



## Dedworth Middle School The Autumn Term - 2010- YEAR 8

This pamphlet provides details of the curriculum content for all the subjects your child will be following during the Autumn Term. A copy of your child's homework timetable is also included.

### Mathematics

Children in key stage 3 will be grouped according to their ability. Children will be following the new secondary strategy and will place greater focus on the "functional skills" element of mathematics. Children will be given greater opportunities to apply their maths knowledge to real life contexts and problems solving activities. All children will begin by completing a unit of work based on being enterprising with money. The children will attempt to set up a virtual ice cream business and attempt to calculate the overheads and costs involved. Children will clearly be using basic number skills such as addition, subtraction, percentage and fraction work but will also need to work in teams and produce business plans and projected profits and losses. The second unit will re introduce the children to algebra. Children will be collecting terms, simplifying and solving equations and creating graphs of functions. All key stage 3 children will continue to use "My Maths".

### English

In Term 1, Year 8 pupils study narrative writing and reading focusing on the detective genre. In Term 2, pupils will either be studying a novel or a play depending on their banding. Throughout the term, pupils will be assessed using APP (Assessing Pupil's Progress) grids. To help your child with their Reading and Writing, it would be helpful if you could ask him/her about the book they are reading and encourage them to watch programmes that fit into the detective genre.

### Technology (including food and fabric technology)

The children will spend time in 3 different DT areas - Resistant materials, Food Tech and Textiles, and the children will work on a three term rotation. They will cover topics under the themes of Flashing badges/electronics. In food Technology the pupils will be making pizza and lasagne from scratch. Pupils will develop their own sauces and learning how to combine a variety of ingredients to produce a dish of their own design. Later they shall be making layered deserts in stages.

### Science

The programmes of study for Year 8 include: 'Organ systems' - including the digestive, circulatory and respiratory system, 'heating and cooling' and 'inheritance and selection' As far as possible lessons include practical work and emphasis is placed on developing investigative skills. Pupils will be developing their scientific understanding by learning key vocabulary.



### Creative Thinking

In term 1 they children will look back at the work they completed last year, including the work in the garden area. They will recap the Six Thinking Hats strategy for focused thinking, and be introduced to Personal, Learning Thinking Skills (PLTS). They will focus on the garden area, looking at how harvesting produce occurs and what then needs to be done to the garden area in order to prepare it for the new season. They will contribute to a Year 8 guide to gardening book, which will be a theme running throughout the year aimed to be used by next year's Year 8. They will also be constructing a greenhouse made from 2 litre drinks bottles. Finally they will look at the collection of water in the garden and create systems to transport water effectively and efficiently around the garden. The children will also be encouraged to participate regularly on the [www.generationgreen.org](http://www.generationgreen.org) website in order to collect green points for the school's green leaf total, which in turn allows us to be awarded with 'green' prizes.

### French

Year 8 continue to learn new grammar points enabling them to become more confident in speaking the language. More written work is introduced and topics covered include talking about hobbies, TV programmes and making and invitation and answering the invitation.



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### History

In this term the pupils in year 8 will be investigating the rise of the Tudor dynasty and how the life of the common people was structured.

### Religious Education

Pupils will be studying rites of passage across various religions, particularly focusing on celebrations relating to birth, the entrance to adulthood, marriage, and death. Pupils will be comparing and contrasting what happens as a part of each of the rites, and discussing the reasoning behind the traditions.

### Information Technology

Will research different types of public information systems. Understand what sensors are and how they are used. Collect data in a variety of ways, Present and update the information. Use statistical functions of a spreadsheet to analyse data. Learn how analysis has led to identification of patterns e.g. global warming. Use Google Earth and export data in a variety of forms.

Recognize what makes a good website. Plan the structure of a web site. Design its layout and create a home page, adding text and images and link them together. Evaluate and improve the website.

### Choices

This is a reworking of the PSHE class. With an emphasis on areas including citizenship, health, ownership, independence, communication, emotions and society, Pupils will be learning money management skills, not only about how to spend money wisely but also to equip them with crucial knowledge about budgeting, income and taxes. Pupils will also look at what qualifications are required to gain employment in specific jobs, and learn how to apply for jobs.

### Physical Education

Pupils in Year 8 receive 3 hours of PE each week. For indoor lessons girls will cover indoor athletics, dance, gymnastics, basketball and Boys will cover basketball and indoor athletics. For outdoor lessons girls will cover netball and cross-country and Boys will cover football, rugby and cross country.

### Year 8 Homework Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>8LG</b>	History RE	French	Maths	English ICT	Science Geography Choices
<b>8SP</b>	ICT Choices	French	History Maths	English Geography	Science RE
<b>8MCS</b>	RE	Maths	French History Science	ICT English	Geography Choices
<b>8ML</b>	History RE ICT	Maths	French Science	Geography English	Choices



### Geography

This term we shall begin an investigation into the 'Less Economically Developed Country' (LEDC) of Kenya. During this investigation we shall develop the pupils understanding of the climate, environment, farming, tourism, aid, physical geography and the history. We shall also examine the interdependence between Kenya and the U.K.

### Art

The children will start by recapping colour theory and investigating materials. They will continue to develop their understanding and knowledge of this area through extended work on matching colour to moods. They will then start work on a topic called Headwear, which involves developing their observational drawing skills through still-life. They will then study theatre and carnival headwear and make some of their own in these elaborate styles.

### Music

In term one Year 8 will learn about medieval music, the different styles of music and instruments used. Students will sing in Latin and perform on keyboards the song 'Orientis Partibus'. In term 2 students will learn about Calypso, the instruments, rhythms and the history on the genre. Students will sing and perform the song 'Panamam Tombe'