

Calday Grange Grammar School



Year 8

Subject Curriculum Statements

2020-21

Art

This half-term Year 8 pupils have been set tasks that have explored the following theme: 'Urban Architecture'. To begin with pupils investigated and gained an appreciation for a variety of architectural styles. Pupils have completed a series of drawn architectural studies focusing on line, texture and tone. Additionally, they have referenced the knowledge gained in Year 7 regarding one and two-point perspective whilst completing these tasks. Pupils have then moved onto combining and merging together different architectural features and structures to create a 'Dystopian World'. To compliment this task, they have referenced the formal elements of Art, including shape, form, balance, rhythm and structure to determine the appearance of their finished outcome. Pupils will study a variety of artists/architects during this unit of work, including Ian McQue, Fabio Araujo, Zaha Hadid and Kyle Henderson. A particular focus will be placed on each artist's working style and how students can interpret this in a personalised manner.

To supplement the tasks set pupils have been given detailed instructions and visual materials such as help sheets, PowerPoints and teacher examples via Google Classroom.

All learners have had at least one 'live' lesson a fortnight across their timetable. Pupils have had detailed feedback about their work and progress during Google Meet lessons and posted on Google Classroom. Pupil engagement has been closely monitored by the class teacher and work has been continually assessed via written comments or audio notes.

Biology

During the remote learning period your son has completed his learning about Microorganisms and Disease and is now studying the Inheritance and Selection topic section of the Year 8 scheme of work. The next topic will cover Ecological concepts such as food chains, food webs, adaptation in plants, adaptations in animals and factors that affect species diversity. Remote learning has been delivered with a combination of Google meets, recorded PowerPoints, topic videos and good quality, meaningful tasks to support learning of content. Live meets, the classroom stream, Google quizzes and handed in assignments have provided ample opportunity to assess and give feedback to students on their learning. When students return to face-to-face teaching, the Biology Department plan for students to sit a test on Microorganisms and Disease. Your son will be given plenty of notice to prepare for this and an opportunity to revise concepts with their teacher in lessons.

Chemistry

In Chemistry, the year 8 have covered the following topics - Particle Theory, Earth and Atmosphere, Energy and Materials and the Periodic table. The topic covered during lockdown is Energy and Materials and classes will be moving onto the Periodic table. Each student has access to a Google Classroom where the content is broken down lesson by lesson into folders containing relevant material such as PowerPoints, Seneca and video links to support the booklet work. In addition to the

Google classroom, staff are delivering content and supporting students through Google meets and Google stream.

Chinese - MEP

In this academic year, MEP Y8 pupils finished topics on holiday, weather, countries, places, transportation, my bedroom, appearances, daily routines, as well as past and future tenses. Pupils used booklets and workbooks to learn new vocabulary and practice their knowledge in tasks. We have had at least 2 live lessons per week and the teacher led the pupils to work on the homework and tasks.

Apart from curriculum lessons, the pupils attended after school and lunch sessions. By February, pupils have developed their skills of writing Chinese characters and are now using beautiful handwriting. In addition, most of the pupils expanded the range of vocabulary and developed further in their speaking. This is an intensive and accelerated programme, combining taught elements with online learning.

Although some pupils could not attend after school lessons during the lockdown, the teaching records and resources were shared immediately with pupils every week. MEP pupils not only developed their Chinese language learning, but also managed to join an online speaking competition in January. Many speaking videos were created by pupils to demonstrate their speaking and writing skills. Chinese online resources and teaching related videos were introduced to engage the pupils' interests.

The progress of the pupils was monitored regularly. The pupils who missed homework or lessons were contacted via email or google classroom

Computer Studies

From January year 8 began their first steps into programming, which is a core element of computer science. Despite the struggles of home-learning the students have made a fantastic effort into progressing through the unit.

So far, the students have covered the basics of programming such as: handling variables, understanding how memory is used and we have even got to the point of writing some complex programs. Students now understand how we can program computers to make decisions based on a set of conditions.

From the week commencing 8th February the year 8s will be taking their CCT for their "Intro to Python" unit. Therefore, the days and week prior we as a department have offered support sessions to those who require it. It is important to us to assess their abilities now as their next unit will be looking at more advanced programming skills and therefore the skills learnt now will be highly valuable to them in the coming weeks.

Drama

During the first term students learnt about the social and historical context of the Brothers Grimm and how this early version of storytelling is still prevalent today. They also learnt how the ancient craft of storytelling has evolved over time with particular focus placed upon the emergence of

Walt Disney in the 1950s. Prior to commencing their first practical project, students learnt about adapting a story from spoken word to a piece of theatre through the use of physical props, vocal skills, narration and creative analysis of the written word. From here, they were introduced to The Brothers Grimm and tasked with creating a piece of theatre based around one of the brother's stories. Collaborating in groups, they selected key moments of the story and drawing upon their practical skills retold it as a piece of theatre. We usually complete work on physical theatre and then Shakespeare, but due to the current arrangements we have had to postpone practical elements from both of these topics. We hope to explore these topics practically, upon returning to school.

DT From January 2021 we have been focusing on Plastics. Learning how to identify different plastics and how we use these around our homes. Pupils now know how plastic bottles are commercially manufactured using the 'Blow Moulding' process. This led nicely onto the topic sustainability, pupils have learnt about the 6 R's and the effects of plastic pollution on our environment. All pupils have been researching for alternative solutions to plastic, including biodegradable plastics made from seaweed and starch. We have been encouraging all of our pupils to become sustainably aware designers. Pupils have responded well to these 2 week assignments and have produced some outstanding work. In the weeks leading up to February half term pupils will be focusing on revision for their online Cross Cohort Task. Revision lists can be found on Google Classroom W/C 1st Feb.

English

Work done so far:

- During the first two weeks of term, students were exposed to a number of short texts with the focus of improving their literacy. The short texts were followed by comprehension questions and analysis questions, preparing students for some of the key skills required for GCSE.
- In the weeks up to the February half term, students moved on to the Culture unit, with focus on poetry from different cultures around the world. There are tasks involving research, analysis, and imaginative writing.

Work after half term:

- Students will continue their work on the Culture unit, but with focus on prose rather than poetry.
- They will finish the term with a Google Quiz on this topic.

French

In French, since January 2021, pupils' learning has continued to address the scheme of work based on the coverage of the theme of media and technology. Over the last five weeks, students were also able to express opinions, use a wider range of structures and understand an extended range of details in texts about a variety of topics covered. They learned to describe their favourite personality, discussed their preferences regarding

television programs, gave an account of the type of technology they use, learned about types of films and how to arrange a visit to the cinema. The curriculum has been delivered by blended teaching: regular online Google meets as well as pre-recorded video lessons. Pupils were able to make use of newly acquired skills to attain level 6, which indicates an ability to understand detailed spoken and written texts in the target language using three time frames.

If, as expected, provision for remote teaching continues until 8th March, we will then explore a new thematic in which students will learn the skills to describe their town and region.

Games

During this period away from school Games lessons, the pupils have been asked to participate in any appropriate physical activities that they can safely manage in order for them to maintain and even augment their general well-being. In what is obviously a difficult time for all, challenges such as 'complete a 5Km run sometime in the next seven days' or 'walk for a total of 5hrs this week' have been issued to encourage pupils out of the house and to be physically active. Clearly every household has different restrictions, capabilities and freedoms and so the pupils should engage in the spirit of the request as much as possible.

Geography

During this period of online learning Year 8 Geography pupils have been working through the 'Weather and Climate' unit of work, this has involved learning about key weather and climate variables including how they are measured and recorded. They have learned how to present data in the form of a climate graph and developed an understanding of how climate varies across the British Isles. Pupils have developed their knowledge of the factors affecting climate and the basics of data analysis. The work has then progressed to the topic of 'Ecosystems' in which they have started to learn about the world's major biomes and the relationships between components in an ecosystem. Lessons have been blended with live Google Meet sessions supporting independent structured lessons posted to Google classroom.

German

Since the start of the Spring term, pupils in German have completed topic 2, based on Media. They completed a listening assessment and a written CCT task in open book format. This piece of writing assessed their ability to communicate information about TV viewing habits, plans of what they want to watch, reading habits, their last cinema trip and healthy screen time. They then moved on to topic 3, which is Food, drink and health. They have been learning how to talk about what they eat, how to order food and understanding recipes. They will continue to learn about healthy living. In Grammar, they have covered irregular verbs, dual case prepositions and dual verb sentences with modal verbs.

The class has received at least one lesson taught online each fortnight and the third lesson is normally work set on Google Classroom. All work is designed to be completed within the allocated 50 minutes for each lesson and no homework has been given over and above this

commitment, although pupils may have chosen to work outside of the lesson time. The pupils will be assessed after half term on this most recent content

History

In History this term, Year 8 students have followed a course of study based around the theme of political change in Britain, linking with their study of the Industrial Revolution last term. This has included an introduction to British democracy, and a choice of challenges based around the Luddites, the Chartists and the Suffragettes. An investigation into the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 provided an opportunity to discuss why there was such resistance to political reform in the 19th century, and has enabled students to understand more clearly why Chartism failed at that time. Students have now moved on to a more in-depth analysis of the suffragist and suffragette movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and this work will ultimately lead to a source analysis task after half term. This course of study has also supported political literacy, with students learning about the importance of the secret ballot and the need for equal constituencies as part of our electoral system. Lessons have involved blended learning, with live Meets interspersed with time set aside for students to complete their work.

Mathematics

In maths during the current lockdown, all classes have continued to go through the scheme of work as detailed in the Revision List on the maths Google Drive. The topics covered include rounding, angles, polygons, averages and statistical diagrams. There is still a weekly MathsWatch homework to complete, consolidating the topics learnt in online lessons. On return to school we will continue to complete CCTs in class, making sure that we review the work completed in lockdown to help students to consolidate the topics taught. The schemes of work in maths are built over a 5 year course and we return to topics almost every year. At the start of each section of work, we review the knowledge students already have and then build new concepts into the topic. This means that the work that we have covered during both lockdown periods will be taught again in the future. This may alleviate any concerns students have about the maths content learnt during the lockdown period.

Music

YEAR 8: FILM MUSIC/SOUNDTRACKS and MUSIC THEORY

Year 8 spent the Autumn Term exploring how music can enhance a film. They looked at each of the different genres and learnt how to use the musical elements to write about the music that they heard. Students also recapped on some of the elements of year 7 theory work and continued with the basics of music theory.

Since January students have looked at how to exploit sonority, dynamics, pitch, rhythm and tempo in film music with a particular focus on the Leitmotif. Students have completed written work and google quizzes They

have looked at the history of the Soundtrack and completed several listening tests. Students will be completing a CCT on Film Music and Soundtracks in the week beginning 22 February. This test will have short questions and listening questions based on the work covered since September. Students have been given time to revise and also provided with a revision PowerPoint in preparation for the test.

After half term students will be learning how to play famous pieces of film music either using the QWERTY keyboard or a 'real' keyboard if they have access to one at home. They will then move on to learning about scales, key signatures and tonic triads before moving on to a topic on Musicals

Physics

Earlier this year students covered topics on energy, stretching and turning, and pressure. More recently they have been studying light and are moving into a topic on space. Work both in and out of school is based around the booklets, with Google Classroom and other online materials used to supplement and facilitate their use. These include video or simulated experiments to replace work normally done in the labs. Whilst at home students have had regular contact via Google Meet or Stream.

RE

Up to now

Pupils have been examining the life of Martin Luther King and then using this to find out about prejudice and discrimination in USA from 1955 till more recent times. They have looked at non violent protest as a way to combat discrimination

From now

After half term, pupils will be examining the lives of a couple of people who put their faith into action, eg Nicky Cruz and Jackie Pullinger

Russian

This half-term in Russian we have been learning about the topic of 'Holidays'. This includes: destinations, activities on holiday, weather, transport, cultural information, opinions and time phrases, with a particular focus on past tense and an introduction to forming the future tense. Lessons have been following the bespoke booklet, which consists of a variety of information and tasks addressing all key language skills. All instructions and materials for each lesson can be found on Google Classroom. The curriculum is delivered by blended teaching: live Google Meet lessons, as well as pre-recorded video lessons. Pupils are expected to attend Meet sessions or watch the video lessons, carry out set activities, check their answers and upload evidence of their work. Student engagement is monitored by the class teacher and feedback is provided via written comments or audio messages.

In the second half of the term, we will be finishing off the 'Holiday' topic and preparing for a short CCT assessment on the material covered. Following this, we will move on to our next topic of 'My house'.

Spanish

This half term in Spanish pupils have been learning about food and drink. They have learnt to say which foods and drinks they like and dislike, have described what they eat and drink at different mealtimes and have practised ordering food in a restaurant. Over the last six weeks, students have revised opinions, negatives and learnt how to use the near future tense. We have delivered the curriculum via regular online Google meets as well as pre-recorded video lessons. Pupils can now attain level 6 in their work, which indicates an ability to combine the present, past and future tenses. Next half term, we will explore a new topic in which students will learn the skills to arrange to meet others.