

Dear Parents/Carers

Half Term 2 Curriculum Overview Y8

We are delighted with how Y8 are conducting themselves around the academy and within lessons. A busy second half term is well underway.

In Physical Education this half term, Y8 students will be participating in a team sport and an individual activity - all students are encouraged to push themselves beyond their comfort zone while sharpening tactics, endurance and evaluation skills.

In music lessons, Y8 students continue to sharpen their performance skills in groups while learning about the music of the Baroque period. Listening, notation and composition are at the heart of the Y8 music curriculum.

In RE, students are exploring the moral maze – what it means to be a moral person and how we make moral decisions. Students are looking at how religious people use sources of authority in religion (for example: holy texts, key figures and teachings) to make decisions.

In PHSE this half term Y8 students are following a scheme of learning based on national work completed by the charity Barnardos. Students will consider aspects of healthy and unhealthy romantic relationships, including vital work on how to keep themselves safe.

In Spanish and French this half term students are learning how to give a fuller picture of themselves and their spare time – discussing their preferred genres of books and films, sports and leisure activities. Students are learning how to express a range of opinions precisely and with increasingly ambitious vocabulary.

In Science, year 8 students are learning the big ideas within energy, reactions, genes and organisms – including exploratory work on combustion, breathing, digestion and thermal energy.

In maths this half term your child will be further developing their understanding of equations and inequalities and developing their understanding of and looking in to the application of fractions, decimals and percentages.

Y8 geographers will be wrestling with the challenging and very relevant question: ‘Can humans learn to live with natural hazards?’ by closely examining a range of people and places, while in history we will continue to develop their understanding of the Industrial Revolution in Britain - concentrating on the social and political changes. They will learn how the north of England was involved in the push for greater democracy, and how women gradually obtained the vote. Students will continue to focus on developing descriptions and explanations of causes and consequences.

In English lessons this half term, under the theme of ‘Crime’, students will be studying the novel ‘The Hound of the Baskervilles’ to explore how a more complex novel presents character and genre. They will be developing their reading skills further while also building their vocabulary. They will also be studying non-fiction crime-related writing, such as reports and newspaper articles in order to develop their own written style in a range of formats. Once a week, students will read a short extract from a fiction or non-fiction text to promote reading for pleasure.

Drama lessons will see students exploring the conventions and ‘rules’ of melodrama to enhance their understanding of the Victorian novel in their English lessons.

In art, students are studying a range of 'isms' – various movements in art and aesthetics, including detailed study of iconic pieces such as those produced by Van Gogh.

Design technology students are working how different metals are suitable for different design brief, while those in the kitchens are learning how to bake from scratch creating fresh scones and pizzas. Across all mediums, students are learning how to research, plan, produce and evaluate their work.

In PE lessons and as part of our formidable extra-curricular sports teams, Y8 students are thriving – developing their tactics, teamwork, mental and physical capacity, self-esteem and confidence through team sports and individual performance.

We thank all parents/carers for continuing to support their children's studies by ensuring they arrive punctually to school each day – equipped, prepared and ready for learning. Should you have any questions or comments linked to your child's learning, please contact the relevant faculty as outlined below.

Kind Regards,

Mr M Kilgannon

Assistant Vice Principal

Aston Academy

Art: art@astonacademy.org

Business, Computing and Economics: BCE@astonacademy.org

DT: DT@astonacademy.org

English: english@astonacademy.org

Humanities: humanities@astonacademy.org

Maths: maths@astonacademy.org

MFL: MFL@astonacademy.org

Music: music@astonacademy.org

PE: P.E@astonacademy.org

RE: RE@astonacademy.org

Science: science@astonacademy.org

General Query: info@astonacademy.org

Reading Queries (Everyone Reading In Class): eric@astonacademy.org