

Curriculum Overview

Academic Year: **2010 - 2011**

Year: **8**



Subject	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
English	'A Christmas Carol' – concepts of plot, character, setting, themes and historical context. Grammar-parts of speech, suffixes, prefixes, root words, conjunctions. Comprehension exercises & creative writing exercises. Essay writing skills. Speaking & listening skills.	Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'/Macbeth on the Loose - characterisation, stage craft, language study. Concepts of theme & style of studied text. Writing analytical essay style PEE paragraphs. Grammar - speech, active & passive voice, direct & indirect speech, homophones, homonyms, metaphors, similes. Speaking and listening skills in groups.	The Novel – Holes – review concepts of plot, character, setting and atmosphere, themes. Writing to analyse, review, comment, persuade, advise. Explore use of irony. Use irony in own writing. Analyse and discuss effectiveness of language techniques to entertain inform and instruct. Further grammar analysis.
Mathematics	Study structures and types of 'numbers' using both mental and written methods. Data types and statistical diagrams-bar graphs, pie charts, stem-and-leaf diagrams, and comparison of two distributions will be done. Fractions, decimals, conversions, the arithmetic of fractions and decimals including calculation of percentages. Order quantities and lastly probability will be covered.	In this term students will draw linear graphs, study rotation, reflection, enlargement and translations of 2-D shapes. Symmetries of 2-D shapes and reflection symmetry of 3-D shapes will be covered. Proportion and ratio, algebra of linear expressions. Number patterns, finding term-term and position-to-term rules will be covered by the end of the term.	Calculations involving "time" and usage of money. Algebraic work including quadratic & cubic expressions. They shall work with measures in imperial & metric units before perimeters, areas and volumes. Triangles, quadrilaterals and polygons will be studied followed by use of compasses & straight edges for constructions. Lastly, they shall cover range, mode, median and mean of a distribution.
Science	'Magnets'- types, properties, field pattern of bar magnet, construction & use of electromagnets 'Matter' – atom & elements, pure substances, compounds & mixtures, physical & chemical properties, separation of substances, methods of separation. 'Nutrition' – types of nutrients, use of protein, carbohydrates and fats, food tests. Digestion – organs of digestive system, functions, digestion of carbohydrates, proteins & fats.	'Speeding up' – measuring speed, velocity & acceleration, distance time graphs. 'Breathing & Circulation' – breathing mechanism & process, blood circulation, heart, blood, heart conditions & disorders. 'Respiration' – gaseous exchange, alveoli, effects of smoking, basic equation of respiration, respiration in plants and animals. 'Reactions' – reactions of metals & non-metals, corrosion, further reactions.	'Compounds and Mixtures'-differences between elements compounds and mixtures. 'Energy transformation' -energy is converted from one form to another. 'Flowering plants'- position and functions of major organs in flowering plants.
ICT	Computer systems, Input & output devices, Data storage, The students gather information from the internet. They develop a system that will meet the potential audience's needs using presentation software. Data analysis using spreadsheet software, students learn to design and build an interactive web page and control on screen events and flow of information accessed through a web page.	Students use the internet to gather information on a particular topic & download, collate it and present it from a particular viewpoint. They also study the programming language Win logo. Flowcharts & use in programming. Using 'Win logo', students create their own simple programmes. Internet, computer Networks, production, presentation authoring.	Students investigate the use of data by commercial organisations. The use of ICT in retail industry, electronic stock-control systems. They learn about the data protection act. Integration (use of all application programs and a variety of different sources to find solutions).



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History	Europe in the early modern world. Subtopics include –The Renaissance and the Reformation. The Luba Lunda states of central Africa and the migrations. The Ngoni of southern Africa and the Mfecane. Project work & displays will be covered as the term progresses. Independent research. Observation from historical sources is emphasised.	The Age of Exploration looking in depth at the world in the 1400s, Prince Henry the Navigator, Portuguese voyages, Columbus, Magellan. The Age of Revolution focusing on governments of the eighteenth century and the American War of Independence. Individual research, project and source work is emphasised.	Age of Revolution. Subtopics include the French Revolution, its causes and legacy. Industrial Revolution, its causes, domestic system, the first factories, the spread of industrialisation, farming methods, development of canals and the railway system.
Geography	Population dynamics: distribution and growth of the world population. “Man – Land” relationships - primary activities; quarrying, mining, farming: Case study of a developing country – Kenya. Use of ICT in Geography.	“Man-Land” relationships: factors of industrial location, industries in inner cities. Effects of the exploitation of renewable and non-renewable energy resources on the environment. Environments that need protecting such as wildlife and vegetation are examined in detail.	Weathering processes & resultant effect on river and coastal environments, how physical processes affect human activities and review Man’s response to natural hazards. Pollution episodes and abatement efforts.
Art	Study of Impressionism-Claude Monet done in a variety of media. Development of senses of colours as inspired by impressionists.Observational work of trees within the school premises-out door studies .Greeting Card design. Pottery and ceramics.	Creativity and imagination in painting and drawing to develop basic skills in expressing natural and man made forms such as plants, trees and land forms. Analytical studies of animals, observational studies of buildings. Use of alternative colour material e.g. mosaic and collage.	Further development of observational skills in still life and drawing from a living person and secondary sources. Develop appreciation of visual elements e.g. line, form and proportion. Interpretation of themes. “My dream house”. Pop Art. Mobile design.
French	Topics on myself, my look, my health, cinema and television. Grammar and verbs: present tense, adjective agreements, prepositions, introduction of past tense. Extension of vocabulary. The 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.	Topics on travelling, holiday, activities, daily routine. Grammar and verbs: work on past tense, prepositions, questions, reflexive verbs, the .4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.	Topics on town, places in town, directions. Grammar and verbs: review of all tenses and introduction of orders. Review of all topics, improve writing skill, more reading, the 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.
Physical Education	Volleyball: serving, receiving and digging skills, tactical play, basketball positioning, tactical play. Swimming; 4 basic strokes, basic water safety and water rescues. Introduction of fitness activities, stamina, strength, speed and muscular endurance.	Netball: tactical play, pivoting, offensive and defensive, passing and dodging skills. Soccer; control skills, rule observance, tactical play and positioning. Cross-Country. Introduction of fitness activities: stamina, strength, speed, muscular endurance, pacing, and tactics.	Introduction of fitness- stamina, strength, speed, muscular endurance, heart rate. Hockey: control skills & tactical play, hit ins, penalty, long games, small sided games. Athletics: sprinting, relays, long-high jump, shot, discus and javelin.



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Music	Dotted notes and bass clef and the left hand playing of the keyboard. Major scale and tonality. Keyboard skills are improved as well as an introduction to tuned percussion and un-tuned ensemble playing.	Composing using the ternary form as well as the introduction of a variety of composition techniques. North Indian Classical music Improvement in keyboard skills and singing techniques. Introduction to primary chords.	Application of intervals to melody composition. Keyboard skills continued as well as singing in three part harmony. Using the major scale in composition. Introduction to Renaissance music
Current Affairs	Based on what students have learnt in Year 7, 'Current Affairs' moves to incorporate more journalistic elements, i.e. researching background to news items, analysing the use of language and writing short news-paragraphs themselves.		
Project	Students are now introduced to methods of primary research. They design a questionnaire and carry out a survey on a topic provided.	The results of the survey are now presented in a report.	Students now explore different types of presentations. They research the content, which has to deal with preservation of the environment, and present their results in the form of a pamphlet.
Personal. Social and Health Education	A course designed to teach a variety of topics that are linked directly to the student's particular needs during the year. Pupils are taught study techniques and information about school life. They look at health related topics and social issues as well as gaining an insight into world religions and the concept of global citizenship.		

