



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL
BRACKLEY

Founded 1548

YEAR 8 INFORMATION BOOKLET
2019/2020

MOTIVATION COMMITMENT SUCCESS





Magdalen College School

Motivation Commitment Success

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope your son or daughter has had a good start to Year 8 at Magdalen, and has enjoyed the challenges that the first half term have offered. It's amazing to see how far they have come in their first year at MCS, and we are really looking forward to continuing to help them learn and grow over the rest of this year. It was brilliant to see so many of you at the Year 8 information evening at the start of term. For those that were not able to come we hope this booklet provides some of the key information, and for those that were, we hope this provides some extra details.

We hope that your child has returned to school with a positive attitude and is determined to make the most of this year. To ensure that students meet our high expectations and standards we have launched the Magdalen Diploma with Year 8. The Diploma is intended to focus pupils on the skills they will need to be successful in school as well as in employment in the future. It also requires students to ensure that they have good attendance, excellent behaviour and show commitment to their work. All students will aim to receive their Bronze Award by the end of Year 8, with the ultimate goal of achieving the Silver and Gold strands of the Diploma by the end of Key Stage 4.

This year students will also be choosing their option subjects for GCSE, they will be provided with support and information as the year progresses including on the Extended Learning Day on 28th February.. There will be a GCSE Options information evening for parents and pupils on 13th February.

As you are no doubt aware, now that students are in Year 8 they are in a number of different teaching groups for different subjects in each half. Maths have setted the students as have Games, the students are then in different mixed ability groups for Technology, English and another group for all the other subjects. Should you wish to discuss subject specific matters, all the teachers' email addresses are available on the school website. The tutors, Mrs Garner, Miss Jones and I will also continue to work hard to support your child pastorally throughout this coming year.



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As last year, your son or daughter's progress will be tracked and both academic tracking and engagement data will be collected and then sent home in November, February and July. If there are any concerns about your child's progress you may be contacted by either the subject teacher, the form tutor or myself. If you have concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. Praising the students is important and there are many different ways of this happening including feedback in exercise books, House Points, Praise cards and also members of staff contacting home via email or telephone. Successes will continue to be celebrated in assemblies each term. The timetable for all the extra curricula activities available has been sent home.

This booklet gives you information about the subjects your child will be studying in Year 8 including details about assessments and homework. There is no fixed homework timetable for Year 8, but teachers will have told students what day they will normally be setting homework on. This should be recorded in student planners and can now be seen on GO. I will be monitoring homework to make sure that homework is being set frequently and an appropriate amount. The library is open from 8am every day and after school until 4pm Monday to Thursday for students to use the resources or to do homework. Homework Club runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school in Inclusion until 4.30pm, all pupils are warmly invited to attend if they would like more help with their homework.

If you do have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at school, either by phone or e mail: A.Berrington@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

A Berrington (Miss)
Leader of Learning (Year 8)

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YEAR 8 2019/2020

Date	Event
Wednesday 4 th September	1 st day of term
Wednesday 11 th September	Y8 Information evening
12 th September / 3 rd October	HPV! Vaccinations
Monday 30 th September	Extended Learning day 1
Wednesday 23 rd October	School Photos
Thursday 24 th October	School Photos
Finish Friday 25 th October Return Tuesday 5 th November	Half Term
Monday 4 th November	Professional Development Day
Monday 11 th November	Armistice Day
W/C Monday 11 th November	Engagement Data Collection
Thursday 21 st November	Extended Learning Day 2
Thursday 28 th November	Parents Evening 4-7.30pm
Friday 29 th November	Advent Fayre 6pm
Thursday 5 th December	School Concert 7.30pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Carol Service 7.30pm
Thursday 19 th December	GCSE and A Level Presentation Evening 7-8.30pm
Friday 20 th December	School finish 1.30pm & Charity Mufti
Finish Friday 20 th December 1.30pm Return Monday 6 th January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
W/C 27 th January	PR 1 Data Collection
Thursday 30 th January	Y8 Options Interviews 4-7:30pm
Thursday 13 th February	Options Evening 6-9pm
Finish Friday 14 th February Return Monday 24 th February	HALF TERM
Friday 28 th February	Extended Learning Day 3 (linked to GCSE Options)
Thursday 12 th March	Y8 Options deadline
18 th /19 th /20 th March	School Production School of Rock
Friday 3 rd April	Charity Mufti Day

Finish Friday 3 rd April Return Monday 20 th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Thursday 30 th April /Thursday 7 th May	HPV2 vaccinations
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday & 75 th Anniversary of VE Day
Finish Friday 22 nd May Return Monday 1 st June	HALF TERM
Friday 3 rd July	Professional Development Day
Wednesday 8 th July	Extended Learning Day 4 (1 day STEM , 2 days Camping)
Thursday 9 th July	Extended Learning Day 5
Friday 10 th July	Extended Learning Day 6
W/C Monday 13 th July	PR 2 Data Collection
Monday 13 th July	House Awards Evening
Tuesday 14 th July	Sports Day
Thursday 16 th July	Reserve Sports Day
Friday 17 th July	Last Day of term, 12.45pm Finish Charity Mufti

HOMEWORK

Please refer to the Parent & Carer's Guide to Homework sent out at the start of term, also available on the school website, for all details regarding homework

ENGLISH

Course content

Students will continue to develop their writing, reading and oracy skills during their English studies. They will continue to study a wide variety of texts, completing a number of written and oral tasks based on the content, subject matter and related themes. Writing practice will include producing texts for a variety of audiences and purposes, e.g. writing to persuade, inform or advise.

Assessment structure

The assessment of students takes the form of baseline, interim and summative assessments provided by our exam board, AQA. These are accompanied by a variety of in class controlled assessments, summative tasks and on-going teacher assessments based on the students' classroom performance.

Autumn Term: Novel Study, Gothic Literature.

Spring Term: Shakespeare Play, Speaking and Listening task (Debate or Persuasive Speech).

Summer Term: War Poetry, Narrative stories (Dickens and Doyle).

Homework

Homework will be set as per school policy and will include a variety of tasks from writing preparation, revision for tests and completing reading tasks.

Resources to support learning

There is a wide range of suitable KS3 revision guides and workbooks produced by most of the major educational publishers. They are available to purchase both on-line and in bookshops. Students should also be encouraged to read widely for pleasure- a suggested reading list will be provided for students.

Web-sites

www.spellzone.com

www.bbc.bitesize.co.uk

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Dr Maria Kasandrinou, Head of English Faculty on dr.k@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

MATHEMATICS

Course content

Students entering year 8 are in the second year of a 5 year programme of study in mathematics which leads to their GCSE examination in Year 11. The work they will encounter in Year 8 builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding they developed in Year 7 and in primary school. Problem solving and investigative skills form an integral part of the course. Topics will be organised into six main subject areas: Number; Algebra; Ratio, proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures; Probability; Statistics.

Assessment structure

Students will take a short internal assessment towards the end of each 2-3 week module of work in order to check on their learning and to identify any areas for intervention. There will be a longer half-yearly assessment a few weeks after Christmas which will be synoptic in nature, testing both recent work and work covered earlier in the year. Results will be used to ensure that pupils are making sufficient progress. There will be an end of Y8 examination in June as part of the whole school examination programme.

Homework

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons.
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course.
- On-line exercises using the MyMaths web-site.
- Problem solving or investigational tasks in which the student will be required to use their initiative in selecting and carrying out the correct procedures to achieve a solution.
- Collection of data or research on a particular topic area

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson (can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library)

Black pen; green pen; pencil; ruler; eraser; pencil sharpener; angle measurer/ protractor; pair of compasses; scientific calculator

Web-sites

The web-site www.mymaths.co.uk provides consolidation and revision lessons and exercises at a range of different levels. Your son/daughter should know how to log on to this site but if unsure should check the details with his/her teacher. The class teacher will also be able to provide guidance about which Booster packs on the site are most appropriate.

We also recommend <http://nrich.maths.org/> This has a range of problem solving activities for students to undertake, and is particularly suitable for gifted and talented mathematicians.

Revision guides and workbooks

There is a wide range of suitable KS3 revision guides and workbooks produced by most of the major educational publishers. They are available to purchase both on-line and in bookshops.

The guides provided by the CGP group are useful and can also be ordered from their site.

http://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/books_ks3_maths

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Mr Richard Pearson, KS3 Mathematics Coordinator, at richard.pearson@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

SCIENCE

Course Content

In Year 8 students continue a series of modules that run until the end of the year. These modules are of three or four weeks in length. In Year 8 students will study the following modules: Food and Health, Elements and acids, Forces and Matter, Energy in Ecosystems, Reactions in the Earth, and Electromagnetism.

Assessment Structure

All students work towards end of module tests which are approximately every three to five weeks. If a student's test reveals substantial areas of misunderstanding they will be asked to complete an additional piece of work. During the final half term in the summer, all students will sit an end of year exam.

Homework

Students will be set one piece of homework per fortnight or equivalent. This will last approximately one hour and will not be set for the following day. For students wishing to achieve or exceed their targets, it is essential that they do additional work on top of this. This might include re-reading notes, drawing mind maps or other revision activities (see below).

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

Students will be given an exercise book at the start of the year. It is essential that they bring a black pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and calculator to every lesson to allow them to make appropriate progress during lessons.

We have put a number of past SATs papers and revision materials on the school VLE. If you are unable to access the internet from home, please ask your son or daughter to tell their class teacher who will make alternate arrangements.

Revision

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to buy your son or daughter a Letts Key Stage 3 Revision Guide, which we are able to purchase at a substantially discounted rate. These are invaluable for revising work covered in class and supporting homework throughout Years 7 to 9. These are currently available from the Library on the Waynflete site at a price of £3.50.

One of the best starting places for students wanting to consolidate their learning at home is BBC Bitesize. They should follow this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/science/>

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Dr Nick Dixon, Head of Science Faculty on nick.dixon@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

ART

Course Content

Students will develop and build on their skills completing three projects during the course of Year 8. These projects will establish students' understanding of the three courses we offer at GCSE, enabling students to make an informed choice when choosing their options.

FINE ART

By exploring the theme of architecture we will provide students with a learning experience that develops skills such as drawing, composition, creative use of media and creation of two-dimensional outcomes. We will start by exploring a range of architectural images relating inspired by the buildings around us. This exploration will also provide an opportunity for students to experience photography as a subject within art, taking abstract photographs that focus on the formal elements they have studied previously (line, tone, texture, pattern, shape).

Students will learn the rules of perspective and develop understanding of key terms such as vanishing points, horizon lines, foreground and background. Students will produce experimental textural pieces that use a variety of different media in response to the work of artist John Piper. The final exploration of the theme will be a two-dimensional outcome where students will design and create a sculptural piece. They will consider the use of recyclable materials to add layers and architectural relief.

ART TEXTILES

Focusing on the theme "Mexican Day of the Dead" students will become familiar with the festival and all the cultural elements associated with it. This sits alongside students' English studies, offering a cross curricular link.

Every student will create a design work inspired by the imagery. All students will explore the rules of composition and scale become familiar with keywords and terms. Students will learn the rules of portraiture and understand the proportions of their faces resulting in individual "Day of the Dead" self-portraits.

Students will produce art textile work on paper and fabric using the wax resist, oil pastels, watercolour, batik and dyes. Embellishment will be created through the teaching of basic hand embroidery stitches with a variety of threads.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Students will develop their knowledge and use of the formal elements whilst exploring the theme of micro / macro. This allows students to observe and analyse small artefacts in greater detail which directly develops their observational drawing and recording of line, proportion, shape texture and tone.

Initially we will explore the link between science and art, creating our own detailed insect anatomy drawing. This is contextualised by research into artist Robert Hooke who produced the book 'Micrographia' in which he used lenses to produce enlarged studies of microscopic organisms.

We will then explore the more creative side of the theme continuing to observe insects in close detail by producing a multi-media tonal collage that requires students to combine pencil shading,

coloured pencil blending and biro against different surfaces. Students will also gain first-hand experience of photography (which is a GCSE option) by researching artists such as Christopher Marley. The research will inspire their own computer-aided designs in which insect images can be manipulated and collaged digitally, allowing students to explore symmetry, repetition and pattern.

Finally, students will produce experimental laminates that resemble cells under the microscope.

Assessment Structure

Assessment will be in line with school policy with a minimum of one formal assessment every 8 weeks. Students may be involved in a range of additional assessments, if required and appropriate. Assessment may take the form of self-assessment and feedback / peer or group assessment. Formal assessments are marked on a sheet in the back of students' books. Other work may be marked within the sketchbook.

Homework

Teachers will set homework as appropriate, but as a guide students should expect to receive one piece of homework every second week. Art homework can take many forms, researching, making drawings, collecting images, making responses to artists' work etc. These tasks are all essential, and the student is unlikely to be able to progress without successfully completing the homework tasks.

Resources to Support Learning

It is vital that students bring their sketchbooks and following resources to every art lesson: Pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, ruler, colouring pencils, glue stick.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mrs Natalie Tadman, Second in Faculty on natalie.tadman@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

COMPUTING

Course Content

In Year 8 we will be following the governments' new specification regarding Computing. Lessons will include a blend of IT, Computer Science and Digital Literacy

Topics that will be studied include:

Using a Network – how to effectively use the shared resources and programs on the school Network. Including how to use e-mail, G-Suite and Moodle the school's VLE for schoolwork and for collaborative projects.

Binary – Counting in binary, binary addition, bin-den-hex conversions, logic gates

Databases - Solving problems, by interrogating a database. Tables, Queries & filtering, data capture Forms & Reports

Introduction to Python – A range on activities introducing students to the Python programming language. Computational thinking strategies are used throughout to help solve problems.

E-Safety – Issues around computer misuse, including scam e-mails, Fake News and how to protect your computer and your identity.

Computer Architecture – The CPU and introducing the role of the Operating System

Networks – wired network topologies, wireless networks and how to set up a home network

The digital divide – Looking at how The Internet affects education, commerce and social time both globally and locally.

HTML – Creating a website/app using HTML

Assessment Structure

Each unit will be assessed at the end of the unit with an end of year test covering skills learnt throughout the year.

Homework

There will be one homework per fortnight to either consolidate the learning taking place during the lesson or prepare a piece of work to be used during the next lesson. Homework can be viewed via Google Classroom.

Resources

All lessons will be posted on <https://classroom.google.com>

YouTube is also a valuable resource for video tutorials on how to use different software.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mr Hamish Auld, Head of Faculty on hamish.auld@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

DRAMA

Course Content

This is taught once a week. The students are encouraged to build upon drama skills which they learnt in Year 7.

Assessment Structure

They are assessed in three areas. The first is devising and rehearsing which tests the skills of group working, cooperation and leadership. The second assessment is performing and this tests skills such as “staying in character”, voice projection and use of space on the stage. The third area is that of evaluation, testing the students’ ability to analyse and comment on performances which they see. Students will also be asked to reflect on their own performance work.

Themes covered in Year 8 include personal safety, story-telling, the history of theatre and some cross curricular work on Victorian workhouses.

Homework

Home work will be set every four weeks and will include research and preparation for practical work. There is also a written piece set at the end of each unit which tests their understanding and evaluation skills. This should take approximately 40 minutes.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter’s progress, please use the normal school numbers or email address. To email their teacher directly, the address is celia.thomas@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

GEOGRAPHY

Course content

The Geography KS3 syllabus comprises of investigating different large scale global issues or changes and how the human and physical environment are connected (some of the issues covered are Tourism, Restless Earth and Impossible Places). During Year 8 students will look at 6 issues, with topics often being covered in a 5 - 7 week period. During the topics different PLTS skills are used and developed, alongside key geographical, numerical and literal skills.

Assessment structure

Students will take several short assessments throughout the topics, testing their understanding, ability to use geographical skills, and longer written explanations.

Homework

Homework will be set every 2 weeks and is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Research tasks about case studies that will be used in lesson times
- Data and information collection for internal assessments
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course
- Extended writing tasks about particular issues or topics

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson

Black pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener

Web-sites

The BBC bitesize website is particularly useful for developing and testing knowledge of key geographical events.

BBC News website.

Revision guides and workbooks

There is a wide range of suitable revision guides about Geography (however not all topics will be covered in these) produced by most of the major educational publishers. They are available to purchase both on-line and in bookshops.

We also recommend students to pay attention to Global News programs, as particular events will be covered in lessons.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Katy Lilley, Head of Humanities Faculty on Katy.lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

HISTORY

Course content

Year 8 is an exciting and engaging year which sees us cover a huge range of topics that look at how history has shaped the world around us today.

During year 8 we start by considering the nature of human rights and how individuals and groups have fought and campaigned for their rights.

- This will include women and the vote, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King
- We will look at life for soldiers during a range of wars
- Empire and the impact this had upon the world
- The impact of dictatorships on the people living under them and the world
- The role of technology and key developments
- The movement of people over time and the contributions to society

Assessment Structure

In order to support our students across not only KS3 but into their GCSEs we have re-developed our assessments. These will now be fortnightly and a mix of short knowledge tests and skills tests. We believe this will help students build not only their knowledge and skills in history but also their confidence.

Student assessments will be recorded as meeting, secure or exceeding.

A student who is meeting will be able to demonstrate a good level of knowledge about the topics studied, begin to identify sources to use and start to make points to answer the questions.

A student who is secure will be able to include more detailed knowledge in their answers and will be able to identify and begin to apply detail from sources to support their points.

A student who is exceeding will show developed knowledge, will be able to effectively apply this to their answers and will begin analyzing and evaluating the sources that they use.

Assessments are tracked by the department across KS3 are used to guide intervention and set targets by the class teacher.

Homework

Homework is set on a fortnightly basis. They are incorporated into the schemes of work and information on these will be available on the VLE in the near future.

Resources

Resources will be made available on the VLE.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Katy Lilley, Head of Humanities Faculty on Katy.lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

LIFE SKILLS

Course Content

In Year 8 the life skill's course focuses upon a number of key areas;

Year	Topic
Autumn 1	Building healthy relationships
Autumn 2	Changing perceptions
Spring 3	Creating dialogue
Spring 4	Mental health
Summer 5	Tackling addiction
Summer 6	Knife crime and fraud prevention.

Students will be encouraged to read, discuss, think, debate, research and present information.

Assessment Structure

The Year 8 students are assessed during the lessons to ensure that they are learning and retaining information, which they can explain when applied in the context of Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education.

Homework

Class teachers may ask students to research or prepare material for lessons. Students should also be encouraged to watch and read the news on a daily basis to ensure they have a broad cultural and general knowledge.

Resources to support learning

Essential - should be brought to every lesson, and can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library:

Black pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener

Information about additional websites that offer further background information for a broader understanding of the topics that are covered in lessons will be made available to students throughout their program of study in Year 8.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Childs.

philippac3@magdalen.northants.sch.uk.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Course Content

Students study both French and German in Year 8, building upon language that students have studied in Year 7. The French course comprises three topics: school, past holidays and home & local area. In German students will study the topics of eating out, free time and a future holiday. In both languages students will develop their ability to create longer sentences, work with authentic texts, give complex opinions and manipulate verbs.

Assessment Structure

Students will take an internal assessment for each unit of work in each language, comprising a combination of reading, writing and listening. Spoken language will be assessed formatively in class.

Homework

Homework will be set once a week and is expected to take approximately 20 minutes. In addition we would expect students to set aside extra revision time when preparing for internal assessments and to take the initiative in undertaking extra practice in areas they are finding difficult.

Tasks will be varied and could include:

- Reading comprehension
- Consolidation exercises covering work undertaken in recent lessons
- Revision tasks reviewing work undertaken earlier in the course.
- On-line exercises using www.linguascope.com
- Translation
- Vocabulary learning

Resources to support learning

The web-site www.linguascope.com (username and password can be obtained from class teachers) can be used to consolidate and revise key vocabulary at a range of different levels. The class teacher will also be able to provide guidance about which themes and activities on the site are most appropriate.

We also recommend www.languagesonline.org.uk which has a range of interactive games and vocabulary practice.

The MFL section of Moodle also contains a wide range of resources and links.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Dr Wolfenden, Head of MFL on helen.wolfenden@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

MUSIC

Course content

The KS3 music course comprises six main musical projects during the course of the academic year, each lasting approximately six weeks. They are entitled;

- Reggae
- Variations
- Folk Music
- Night Music
- Raga
- Music and Space

During each topic students develop their musical skills by listening, performing and composing.

Assessment structure

Students are assessed at the end of each term and given their attainment level. Students are also assessed by their solo and group performances.

There will be an end of Year 8 examination in June as part of the whole school examination programme.

Homework

Homework is set once every 4 weeks and the length of task will be 40 minutes. The tasks will vary from listening and appraising music commentaries to short research tasks on the project being studied.

Resources to support learning

There are a variety of class room instruments as well as electronic keyboards which can be connected to Sibelius 8 score writing software. There are also additional practice rooms for students working on group projects.

Essential - should be brought to every lesson (can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library)

Black pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and pencil sharpener.

On occasions students will be asked to bring in any instrument they are learning that are relevant to performing or composing tasks.

Web-sites

Students will be recommended optional listening to various pieces of music from numerous web sites like YouTube which encourage music aural skills

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mr A Wittich-Jackson, Head of Expressive Arts Faculty on Adamj29@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

PE (CORE)

Course Content

Students will study a broad and balanced curriculum. Our key concepts are to develop competence, performance, creativity and healthy active lifestyles, through the 2 assessed strands of:-

1. Decision Making
2. Physical skills and Fitness

Assessment Structure

At the start and end of every module of work, usually 4 to 6 weeks, the teacher will assess the student and relative progress will be seen. The school system of monitoring achievement will be used to record the general overall progress of each student. An End of Key Stage grade is then formed from this and recorded in June of Y8.

Developing skills outside of lessons

There is a comprehensive extra-curricular programme that students can join in order to develop their skills further. There will be considerable competitive chances for intra-school (House) and inter-school challenges for boys and girls.

The extra-curricular plan and the boys and girls fixture list can be found on the school can be found on the school website, under – Students - Sport at MCS. There is a useful guide to sport in the surrounding area here too.

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

The school will provide all the necessary equipment needed for all activities, but it is the student's responsibility to attend lessons in correct school kit. The compulsory kit is shown below. This and an "Optional" set of kit that can be acquired, can be seen on the website under – Students – Uniform.

Girls PE kit Compulsory	Boys PE kit Compulsory
MCS Polo shirt with logo	MCS Polo shirt with logo
MCS PE Skort	MCS PE shorts
MCS Socks – blue	MCS Rugby shirt with logo
Socks – white	MCS Socks - blue (2 pairs)
Training Shoes	Football boots
Shin Pads	Training Shoes
	Shin Pads

Gum shields are recommended for Rugby and Hockey.

For safety in Rugby, **studs** must be '**rugby legal**'. Metal 'blade' style studs and some nylon studs are illegal for rugby.

Rugby or football boots are needed for grass use only. **Astro-turf trainers or standard trainers** are needed for the artificial pitch. No studded or 'bladed' boots are allowed on the astro-turf pitch.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mr A Wittich-Jackson, Head of Expressive Arts Faculty on Adami29@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

Course Content

Students in Year 8 study 3 world religions during the year. The course is linked to the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus for RE which all schools in the County are required to follow.

Autumn Term

1. Inspirational People – A study of key inspirational people, including the Dalai Lama, Nicky Cruz, J.K. Rowling and Malala Yousafzai
2. Movements in Christianity – An examination of key denominations in Christianity, including Amish, Rastafarianism and Exclusive Brethren.

Spring Term

1. Cross curricular RE – Students look at some key philosophical arguments. Students also look at the relationship between religion and science in the modern world. Religious art and how religion is portrayed in the media is also examined.

Summer Term

1. Relationships and families – An overview of the key changes in British society regarding issues such as marriage, divorce and gender equality.
2. Extremism – Students will look at the differing reasons for the crusades and why people were accused of witchcraft. Students will also examine emerging forms of extremism in the form of the Far Right and ISIS and their wider impact on society.

Assessment Structure

Students will take several short assessments throughout the topics, testing their understanding, ability to use key terms, and longer written explanations.

Homework

Students will be set regular homework activities, 1 per fortnight. These will consist of research based tasks, creative activities and structured questions. Homework activities will be around 30 minutes in length.

Resources to Support Learning (including equipment and kit)

Provided by the student:

Essential – Black pen, pencil, and ruler.

Highly desirable – coloured pens.

Provided by the school:

Exercise book. Textbooks written to support each of the three religions.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us for further clarification of the above information or about any other aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use

the normal school numbers or email your child's teacher or Miss Katy Lilley, Head of Humanities Faculty on Katy.lilley@magdalen.northants.sch.uk

TECHNOLOGY

Course Content

During their time in Year 8 Design & Technology lessons, each student will study five different specialisms within the subject just like Year 7:

Electronic Systems – A student designed housing to contain and make use of the electronics including a PCB.

Food Studies – Students will learn Hygiene & safety, healthy eating & nutrition, practical skills, food science

Graphic Products – Produce a range of cards for a 'Top Trump' set developing and using Photoshop skills

Textiles – An Interiors Design Project, using a range of technical processes

Resistant Materials – A smart phone microscope stand made from a range of materials and using a range of engineering practices

During each topic, students will develop their designing and manufacturing skills in order to product a range of high quality products.

Assessment Structure

Students are assessed twice during each module; after the first marking they will have the opportunity to improve their work, while the second assessment will give a final summative score. They will be graded on a variety of technological skills, including researching, designing, communicating, planning, manufacture and evaluation.

Homework

Homework will be set when appropriate to the module. The tasks will vary from buying, weighing and preparing ingredients, researching existing products, surveying consumer opinion to designing innovative products. It is imperative that homework tasks are done when required in order to have the materials required for learning to take place in the subsequent lesson.

Resources to support learning

The Design & Technology Department provides most of the resources required for successful learning within this subject area, including protective clothing and materials. However in Food Studies, students are expected to provide their own ingredients, a container to take food home in and an apron.

Essential - should be brought to every lesson (can all be purchased from the equipment store in the library) Black pen; HB pencil, colouring pencils, ruler, eraser and pencil sharpener.

Contact

We greatly value your support and input. If you would like to contact us about any of the above information or any aspect of your son or daughter's progress, please use the normal school numbers or email Mr Hamish Auld, Head of Faculty on hamish.auld@magdalen.northants.sch.uk