

Year 8

Curriculum Guide for Parents / Carers 2025-2026

ART

Overview

In Year 8 the art and design curriculum seek to nurture students' creativity and encourages them to generate and develop their own ideas. They will be challenged to think critically, problem-solve, and take risks in their artistic outcomes. They will have opportunities to experiment with different media, tools, and processes, allowing them to develop their technical skills and artistic expression.

Your child will study:

- The cityscape and landscape of Bradford
- The artwork of Bradford born artist David Hockney and French Art Henry Rousseau
- Layers and Perspective drawing
- Gridding up a landscape drawing
- How artists use their surroundings to create cityscape and landscape paintings
- How to take inspiration from the work of artists and designers
- Portraiture and self Portrait

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Use a range of techniques to record their observations of cityscape, landscape, and portraiture.
- Use a variety of techniques and media, including painting, print making.
- Become proficient in handling different materials (e.g. collage and mixed media).
- Analyse and evaluate their own work and other people's.
- Understand the history of art, craft, design, and architecture, including periods, styles, and major movements from ancient times to the present day.

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, assessments, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encouraged your child to bring in equipment from home to help them make progress and create fantastic artwork in school. For example, drawing equipment such as 2B pencils and Fine Liners and anything that will support your learning.
- Encouraged your child to bring in from home visual references that will inspire them, such as photographs, magazine cutouts and images from the internet.
- Encourage your child to visit art galleries or places of interest to enhance their learning.



Useful links:

<https://www.notjusthockney.info/newbould-frank/>

<https://www.art-is-fun.com/grid-method>

<https://www.julianopie.com/curriculum-vitae>



If you need to ask a question about this subject, contact:
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COMPUTING

Overview

The Computing curriculum in Year 8 ensures that all students become confident and courteous users of technology and to further improve their digital literacy. It builds resilience and deepens students' knowledge of transferrable skills such as the diverse use of Microsoft office and how this is used in everyday life. The Computing curriculum teaches students how to be kind and show courtesy when using social media for good, and aware of a diverse audience when using digital platforms and encourages all students the opportunity to learn through practical application.

Your child will study:

- E-Safety
- Web Design using Dreamweaver & Adobe Fireworks
- Spreadsheets (advanced formulas)
- Python (IF or ELSE, WHILE)
- Enterprise Project
- Computing

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand how to be safe online
- Create a website with multiple pages
- Create a fully functioning formulated spreadsheet
- Further develop coding skills using advanced code
- Understand how technology is used in branding and advertising
- Learn about the history of computing including the pioneers
- Understand the different computer components and their uses

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Look at use of Microsoft Office at home, encourage the practice of ICT where possible if the software is available.
- Encourage the questioning of data. Is it correct? Is it valid? Is it reliable?
- Practice Python skills using free online Python software



Useful links:

[Online Python - IDE, Editor, Compiler, Interpreter \(online-python.com\)](https://www.python.org/doc/overview/)



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DRAMA

Overview

The Drama curriculum in Year 8 allows students further develop skills acquired through year 7 drama as well as introduce them to devising techniques and stage craft skills. Students will continue to improve confidence in performing by working through a broad range of topics applying a range of different performance skills to each. Students will have the chance to explore their creative ideas when structuring their own performance pieces allowing them the chance to use their imaginations and ambition.

Your child will study:

- Devising Drama from Stimuli
- Fairy Tales and Pantomime
- Foley – Sound Scraping
- Soap Opera
- Drama Practitioners
- Contemporary Theatre

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Use a range of different stimuli to create performances.
- Use explorative drama to investigate the case of a missing teenager.
- Explore the genre of Pantomime and apply appropriate drama skills in performance.
- Examine stereotypes used within Soap Operas and gain knowledge of how to create tension and suspense through a variety of drama techniques.
- Study a piece of contemporary theatre, it's narrative and themes.

Your child will be assessed through practical performances, mid-term assessments, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to watch, read and engage in films, television drama, live theatre
- Actively encourage your children to visit a local theatre, to see a live performance
- Encourage the use of computers for research
- Encourage your child to perform at home to build confidence



Useful links:

[Vocal and physical techniques -](#)
[Developing an idea - Drama - AQA -](#)
[BBC Bitesize](#)



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ENGLISH

Overview

The English curriculum in Year 8 ensures that all students become confident and courteous communicators and develop genuine enthusiasm, understanding and appreciation of the English language. It builds resilience and deepens students' knowledge by engaging with the highest quality of literature. The English curriculum encourages all students to let their imagination, personality and ambition shine through in their writing.

Your child will study:

- 'Trash' by Andy Mulligan
- 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell
- Contemporary British poetry
- 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand how to structure a written article and written speech
- Understand perspective writing
- Know how to write in a more sophisticated style
- Gain the skill of expressing emotion through poetry
- Know how to analyse language

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to use the library and read a range of books and magazines
- Check your child's work, paying attention to spellings and punctuation
- Encourage the use of computers for research
- Encourage your child to write lists, ideas, and plans



Useful links:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/>

<https://www.andymulliganbooks.com/trash>



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GEOGRAPHY

Overview

The Geography curriculum in Year 8 ensures that all students become confident and effective geographers. They will access the KS3 national curriculum which will allow them to secure the key foundational knowledge and skills they need to make excellent progress and become enquiring citizens of the world which we all need to understand better. The Geography curriculum encourages all students to experience geography through a range of different resources.

Your child will study:

- Extreme Environments
- Brazil
- Volcanoes
- Middle East
- Map skills

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand how geographical processes interact to create distinctive human & physical landscapes that change over time.
- Become aware of the increasingly complex geographical systems in the world around them.
- Use geographical skills in analysing and interpreting different data

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Ensure your child completes homework and revision
- Encourage your child to use an atlas
- Encourage discussion around world events and their location.
- Encourage your child to watch documentaries with David Attenborough, Simon Reeves et al.



Useful links:

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zrw76sg>



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HISTORY

Overview

The History Curriculum in Year 8 builds on content and skills mastered in Year 7. Students will study international, national, and local history throughout the year with a specific focus on events between 1066AD and 1900AD. Students will also develop history specific skills such as analysing sources of primary and secondary evidence. They will be investigating the causes and consequences of historical events and develop further understanding through explaining why different people interpret things in different ways.

Your child will study:

- How did religion affect people's lives in Medieval Times?
- What difference did the Black Death make to Walsham? (historic site study)
- How important was Henry VIII's break with Rome?
- The Civil War: was England 'turned upside down' in the seventeenth – century?
- How revolutionary was the Glorious Revolution?
- How 'Enlightened' was the world in the C17th and C18th?
- How was Bradford changed by the Industrial Revolution?

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand how to structure a written answer to an enquiry-based question
- Understand cause and consequence, continuity, and change
- Develop answers by using sources of evidence & interrogate evidence to see if it is useful or not
- Recognise how different factors can lead to events/ shape outcomes in history
- Recognise and explain differences in historical interpretations
- Study History from at least 3 continents
- Study content in line with the National Curriculum

Your child will be assessed through constant checking for understanding methods during lessons, multiple choice assessments in class, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to use the library and read a range of books and magazines linked to the topics
- Encourage the completion of homework (set on Seneca)
- Visit historical locations such as Bradford Industrial Museum, Saltaire & Keighley Worth Valley Railway



Useful links:

<https://www.senecalearning.com>



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MATHS

Overview

The Mathematics curriculum in Year 8 deepens students comprehension of the key skills required for solving mathematical problems promoting a desire to understand how mathematics shapes the world we live in. The curriculum focuses on furthering the mathematical fluency and confidence gained in year 7 and building upon the concepts previously learned whilst also introducing new topics such as ratio. This enables students to tackle more ambitious problem-solving style questions.

Your child will study:

- Proportional Reasoning
- Representations
- Algebraic Techniques
- Developing Number Sense
- Developing Geometry
- Reasoning with Data

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand ratio and scale, multiplicative change and multiplying and dividing fractions
- Work confidently with various representations of graphs, data, tables and probability
- Solve equations and inequalities with brackets and indices and understand how algebraic techniques can be used for sequences
- Develop their understanding of fractions and percentages and other number skills
- Learn to use standard index form
- Apply the rules for angles in parallel lines and polygons and further area formulae

How can you support your child at home?

Your child will be assessed through regular low stakes testing in class as well as half termly progress point assessments.

- Support and challenge your child to complete their online maths homework as well as use the platform for independent revision.
- Reinforce the importance of mathematics by talking to them about how you use maths skills in your daily life and/or work.
- Avoid negativity around mathematics. Praise effort, remind them it's ok (and expected) to make mistakes and try not to share any maths anxiety you may feel. Work together to understand topics they struggle with using online videos.
- Use the data handling cycle focusing particularly on measuring averages and spread



Useful link:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-8>



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FRENCH/SPANISH

Overview

The French/Spanish curriculum in Year 8 builds on the key knowledge and skills gained in Year 7. The curriculum ensures that all students continue to speak confidently with good intonation and pronunciation. Students will have a strong cultural appreciation of the countries where French and Spanish are spoken. Students will be able to master a greater depth of key vocabulary and more complex grammatical structures through modelling and practice be it orally, aurally or written. The French/Spanish curriculum encourages all students to use language creatively and spontaneously.

Your child will study:

- At school.
- Teachers and rules.
- Where I live.
- Tourism in Bradford.
- Let's go on holiday.
- Holiday reviews.

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Be able to describe where they live and what there is in their region.
- Be able to describe their school, teachers, rules, and environment.
- Explain the difference between English and Hispanic/ Francophone schools.
- Be able to use the past tense when describing a holiday they have been on.

Your child will be assessed through vocabulary tests, extended pieces of writing with feedback, checkpoint assessments and formal assessments.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to use their knowledge navigator.
- Check your child's work, paying attention to spellings and punctuation
- Encourage the use of computers for research.
- Encourage your child to use the vocabulary learning techniques on the sentence builders.



Useful links:

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB>

<https://www.duolingo.com>



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MUSIC

Overview

The music curriculum in Year 8 builds on the skills students have developed in Y7. The y8 curriculum explores in more detail the skills and techniques required to become confident and creative musicians. Students will study a broad range of topics and styles developing a wider understanding of musical techniques and skills. This will be done through singing, listening, composing, performing and further developing music technology skills.

Your child will study:

- Blues
- Rhythms from around the world
- Pop Song
- Music for video games
- Performance
- Theme and Variations

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Play and perform confidently in a range of solo and ensemble contexts, using their voice, playing instruments musically, fluently and with accuracy of expression.
- Improvise and compose; and extend and develop musical ideas by drawing on a range of musical structures, styles, genres, and traditions.
- Use staff and other relevant notations appropriately and accurately in a range of musical styles, genres, and traditions.
- Identify and use the interrelated dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication including use of tonalities, different types of scales and other musical devices.
- Listen with increasing discrimination to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history.
- Develop a working knowledge and understanding of Music Technology software in order to record/sequence coherent musical outcomes utilising the software and features creatively and musically.

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage a love of music
- Encourage your child to practise at home
- Encourage your child to engage with Bandlab
- Support any musical interests they have
- Take up instrumental lessons at school



Useful links:

<https://www.senecalearning.com>



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BUTTERSHAW
BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Overview

The Physical Education curriculum teaches students skills, techniques, and tactics of a wide range of sports. Students will learn about rules and regulations of these sports and also be given the opportunity to evaluate their performance and the performance of others. Students will be given the opportunity to become leaders either by delivering a warm-up or coaching partners or a small group in order to help them to improve.

Your child will study:

- Netball
- Football
- Rugby
- Trampolining
- Fitness
- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Cricket
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Rounders

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand the concepts of attacking and defending
- Understand how to outwit an opponent
- Understand positioning and the use of space
- Develop and apply the skills of individual sports and activities.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to spend some time watching sport at home and try to recognize individual skills from their PE lesson.
- Your child will be expected to have full school PE uniform for each of their PE lessons. Please help by checking and reminding your child each time they have PE.



Useful links:

[You Tube clips of specific sports](#)



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PSHCE

Overview

The PSHCE curriculum in Year 8 ensures that all students develop a range of skills to keep themselves and others safe, happy, and healthy. They will develop a real sense of community and understanding of their place as an active citizens in the wider world. The PSHCE curriculum encourages all students to understand British values of respect, tolerance, law and democracy which underpin our school value of kindness. Your child will study:

- Online safety (being critical of what we see and age restrictions)
- Challenging stereotypes and addressing extremism
- Harmful substances and their effects
- Budgeting and financial literacy
- Self-care, coping strategies and emotional resilience
- Human Rights
- Skills needed for future ambitions
- How to stay healthy and safe
- First aid on allergies and asthma

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand and recap how to keep safe both inside and outside of school, as well as on-line
- Recap the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, tolerance, mutual respect and liberty.
- Understand the effects of harmful substances and making informed choices to look after our physical and mental wellbeing
- Learn healthy coping strategies to deal with challenges that may come our way
- Develop an understanding of how to budget and avoid risk-taking financial habits
- Understand the importance of diversity and inclusion within our community

Your child will be assessed through weekly multiple choice quizzes and targeted questioning.

How can you support your child at home?

- Discuss and monitor your child's online activity, ensuring they feel confident to share any concerns they may have.
- Regularly check-in with your child's mental and physical wellbeing, encouraging them to share and discuss their thoughts/feelings
- Discuss current affairs at home, ensuring your child knows where to access accurate and reliable news sources



Useful links:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Overview

The Religious Education curriculum in Year 8 encourages all students to learn about and experience cultural and spiritual diversity around the world and in Britain, promoting a sense of belonging based around the British values of respect and tolerance. It helps students to appreciate and experience the religious heritage and ethnic diversity of their school, local area and on a national and global level.

Your child will study:

- **Inspirational people:** Understand key religious teachings on equality and the treatment of others through key figures in history.
- **Why does poverty exist?** Understand key religious teachings on helping those in need.
- **Pilgrimage:** Assess the importance of pilgrimage for religious believers.
- **We are Bradford:** Understand Bradford's cultural heritage and why Bradford was awarded UK city of culture for 2025.

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Understand the meaning of prejudice and discrimination and how these can be stopped.
- Identify causes of poverty and understand the meaning of 'stewardship'.
- Look at some examples of different pilgrimages in different religions, including; Lourdes in Christianity, Jerusalem in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Mecca in Islam, Amritsar in Sikhism and Varanasi in Hinduism.
- Look at the positive impacts of multiculturalism in Bradford and the UK.
- Develop analytical and critical thinking skills and the ability to work with abstract ideas.

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Discuss issues covered with your child
- Ensure all homework is completed on time
- Contact key staff with any concerns
- Encourage your child to use revision websites
- Watch the news and keep up to date with topical stories



Useful links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zh3rkqt?scrlybrkr=4447fb07>



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SCIENCE

Overview

The Science curriculum in Year 8 ensures to empower curious minds enabling our students to become scientifically literate and critical thinkers providing them with knowledge and skills to excel in skills in STEM fields and beyond. All pupils are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils are encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They are encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes.

Your child will study:

- Diet and Nutrition
- Chemical Reactions
- Magnets
- Health and Disease
- Metals and their reactions
- Electricity
- Reproduction in Animals
- Exercise
- Photosynthesis
- Space
- Chemical reactions 2
- Reproduction in Plants
- Periodic Table
- Mains Electricity
- Inheritance and Evolution
- Respiration
- Ecology

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Build upon their scientific knowledge from year 7.
- Demonstrate proficiency in skills needed to work as a scientist including planning investigations, using scientific equipment correctly and problem-solving.
- Able to connect a range of scientific ideas in subject disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Apply mathematical knowledge to presenting and analysing scientific data.
- Use modelling and abstract ideas to describe scientific phenomena.

Your child will be assessed through timed responses in class, half termly tests, mock examinations, and end of year examinations.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to use the recall facts sheet on the school website.
- Use class charts to ensure all homework is completed.
- Encourage your child to make flashcards and revision maps to recall knowledge.
- Use computers to research lesson topics.

Useful links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zn4d2p>
<https://docbrown.info/ks3science.htm>
<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>



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TECHNOLOGY

Overview

The Technology curriculum at BBEC builds on the Year 8 curriculum and aims to deliver excellent outcomes through the development of the creative, technical, and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world. The curriculum allows students to design, make and evaluate a range of products which are relevant and useful. Students learn to cook a repertoire of savoury dishes which they can cook again at home and for others.

Your child will study:

- Food
- Product Design
- Textiles

What knowledge, skills and understanding will your child gain by the end of Year 8?

Your child will:

- Learn to cook a range of dishes such as Zesty lemon cake, Chicken fajitas, Mediterranean lamb kofta pittas with tzatziki, Spaghetti Bolognese/ Meatballs, Calzone, Cornish pasties and more.
- Design, make and evaluate a Junk Monster soft toy using a range of hand and machine embroidery techniques, for a set brief.
- Design make and evaluate a pencil pot and build an elastic band powered car
- Understand and apply key knowledge about the work of famous designers, artists, craftspeople, and chefs.

Your child will be formally assessed in both half term 1 and half term 2 of the rotation.

How can you support your child at home?

- Encourage your child to complete Technology homework as this will directly feed into the lessons they do in school
- Encourage your child to help with the Food shop, so that they become familiar with a range of fresh and packaged foods
- Encourage your child to demonstrate their practical cooking skills at home



Useful links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/design-and-technology-ks3-explain-this>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/c hopping-and-basic-knife-skills-kids-kitchen>



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HOME LEARNING

At BBEC we believe every child should be given the opportunity to engage in home learning. Not only will it help with their schoolwork, but it will also embed good habits for future learning and success.

Home learning activities will be planned to link to classroom learning. Revision and retrieval activities may be set as part of this. Home learning booklets may be provided for some subjects, as well as online learning platforms such as SparxMaths and Seneca.

To help engage students in their learning, all home learning will be monitored. Students completing home learning will achieve a positive recognition stamp for completing a piece of homework on time, in full and to a good standard. This will lead to rewards in school assemblies.

We recommend that your child completes their home learning in a quiet place, allowing them to concentrate fully on their home learning activity. At BBEC, an after-school Home Learning Club can be accessed, in the school library. A member of staff will be present to help your child with their questions and ideas. Encouraging your child to attend this club will help them to take ownership of their learning which will enable them to become independent learners.

Individual teachers set home learning through Class Charts, an online recording platform for home learning. Parents and students are able to view the activities which have been set. Your child will be shown how to use Class Charts upon their arrival in school in September.

KS3 Home-Learning Timetable

Subject	Home Learning
English	One home learning per week
Maths	
Science	
MFL	One home learning every fortnight
History	
Geography	
Art	
Technology	Home learning twice every half term
RE	
Music	One home learning every half term
IT	