

Kettlethorpe High School

Standbridge Lane, Sandal, Wakefield WF2 7EL

Headteacher: Mr T Griffiths



Dear Parent/Carer

This term we welcome back Year 8 after the Easter break. Having listened to our parents' and carers' feedback we welcome the opportunity to share with you the topics your child will be studying this term.

In English, pupils will begin reading the play *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell. They will re-acquaint themselves with the features of a play and reflect upon the question of nature vs nurture linked to the two protagonists: Mickey and Edward. Pupils will also consider this issue in light of the broader social inequality in Liverpool during the 1980s, and the controversy surrounding events in the city. They will be assessed by analysing how social class is presented in a particular extract of the play.

In maths, pupils follow different pathways through the curriculum. These will include the topics of probability and accurate drawings using scale and constructions. Some pupils will be consolidating their knowledge of the equivalence of fractions, decimals, and percentages. Pupils will develop graph skills and use these for data analysis and comparison. Other pupils will consolidate their number and ratio skills, working on their algebra skills. This will include manipulating expressions and solving equations. Check your child's planner to see which topic has been selected for homework on Sparx Maths.

In science, we will continue to expand pupils' brains. Pupils will be studying several key scientific areas. Biology topics will include evolution and inheritance. Pupils will also study photosynthesis and respiration. In physics, there will be the study of contact forces and pressure. In chemistry, pupils will consider climate change and the Earth's resources.

Geography and history offer an exciting mix of topics. In geography, pupils will study geology, with the chance to look at the geological time, and mass extinctions. Pupils will get to see first hand rocks and fossils. They will also study the coastal landscape, looking at its key features and how people interact with the coastal environment. In history, pupils will study the increase of dictatorships after the First World War and the consequence of these leading to the Second World War. Pupils will complete an in depth study of life during WW2 as well the impact of social movements and immigration in the subsequent years.

In modern foreign languages, pupils will learn to use the three tenses when describing the region where they live and compare these to other regions across the globe. Pupils will use vocabulary relating to arranging to go out with friends, they will also learn about festivals and other celebrations in French and Spanish speaking countries.

We are proud that all our pupils in Year 8 can study religious education. Pupils will be completing their studies on creation theories from Christianity, Hinduism and science before moving on to studying life after death. We will explore beliefs from five major religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) on what they believe happens to people after they die. Once completed pupils will be looking at moral issues, including moral theories and religious responses to a range of contemporary moral issues.

In music, pupils will start with some band work, aiming to upskill to using chord inversions and more unusual time signatures. They will also try out a performance via technology. Later we will put emphasis back on composition where we will use the creative form of 'theme and variations'. We will finish the year with a try at DJing. In dance, pupils will be trying out some safe practices of contact and lift work within a routine. The final drama project looks at stage positions and the use of different stage types.

In PE, the pupils will be focussing on executing skills and applying them to sporting situations in our summer activities. These include strike and field activities, athletics and net games. Pupils will work on decision-making, analysing and evaluating performances, leadership and coaching. Activities will include athletics, rounders, cricket, tennis and longball. We hope some pupils will help represent the school in athletics and other sporting teams.

Pupils will continue to rotate through the technology subjects. The variety of topics and activities is vast but will include computer science using Python, a text-based programming language, creating algorithms and flowcharts using a variety of software packages. In design and technology, pupils will continue to explore a variety of materials and manufacturing processes including using simple tools in the workshop. Pupils will incorporate these skills into their final model. In textiles, pupils will design and make a cushion cover reflecting a culture. The cushion will be tie-dyed, printed, and embellished with further surface design. Pupils will also experience a range of construction techniques such as seams, hemming and button and buttonhole. In food technology, pupils will be learning more in-depth knowledge of every nutrient. They will explore carbohydrates, proteins and fats and understand the roles they play in the body. Pupils will complete practicals that are linked to these nutrients and are based around main meals so they can go home and recreate these, they will make foods such as sweet and sour chicken/vegetables, chicken/vegetable goujons and lasagna, improving on the knife skills and cooking skills they learnt in Year 7.

And finally, in art and design, pupils will complete their A3 tonal shaded self-portraits. Pupils will research and investigate the portrait work of Pablo Picasso. They will create a Picasso-style interpretation in paints of their self-portrait. The homework project will be to complete a Picasso-style portrait in any medium. Pupils will then be researching the digital landscape work of David Hockney. They will create these using digital devices to present a local landscape in his style.

We welcome parents and carers to be involved with their child's learning. We recommend parents regularly view the pupil's knowledge organisers. These can be found on the school website. Our full curriculum offer for Year 7 and Year 8 is also available on the school website. Please check your child's planner for weekly homework. We strongly recommend sitting with your child and exploring the online platforms we use in school to support learning both in school and at home.

If you have any questions regarding your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact your Key Stage Achievement Leader: rdouglas@kettlethorpe.wakefield.sch.uk

Kind regards



Gary Lickiss
Deputy Headteacher