

16th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Year 8 Curriculum – T1

Thank you for the continued support for your child’s education here at Oak Academy. Evidence supports the positive impact that parental/guardian engagement can have on student attainment, on average 4 months’ additional progress over the course of a year¹. Here at Oak Academy, we would like to share your child’s learning journey with you through a termly update on their curriculum and the books they are reading. This will help support conversations at home around school and ensure preparation for, and attendance to, key assessment points.

Currently reading in tutor time:

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher



Curriculum overview for Year 8

Subject	T1 Bigger picture	Assessment	Date
3D Forms	In this rotation, students will be exploring the history and cultural importance of both Mandalas and the ancient Indonesian technique of batik, before designing and making their own batik mandala.	Outcome versus original design ideas.	w/c 17/10
Art	Analytical Cubism. Students will explore the work of Picasso, Braque, and Gris, and gain an understanding of ways of seeing.	A Cubist portrait.	w/c 10/10
Computing	Exploring different approaches to producing digital graphics. The hardware and software involved in computer systems, computer logic and artificial intelligence. How to code with HTML and creating a website.	End of Rotation Test	w/c 10/10

¹ [Parental engagement | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)

Oak Academy

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English	Literary Heritage: Sherlock Holmes. Writing Mastery and Reading for Pleasure (using either Lexia or Reading Plus)	Baseline assessment completed in class. Daily retrieval quizzes.	Ongoing
Geography	Continental drift, linked to the structure of the Earth and Convection Currents. Students explore what happens at each plate boundary learning how tectonic hazards shape people's lives.	Written test.	26/9 17/10
History	EQ: To what extent did Italy lead the 'Age of Encounters'? The Renaissance and early colonialism.	Extended written response to the enquiry question.	w/c 7/10
Maths	Unit 1 - Number Unit 2 - Area and Volume	End of unit assessments.	Ongoing
Music	Rhythm and Pattern - In this Performing Arts rotation students learn drumming and beat making skills through West African drumming, using a rock drum kit, and music technology.	Observation by teacher and end of term test.	w/c 17/10
PE	Communication.	Teacher observation and weekly reflective task in home learning booklet.	End of T1
RE	Enquiry Question: Is there life after death?	Formative assessment in lessons.	Ongoing
Science	Biology - digestion, lung function, explain the dangers of smoking, and explain psychological and physiological addiction. Physics - Forces and pressure in solids, liquid, and gases. Chemistry - interpreting the periodic table, reactions, and deducing formula of compounds.	Extended writing - 6-mark questions. 20-mark end of topic assessment	Every 3 weeks. w/c 19/9
Spanish	Myself: to revise how to describe themselves, give opinions about free time and sports and speak about their school and school subjects.	Reading and listening assessment.	w/c 17/10
Textiles	In this rotation, students will be exploring the history and cultural importance of both Mandalas and the ancient Indonesian technique of batik, before designing and making their own batik mandala.	Outcome versus original design ideas.	w/c 17/10

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Home learning timetable – [Y8 Home Learning Booklet](#)

Week 1					Week 2				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spanish (All)	Performing Arts (8A, 8B, 8C)	Maths (All)	English (All)	Science (All)	Technology (8A, 8B, 8C)	Art (8B)	Maths (All)	English (All)	Science (All)
History (All)	Technology (8D, 8E, 8F)	Performing Arts (8D, 8E, 8F)	PE (All)		Geography (8C, 8D)	PE (8D, 8E, 8F)		PE (8A, 8B, 8C)	Art (8D)
		Geography (8A)						Art (8A, 8C)	Geography (8B)

Information for parents and carers on the importance of attendance.

Oak Academy is committed to ensuring our students achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance is key to achieving this aim. We will work hard to provide a safe and welcoming environment for your child and will monitor attendance closely.

Good school attendance improves your child's chances of success in life. There is clear evidence of the link between good attendance at school and high levels of achievement. Children with no absence at key stage 4 are almost 2 times more likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs than children who missed 10-15 percent of lessons. If your child has an attendance level of 90%, they will have missed one day a fortnight in school. Over a school year this will represent four weeks of absence. If this level of absence were maintained for a five-year period, it would mean half a school year would have been missed.

We would really appreciate your help in ensuring that your child has good school attendance. If you have a concern, please contact the Family Liaison Officer (amanda.burridge@oak-academy.co.uk) so that we can work together to identify any barriers that may be preventing your child from attending school and ensure support is put in place. We may contact the Inclusion Team at BCP Council for advice and support or other organisations that may be able to help. It is hoped that this will be successful in improving attendance.

Thank you again for your support, and we hope you enjoy discussing your child's curriculum and reading with them over the coming weeks.



Sara Sinaguglia

Assistant Vice-Principal, Teaching & Learning

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