is not an option in Maths!**

Topics covered:

Whole Numbers	Decimals	Fractions
Percentages	Equivalence of Fractions	Managing Money
Decimals and percentages	Indices	Directive Numbers
Order of Operations	Rounding and Estimating	Time
Length	Weight	Mass and Capacity
Temperature	Area and Volume	Collecting and Recording Data
Probability	Expressions	Formulae
Equations	Inequalities	Number Sequences
Angles	Position	Shape
Movement	Functions and Graphs	Constructions

Classwork will not be marked by the teacher as it will be marked in lessons as part of self and peer assessment. If your child is away when a piece of work is marked then make sure that they borrow a book or booklet to mark it, asking the teacher if there is a problem. Your child's book can be asked for at any time to check that it is up to date and organised and self/peer marking will be monitored in this way.

Learning Maths is about practising skills and homework provides the ideal opportunity for this. It is very important that homework is attempted to the best of your child's ability. The type of homework set varies and may be:

♦♦ **A MyMaths Task**

*If you do not have internet access at home then your son/daughter can use the ICT facilities in the library before and after school and at break time and lunchtime each day. Any workings needed should be done in the back of your child's book. Usually several days or even a week will be given to complete this task to allow for computer access issues.*

♦♦ **Revision for a Test**

♦♦ **General Revision**

♦♦ **Completing class work**

♦♦ **A Worksheet**

♦♦ **A Challenge or a problem**

**You will be informed if there is a persistent problem with homework completion via interim reports.**





# Maths Continued

## How will your child be assessed?

**P**rogress will be assessed throughout the year with regular tests and exams in February and June.

**We do not use homework to assess your child's level as they could have worked with someone, had help or sometimes (unfortunately) copied in a rush!**

## How can you support your child?

- ◆ Help your child learn their tables if they are not confident. This can be done by writing them out, chanting them and then testing them out of sequence. If your child can only answer a question like  $6 \times 8$  by counting up 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48 then they are not fluent enough to be fully confident.
- ◆ Make sure your child has a safe place to keep all booklets and books and if one is lost it is a good idea to photocopy another pupil's book so you have the work.
- ◆ If your child is away from school, ensure that work is copied up straight away by borrowing another pupil's book or booklet. After the work is copied up your child can ask the teacher for help if it is needed.
- ◆ Encourage your child to "have a go" and show methods without fear of being wrong. Fear of failure is a big barrier to learning in Maths.
- ◆ Ensure they have the correct equipment including a Scientific Calculator (preferably a Casio).

### With Homework:

- ◆ Encourage them to look in their books and online for any examples or information they may have forgotten. If it is a My Maths task, make sure they are using the lesson button at the corner of the homework task.
- ◆ Encourage them to do the question first and then ask you to check it, rather than you telling them what to do. You will then be able to see where they have gone wrong to home in on where they are getting stuck.
- ◆ Make sure they understand that homework is an opportunity to research and revise so all questions should be attempted. If they get them wrong then the teacher will go over any misconceptions in class with them.
- ◆ It is very tempting as a parent to sit and help too much which ultimately doesn't develop the skills your child needs to cope with the new Maths curriculum. However, by following these guidelines you are reinforcing the principles we follow in school which will be very beneficial to your child.
- ◆ Encourage them to try the homework as they get it! Far too many pupils leave it until the night before or even the morning it is due in.

# Science

**Head of Department: Mrs. S. Goulden**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

We are aiming to create the scientists of tomorrow by studying the topics of:

Acids and bases	Electricity	Vital Organs
Energy Resources	Nutrition	

Your son/daughter will improve their thinking skills by:

- ♦ Conducting a series of enquiries within the above topics that will develop your son/daughter's planning, analysing and reflection skills.
- ♦ Developing their thinking tools and learning strategies as part of teaching and learning

All of our laboratories are equipped with interactive whiteboards and an excellent range of re-sources to also promote essential literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.

## How will your child be assessed?

All Year 8 pupils are taught in set classes. Pupils progress in is monitored closely. Pupils are set again at the end of Year 8 using enquiry levels (and the Year 8 summer examination result).

## How can you support your child?

- ♦ Look through your son/daughter's exercise book with him/her. Encourage your child to complete any unfinished work, improve the presentation of their work, and to discuss the concepts he/she has studied. This will help with test revision.
- ♦ Emphasise the importance of completing quality homework on time. Feel free to help your son/daughter, or contact our department if he/she is experiencing difficulty.
- ♦ Please ensure that your son/daughter copies up work missed if he/she is absent from school.
- ♦ Help your child to develop study skills when revising for tests and examinations. Buying a Key Stage 3 revision guide can help – these can often contain glossy diagrams and questions to help your son/daughter to test their understanding.
- ♦ Encourage your son/daughter to understand the world of science beyond school. There are many books and internet sites available to fuel your child's imagination.
- ♦ Visits to Techniquet and local museums also help to develop an inquisitive nature.





# Art

**Head of Department: Mrs. V. Hine**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

All pupils in Year 8 have the opportunity to study Art for 3 hour lessons in the two-week timetable. Art is an exciting and enriching subject where pupils are challenged by experimenting with a wide range of creative experiences. In Year 8 pupils gain knowledge of other artists and cultures, draw from direct observations and are encouraged to be independent in their learning, whilst using their imagination and creativity to enhance their skills. To develop literacy pupils' use keywords and descriptive writing to record their learning.

Autumn Term – Spring Term (Sep - Feb)	Day of the Dead Project
Within this unit students are given the opportunity to explore and understand the Mexican celebration 'Day of the dead.' They will learn about the Mexican culture understanding their religious beliefs, celebrations and artefacts. Pupils will produce a mindmap on the Mexican traditions focusing on producing an accurate skull drawing, decorated with flowers for the background drawn from direct observation. Pupils will record their observations and develop ideas by applying numeracy to develop artistic skills. They will learn how to use symmetry, consider proportions, scaling and measuring within their work. Pupils will produce a highly decorated clay sugar skull as a final outcome to this project.	

Spring Term – Summer Term (Feb - Jul)	Fruit and Vegetables Project
Within this unit students are given the opportunity to develop specific skills for recording from observation focusing on producing various fruit and vegetable studies. Students will investigate the formal elements of Art and experiment with a range of different materials. Students will record their observations and develop ideas by learning about the elements of Art through line, tone, colour and symmetry. They will develop ideas and intentions by working from first-hand observations, experience, inspiration and imagination. Students will learn how to create accurate drawings in various scales using the measuring technique. They will create various studies of fruit working in sketchbooks before producing a final outcome. Students are to produce a detailed A2 still-life using the various differentiated resources provided, students are to independently work using the drawing material of their choice.	

All All pupils will need to have basic art equipment for their lessons including various shading pencils, colouring pencils and a watercolour set.

## How will your child be assessed?

Within each project introduced the pupils will apply numeracy within their work to develop artistic abilities and mathematical skills. They will also complete literacy tasks and evaluate their learning to improve literacy skills. All pupils record their learning regularly and set targets in order to continue to develop and meet their end of year target level. Students will also be involved in peer assessment, group assessment and self-assessment during lessons.

## How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ Visit art galleries & museums to increase their knowledge of Art.
- ♦♦ Watch Art documentaries to increase knowledge of artists.
- ♦♦ Ensure your child is spending quality time on their homework & provide essential art equipment.
- ♦♦ Ensure your child is completing work by deadlines.
- ♦♦ Encourage internet research of various artists and cultures.

## Art trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

Visits to local galleries and exhibitions are arranged as and when they are relevant to the work being studied.

**Twitter: @penyrheolArt**

# Design & Technology

**Head of Department: Mr. M. Rees**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

At Key Stage 3, pupils should be given the opportunities to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Key Stage 2. They should be taught to design and make products by combining their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding in contexts that allow them to make decisions based on the values that underpin society, helping them to become active and informed citizens.

The pupils should be made aware of human achievements and the big ideas that have shaped the world. They should be encouraged to be enterprising and innovative in their designing and making while having regard for sustainability and environmental issues in the 21st century.

Groups will all experience the three areas of Design Technology on offer at Penyrheol, twice over the key stage:

Food	Textiles	Resistant Materials
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## How will your child be assessed?

Each course is individually assessed by the specialist teacher. All pupils will sit an end of year exam which covers general Design and Technology elements.

## How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ Showing an interest in the work they are doing in Design and Technology – the subject has changed massively since you were in school!
- ♦♦ Speaking about items in the news of a technological nature – this helps to develop an interest.
- ♦♦ Help with homework and stress the importance of producing the best work of your child's ability.



# Drama

**Head of Department: Mrs. A. Williams-Sheaf**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

In Key Stage Three Drama focuses on developing skills that will allow each pupil to gain confidence in their abilities as an individual, work effectively as a team and gain a deeper understanding of the world using performance skills, dramatic forms and theatre skills and techniques.

Pupils will be involved in schemes of work that will explore and develop the following skills:

<b>Making</b>
Pupils will be observed and assessed in lessons on the contribution of ideas that demonstrate understanding of skills and techniques which lead to finished presentations and the ability to work well with others.
<b>Performing</b>
In assessed tasks, marks are awarded for ability to perform characters using voice, movement and facial expressions. Marks are also awarded for using dramatic techniques and theatre styles, good use of space and for effective communication with other actors and with the audience.
<b>Evaluating</b>
This takes place when work is presented in lessons. This involves the ability to reflect and comment on own and others' work. This may be done verbally or in writing. Performances are evaluated by pupils by commenting on what was effective and why, and what could be improved and how.

## How will your child be assessed?

Work is marked in levels for each area of assessment e.g.:

**Making Level 4- Performing Level 4+ Evaluating Level 3+**

An overall level is then awarded at the end of each assessment which would consider all three areas.

For the above it would be Level 4. Formal assessment takes place every term and targets are given for areas of improvement.

## How can you support your child?

Parents/guardians can assist the development of their child's work by discussing the content of each lesson and debating topical issues and current affairs in order to build confidence, improve communication skills and form opinions.

## Drama trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

We attempt to take theatre trips whenever possible and/or host visiting theatre groups. Pupils may also have the opportunity to participate in our annual School Production which is staged in the week prior to the October Half Term break.

# French

**Head of Department: Mrs. C. Young**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

The Year 8 course involves oracy (speaking & listening), reading and writing through purposeful and entertaining activities which build up language learning gradually. Pupils may be tested throughout the year in each skill area.

Topics studied include:

<b>En Ville</b>	<b>Une Journee Scolaire</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Learn about a town in France; learn some town vocabulary</li><li>2. Discuss activities in town</li><li>3. Ask for and understand directions</li><li>4. Talk about where you live</li><li>5. Understand tourist information</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Say what time events take place</li><li>2. Understand and tell the time</li><li>3. Talk about a typical day</li><li>4. Talk about school subjects and express your opinion</li><li>5. Talk about your school</li><li>6. Ask questions to get to know someone</li><li>7. Talk about your favourite things</li><li>8. Find out about a French speaking country</li><li>9. Learn about a French school</li></ol>
<b>Mmm C'est Bon Ca!</b>	<b>Amuse-toi Bien!</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Find out about meals in France</li><li>2. Use words for fruit and vegetables; discuss healthy eating</li><li>3. Discuss what you like to eat and drink</li><li>4. Practice what to say when dining with French people</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Talk about leisure activities</li><li>2. Use the 24 hour clock</li><li>3. Talk about different sports</li><li>4. Talk about music</li><li>5. Talk about Asterix and Parc Asterix</li><li>6. Describe a special day</li></ol>

## How will your child be assessed?

Year 8, are regularly assessed in class through all four skills; reading, writing, speaking and listening. They will also have learning home works.

## How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ Testing vocabulary and numbers.
- ♦♦ Assisting your child in using the dictionary.
- ♦♦ Making your child aware of French products in the supermarket.
- ♦♦ Using [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)

## French trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

There is a lunchtime language club which pupils are encouraged to attend.





# Geography

**Head of Department: Mr. M. Hyndman**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

<b>Europe and the EU</b>	<b>Weather and Climate</b>	<b>Natural Hazards (Floods, Tornadoes, Hurricanes)</b>
<b>Earthquakes and Volcanoes</b>	<b>Brecon Beacons and National Parks</b>	<b>Tourism</b>

## How will your child be assessed?

**P**upils are assessed using a variety of strategies including:

- ♦♦ Extended writing tasks
- ♦♦ Location map tests
- ♦♦ Numeracy and literacy exercises to provide a best fit level.

## How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ Encourage your child to be more sustainable. Walk rather than drive or use public transport. Recycle glass, paper, aluminum cans and other household items. Start a compost heap or join an environmental organisation.
- ♦♦ Watch geography programmes on the Discovery Channel or mainstream television especially those on deserts, rainforests, arctic or savannah.
- ♦♦ Use an atlas to find the exact location of holidays and how you got there.
- ♦♦ When travelling by car use an atlas and ask them to follow your route.
- ♦♦ Encourage your child to look through an atlas, in particular, maps of Wales, the United Kingdom, Europe and the Continents, to improve their knowledge.

## Geography trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

**W**hen relevant to the topics being studied, pupils sometimes visit local places of interest. In the past, this has included visits to the Brecon Beacons for example.

# History

**Head of Department: Dr. C. J.Rees**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

### WALES AND BRITAIN IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD C.1500-1760

The Voyages of Discovery	Henry VIII, his character, his wives and policies
The Break with Rome	Religious Changes in the 16th Century
The reign of Elizabeth 1 - Dealing with the poor, Elizabethan Life & The Spanish Armada	The Gunpowder Plot
Causes and Events of the Civil war 1642-49	The Commonwealth and Restoration

As a result of studying History, pupils will develop the ability to: -

- ♦ Explain the causes and consequences of events
- ♦ Examine and evaluate evidence
- ♦ Be aware of different points of view in History
- ♦ Research and investigate topics
- ♦ Communicate in ideas in a variety of ways

## How will your child be assessed?

Your child will undertake 4 ASSESSMENT TASKS, designed to test and improve their historical skills: -

1) October – Produce a booklet on the life and achievements of Christopher Columbus
2) December - Henry VIII and the Acts of Union
3) January – Research, design and produce a booklet on the Spanish Armada
4) May – Evaluate evidence on King Charles I – Hero or Villain?

## How can you support your child?

- ♦ Providing plenty of appropriate **READING** material such as the “Horrible History” Series.
- ♦ Visiting historical sites such as local castles, Big Pit or any museum.
- ♦ Encouraging your child to use the internet for research purposes. e.g. [www.historyworld.net](http://www.historyworld.net)
- ♦ Check through written work and help with punctuation and grammar.

## History trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

**T**he History Department has run several trips to the First World War Battlefields, incorporating visits to Ypres in Belgium and the Somme region. Year 8 pupils are welcome to accompany the trip as they will be studying aspects of the First World War as part of their Year 9 studies.





# I.C.T

**Head of Department: Mr. R. Marks**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

At Key Stage 3, learners are given opportunities to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding they have acquired at Key Stage 2. They are taught to become increasingly independent when making use of safe and suitable information sources, both ICT and non-ICT. They will have the chance to develop a range of ICT skills and become familiar with a selection of resources to find, analyse, communicate, present and share information. They will become more aware of the need to check the accuracy of their work and consider the advantages and limitations of using ICT in the other subjects they study. This will enable them to become increasingly aware of the social, ethical, moral and economic effects of ICT in the wider society.

The focus for Year 8 pupils is to strengthen their skills in spreadsheet modelling, presentation software, email communication and computer programming. These skills will be heavily relied upon throughout the rest of their time at Penyrheol if they opt for ICT or Computing GCSEs.

**TERM 1:** Pupils recap the basic 4 rules of number and utilise a range of functions and formulas in a series of spreadsheet tasks. They will learn to plan, design and create their own spreadsheet models. Furthermore, they use these models to make predictions by changing both data and the rules within formulas. Pupils also create suitable graphs to assist in the presentation of data.

**TERM 2:** Pupils work in groups to produce multimedia presentations on E-Safety. They designate roles within their groups, participate in meetings, keep minutes, research, plan and produce the presentation that will assist them when delivering information on E-Safety to their peers in the class.

*This group working experience gives pupils the chance to explore their inter-personal skills and make use of multimedia technology to assist with their presentations.*

**TERM 3:** Pupils learn to design and program their own 3D platform games. They will follow set tasks to learn about programming techniques and how to build rules upon which games are built. They will get the chance to design a game of their choice and will allow other pupils to give them feedback in order to make final improvements. *Finally, pupils will use their data handling skills to interrogate databases in readiness for Year 9 Essential Skills ICT tasks.*

## How will your child be assessed?

Pupils' overall ICT levels are derived from classroom and homework tasks that they complete throughout the year. Pupils will also sit an end of year test that contributes to the feedback they receive on their final Year 8 report.

## How can you support your child?

Parents/Guardians can assist pupils with their E-Safety presentation by reading information given on the website provided and discussing appropriate Internet behaviour. [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

## ICT trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

There is an ICT Club each Wednesday at lunch time where pupils get the opportunity to practise programming, games design and lego robotics.

# Music

**Head of Department: Mrs. L. Phipps**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

- ♦ Learning to perform vocally and on a variety of instruments including keyboard, ukulele, guitar and percussion instruments
- ♦ Learning to compose for a variety of instruments including the voice
- ♦ Learning to listen critically to a wide range of music from various styles, eras and backgrounds.
- ♦ Learning to develop ICT skills using iPad software packages

Topics covered in Year 8 include:

The Blues	Two handed keyboard work	Christmas Music	Cerddoriaeth o Gymru / Music of Wales
La Bamba	Radio Jngles	Rap	

## How will your child be assessed?

**T**here is a class assessment at the end of each half term where the pupils will perform the piece they have been working on.

## How can you support your child?

- ♦ Encouraging them to learn an instrument through the in-school peripatetic service (Strings, Woodwind and Brass)
- ♦ Encouraging them to participate in one of the many extracurricular ensembles
- ♦ (Junior Choir, Woodwind Group, String Group, Orchestra, School Production)
- ♦ Enabling them to practice on a musical instrument at home
- ♦ Listening to your child singing and make helpful comments
- ♦ Attending concerts that your child is performing in
- ♦ Encouraging them to listen to a broad range of music
- ♦ Taking them to performances of live music (musicals, rock concerts, classical concerts, festivals etc.)

## Music trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

**T**he department organises a wide selection of extra curricular activities including girls and boys choirs and music clubs for keyboard, guitar, strings and woodwind. Pupils get the chance to perform at both the Summer and Christmas concerts and some have the opportunity to participate in the annual school production.





# Physical Education

**Head of Department: Mrs. A. Heard**  
**Teacher in Charge of Boys: Mr. A. Clapperton**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

**P**upils are taught a range of activities in each of the National Curriculum areas:

**Competitive Activities    Outdoor & Adventurous    Health & Wellbeing    Creative Activities**

### Participation

Encourage your child to participate in every lesson with the correct kit. Send a letter in an envelope if they are too ill to participate. Usually if they are fit enough to be in school they can take part in P.E. Lessons.

### Effort

Whatever your child's ability it is important that they participate with the maximum effort in all lessons. It doesn't matter if you can't do a forward roll as long as you try.

### Safety

Accidents in PE can be avoided by the following rules:-

- ◆ All trainers must be tied up properly
- ◆ No jewellery to be worn. Please provide tape for earrings which cannot be removed.
- ◆ All instructions given by PE teachers are concerned with safety.
- ◆ Encourage your child to listen and carry out the appropriate instructions.

## How will your child be assessed?

**P**upils are awarded a National Curriculum level based on their performance and knowledge across all the areas.

## How can you support your child?

**E**nsure your child has the correct P.E. Uniform/Kit (Available from Picton Sports and Sew & Sew):

<b>Girls:</b>	P. E. T-shirt (Blue and white with badge), shorts/skorts, sports socks. rugby shirt (optional), swimming kit, trainers (not school shoes) .
<b>Boys</b>	Football boots, Towel (if outside lesson), P. E. T-shirt, shorts/skorts, sports socks. rugby shirt (optional), swimming kit, trainers and football boots.

## P.E. trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

Full programme of 5x60 activities, available during and after school.

Full range of sports teams and training opportunities. Competitive matches and inter-school tournaments.

Our own on-site Rugby Development Officer who arranges regular training and fixtures.

Sports Tours are also organised.

**\*\*\*Squad members of ANY team, are expected to be reliable and committed\*\*\***

# Religious Education

**Head of Department: Mrs. L. Picton**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

Through the course pupils will be engaging with fundamental questions, exploring religious beliefs, teachings and practices and expressing personal responses. After being introduced to the worlds six main religions,

<b>Human Experience</b>	
Human identity – the ways in which religions understand human existence. Authority and influence – how different forms of authority such as sacred texts, religious leaders and codes guide and influence people's lives. We look at texts, leaders and parables. Relationships and responsibility - how the importance of personal relationships and responsibility to others is demonstrated by religions. How religions demonstrate rules for living. e.g. Food laws.	
<b>Search for Meaning</b>	
Non-material/spiritual – how religions indicate through stories and activities that life is also spiritual. Knowledge and experience regarding the non-material/spiritual – how religious/spiritual experience is developed and understood. e.g. relationship with God. How and why people develop, interpret and act on their religious/spiritual experiences.	
<b>The World, Looking for God, Creation</b>	<b>Caring for the Planet</b>
The origin and purpose of life – how interpretations of the origins of the world and life influence people's views, e.g. meaning and values.	The natural world and living things – how religions show concern and responsibility e.g. stewardship, sustainability.
<b>Lifestyle</b>	<b>Leaders</b>
Food and dress	Jesus – Historical and Contemporary Inspirational people - e.g. Nicky Cruz

## How will your child be assessed?

Specific level assessments throughout the year may include: How the World was made – Creation v the Big Bang, Caring for the Planet/Stewardship and a Comparison Study e.g. Lifestyle, How to treat others – through teachings/parables in Christianity.

## How can you support your child?

- Encouraging your child to use the library for reading material and for research. e.g. How the world was made; caring for the planet, food and dress & parables and teachings.
- Helping your child to use the internet for research and revision purposes.
- Encouraging your child to write full detailed responses, particularly with evaluation answers and level assessments.
- Testing your child on their spelling, punctuation, grammar and meaning of key words. e.g. steward.
- Ensuring that set homework is completed on time and revision is carried out for module tests/exams.
- Ensuring that there is no unfinished work in your child's book and help with reading difficult texts.
- Discussing themes developed in lessons and encourage a tolerance of different world religions.
- Being supportive, encouraging self-belief and helping them to seize the opportunity to secure future success.

## R.E. trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

A talk called 'The Twenty Four hours that changed the world' links in to The Easter event. Pupils enjoy the interaction with the visiting speakers and actors.



# Welsh

**Head of Department: Mr. N. D. Binding**

## What will your child study in Year 8?

Holidays: the past tense, countries, travel, weather, food etc.	Wales and the Welsh: famous personalities
Eisteddfod preparations	Bilingualism: the advantages of speaking 2 languages
Grammar Focus: translation skills, sentence patterns, mutations etc.	

## How will your child be assessed?

<b>October</b>	<b>Oracy</b> - Personal presentation on a past holiday <b>Reading</b> - Holiday Role Play <b>Writing</b> - Holiday Blog
<b>January</b>	<b>Oracy</b> - Book review <b>Reading</b> - Comprehension test on another person's holiday <b>Writing</b> - Holiday diary
<b>April</b>	<b>Oracy</b> - Pair/Group task <b>Reading</b> - Comprehension task on area <b>Writing</b> - Article on local area

The KS3 National Curriculum Welsh Second Language levels are made up of the following weightings:  
**Oracy tasks are 60%, reading and writing tasks are worth 20% each.**

## How can you support your child?

- ♦♦ encourage your child to follow the 3 R's:
  - Record** - It is essential that pupils record the subject (Cymraeg), the task set (as written on the board by the classroom teacher) and the date for handing in the gwaith cartref
  - Routine** - Do encourage a regular set time for homework completion. Quite often, learning work will be given for a vocabulary test or a conversation.(sgwrs)
  - Result** - Homework is an opportunity for pupils to prove their understanding of the work covered in class and to improve their own individual performance.
- ♦♦ Complete homework by the due date
- ♦♦ Testing him/her when revising
- ♦♦ Checking his/her book for neatness, for progress being made and for staff comments.
- ♦♦ By ensuring that his/her bag is ready for each day with the correct books and equipment.
- ♦♦ Use the Welsh that he/she knows at home and to watch S4C occasionally!
- ♦♦ Show your child the following keyboard shortcuts for using Welsh letters:  
Hold down the ALT button and type in the numbers on the right hand side of the computer keyboard.  
The number lock must be on.

$\hat{a}$  = ALT + 0226       $\hat{e}$  = ALT + 0234  
 $\hat{i}$  = ALT + 0238       $\hat{o}$  = ALT + 0244       $\hat{u}$  = ALT + 150

## Welsh trips and/or extra curricular activities in Year 8

Year 8 pupils visit Llangrannog Urdd Centre for an Activities Weekend in January. and there is a KS3 Welsh club held in A3 every Friday from 13.20-13.55.

# Notes

