

Year 8 Curriculum



The Curriculum at Summerhill is constantly evolving.

This document describes the curriculum for Year 8 in 2015-16: the Year 8 curriculum for 2016-17 will be slightly different.

Timetable allocations:

Subject	Number of periods per week	How the groups are organised
Art	2	Mixed-ability groups
Computing	2	Mixed-ability tutor groups
Design Technology	2	Mixed ability groups
English	4	Groups organised by ability
French*	3	Groups organised by ability *
Geography	1	Mixed-ability tutor groups
History	2	Mixed-ability tutor groups
Maths	4	Groups organised by ability
Music	2	Mixed-ability tutor groups
PE	2	Mixed ability groups
Religious Studies	2	Mixed-ability tutor groups
Science	4	Mixed-ability tutor groups

* a small number of students who are struggling with literacy in English take a Literacy Skills course instead of learning French

Enrichment Days:

In addition to the weekly timetabled lessons, there will be 7 Enrichment days during Year 8, covering PSHEE and Citizenship topics:

- Learning to Learn
- Government and Politics
- Financial Management and Careers
- Charity
- Becoming and adult
- E-safety
- Law and Order

Year 8 Curriculum: Art

Drawing: Students develop their drawing skills with observational drawing related to their theme eg animals

Art History: students study art from another culture e.g. Aboriginal, which is used to inspire their work

Painting: Students use watercolour/acrylics to develop a painting linked to their theme e.g. Aboriginal dot painting

Pottery: Students learn the basic skills of clay handling, slabwork, decoration and glazing to create a desk tidy

Craft: Students develop skills with modelling, papier mâché or printing

Year 8 Curriculum: Computing

Small Basic: coding more complex applications using functions, loops and arrays.

Visual Basic: progress from Small Basic to the more complex Visual Basic programming language that offers more advanced functionality.

Decomposition and Abstraction: breaking apart complex problems; removing any unnecessary information.

Binary Calculations and Conversions: counting in binary; converting numbers between Base2 and Base10.

Spreadsheets: how modelling can be used in business situations

Digital Media: we create digital media such as movie posters using Photoshop

Year 8 Curriculum: Design Technology

General: how the design process has a direct influence on products they use in everyday life; how to use research findings to inform creative designs which will result in useful and innovative products; how feedback and evaluation will lead to further improvement in designs.

Graphic Products: how legal requirements can affect designs; how prototypes are used in the Design Process and how they can be made professionally using Computer Aided design; techniques for the manufacture of models.

Textiles: how patterns and toiles are used to manufacture product prototypes; how to use Sewing Machines for seams and hems; how to add adornment to a product using techniques such as Applique; how to samples techniques before manufacture to include: plaits, tassels and pom-poms.

Food: food safety and hygiene; the functions of different ingredients within a recipe; how recipes can be adapted to suit different dietary requirements; techniques for the sensory testing of food; how different cultures have influenced the development of food in this country.

Resistant Materials: how to use a range of workshop hand tools and machinery; how to use industrial techniques and machinery to work with metals; how to use the Computer Aided Design package '2D Design', and output to the Laser Cutter or Vinyl Cutting machine to produce their design via Computer Aided Manufacturing.

Year 8 Curriculum: English

Exploring Modern Texts: Students will read a range of prose and plays and use these as a basis for writing creatively and analytically about ideas, themes and characterisation, in preparation for GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Writing Creatively: A range of writing tasks will be completed, furthering students' understanding of a range of writing forms. Students will learn the skills necessary to write informatively, descriptively, persuasively and argumentatively.

Understanding Non-Fiction Texts: Students will learn how non-fiction texts are organised and will analyse the use of language, presentation, structure and grammar of texts.

Media Studies: In addition to learning how to analyse moving images, students will learn to identify and comment on the language, presentation, structure and grammar of printed materials as well as the key concepts of audience, form, institution and representation.

Poetry Across Time: After reading a range of poetry, students will learn how to analyse Chaucer's language as well as how to write poetry using different forms and structures. Students will learn how to understand and analyse a range of contemporary and pre -1914 poetry, commenting on form, structure, language and themes.

Shakespeare: Students will read plays by Shakespeare and learn how to understand and analyse Shakespeare's language. Learning about characterisation will prepare students for the controlled assessments they will complete in KS4.

Spoken Language Study: Students will learn how to collect and analyse data to help them understand the conventions of different types of talk.

Year 8 Curriculum: French

Family and Friends: students revise the present tense through this topic to be able to give more detail about family members, jobs and interests

Free time: through this topic, pupils are introduced to the past tense

Food: students learn about some regional dishes and learn how to express preferences and discuss eating habits.

Holidays: pupils revise 3 tenses (a key ability for GCSE) and learn more about other countries where French is spoken

Technology: students learn how to talk about the technology they use, compare devices and develop their opinions

Year 8 Curriculum: Geography

Coastal Environments: how weather and erosion affect coastlines; how people manage coasts.

What is development? Characteristics of more developed and less developed countries, interdependence, sustainable development.

Population and migration: issues surrounding where people live and population change.

Rivers and floods: the causes and effects of floods in the UK and abroad. Landforms associated with rivers. Fieldwork to study how a river changes as it moves downstream.

Deserts: location and causes of deserts, how humans and creatures adapt to life in deserts.

Year 8 Curriculum: History

From Divine Right to Constitutional Monarchy: the significance of the Battle of Hastings; the role of monarchs in the Middle Ages; the development of Parliament; the issues facing the Tudor and Stuart monarchs and the way they coped with their problems; the English Civil War and its impact on the role between King and Parliament up to 1688.

Year 8 Curriculum: Maths

Number: how to order positive and negative integers, decimals and fractions

Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: work interchangeably with terminating decimals and their corresponding fractions

Algebraic Manipulation: multiplying a single term over a bracket and taking out common factors

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change: how to divide a given quantity into parts

Properties and Constructions: how to derive and apply the properties and definitions of special types of quadrilaterals

Mensuration and Calculation: how to apply formulae to calculate the area of shapes and the volume of solids

Probability: how to construct theoretical possibility spaces for single and combined experiments with equally likely outcomes

Statistics: how to interpret, analyse and compare distributions of data sets using graphical representation; calculating averages

Year 8 Curriculum: Music

Exploring Improvisation (Blues) - Introducing the 12-bar Blues chord sequence, lyric writing and improvisation and exploring how this style has evolved from its origins in Africa

Exploring Structures (Rap) - Composing a Rap with roots in the USA using bass riffs, short chord sequences, verse and chorus structure and the use of hooks.

Exploring Ground Bass (Canon) - Performance of a Canon from a notated score in different parts using keyboards in a more traditional European style

Exploring Conventions (Tango) - Composition of a tango dance based on typical Argentinean styles using chord sequences, bass riffs, tango rhythms and melodies

Exploring Structures (Samba) - Performing music from Brazil as part of a samba band developing rhythmic and improvisation skills

Year 8 Curriculum: PE (Boys)

Athletics:

Football:

Hockey:

Lifesaving:

Rugby:

Tennis:

Year 8 Curriculum: PE (Girls)

Dance:

Gymnastics:

Lifesaving:

Netball:

Rounders:

Tennis:

Year 8 Curriculum: Religious Studies

Symbolism. An insight into Christian symbols and the opportunity to interpret Christian beliefs into 'new' symbols to reflect existing beliefs through designing stain glass windows.

Festivals. Researching the purpose of celebrations such as Christmas, Diwali and Hanukkah in a secular and religious context.

How should I lead my life? Analysing the process of decision making and the effectiveness of sources of authority used when making moral decisions.

How do people make sense of Suffering? Evaluating methods practiced in Buddhism that aim to reduce suffering in the light of causes and effect of evil and suffering.

Year 8 Curriculum: Science

Cells and respiration: cells and their role in respiration; the process of respiration.

Humans as Organisms: the processes of diet, digestions, breathing, movement; effect of drugs.

Inheritance and variation: Variation and its causes; Evolution.

Classifying Materials: Particle theory; atoms and elements, compounds.

Chemical changes: Chemical reactions; balancing equations; displacement reactions.

The Earth and the atmosphere: rock cycle; climate change.

Waves: light; sound.

Electricity and Magnetism: electric circuits; magnets and electromagnets.

Earth and beyond: gravity; seasons; sun and stars.
