



# HEDINGHAM SCHOOL

AND SIXTH FORM  
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

**YEAR 8**

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CURRICULUM

2016-2017

## DRAMA

Students follow a curriculum through Years 7 – 9 which lays the foundations for the extended study of Drama at GCSE and A Level and encourages the students to embrace the diversity of the world of theatre. In Year 8 students begin with a mythical quest to revise the basic skills learnt in Year 7. This is followed by a chance to explore an important social issue through a play script including a performance of a key extract and then a more extensive look at how to create stylised theatre using a poem as a stimulus. *Mrs Beaumont, Leader of Drama*

## ENGLISH

Our students will build on the knowledge and skills established in year 7 by undertaking a series of half-termly programmes of study. These include a novel, pre 20<sup>th</sup> century poetry, a study of Dickens, a gothic literature unit with project work to extend students' independence and a Shakespeare play. Students' abilities to speak and listen in a variety of contexts will be extended. Reading, including private reading for pleasure, will be monitored and encouraged. Throughout the year, students will revise how to explore and evaluate the way in which writers employ language and structure for a range of effects as well as how to adapt their own use of language for a variety of purposes and audiences in order to ensure accurate writing in a variety of styles. *Ms A Barker, Leader of English*

## GEOGRAPHY

Units extend the geographical and study skills introduced in Year 7 and apply these to investigations into the physical environment and will include the study of natural hazards, ecosystems and water issues including both hydrology and flooding. The course aims to broaden the context of the work to the international and global scale and focuses on the relationship between people and the natural environment. It also aims to develop research skills to investigate and analyse current issues such as the geography of tourism. *Miss Salmon, Leader of Geography*

## HISTORY

Year 8 History focuses on expanding the students analytical skills by using a range of sources and research techniques. Students will investigate why there are different interpretations of events and the differing opinions of past cultures and societies. Topics include: The English Civil War and the growth of Parliament, the Slave Trade,, the Growth of Women's Rights and the Industrial Revolution. The enquiries also include a local study of the sixteenth century witchcraze. *Mrs Reed, Leader of History*

## MATHEMATICS

Students will continue working on topics in number, algebra, geometry and statistics extending the work introduced in Year 7. The year's work will be organised as a series of modules. Practical work and other investigations will be integrated into the modules as will the use of Information Technology. Students' work will be regularly assessed by a combination of tests, homework and other classwork exercises. *Mrs Woodley, Leader of Mathematics*

## MODERN LANGUAGES

Students will build on their communicative skills in French or German, developing speaking and listening predominantly, and they will be encouraged to read short stories for pleasure. They will sharpen their knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary and explore both areas on the Internet. Continuous assessment will take place throughout the year in all four skills including writing, and the topics under study will be sports and injuries, daily routines, holidays and going abroad, media and technology. There will be opportunities to visit either Cologne in December or Le Touquet in May. *Miss Malaval, Leader of Modern Foreign Languages*

## MUSIC

Students develop the skills acquired in Year 7 with greater emphasis placed on individual performance and composition tasks. Students are expected to widen their musical knowledge and understanding, exploring music from around the world in greater detail. The topics studied will include Blues, Experimental music and The Planets. There will be opportunities to learn guitar as well as keyboard. *Mr Cull, Leader of Music*

## PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

In Year 8, students will study Judaism, Hinduism and worship. The course aims to develop both breadth of thinking and depth of thought and will include, alongside students' own views, ideas from Christianity. However, the course does not assume any particular religious faith, and will be of equal benefit to students of any faith, or none. *Mr Wright, Leader of Philosophy and Ethics*

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students have the opportunity to participate in a number of the following activity areas: Invasion games, Striking games, Net games, Gymnastics and Athletics. Students are involved in a continuous process of planning, performing and evaluating each activity area. Students are encouraged to appreciate the strengths and limitations in performance and use the information in co-operative teamwork. Students will also gain an understanding of short term and long term effects of exercise on the body system. Students should also recognise the importance of rules and apply them appropriately. *Mr Sergeant, Leader of P.E.*

## SCIENCE

Progression from Year 7 will include greater use of scientific language to explain ideas and develop critical thinking, analytical and experimental skills. Students are taught these skills and content through units entitled: Food, Glorious Food; Going for Gold; Doctors and Diseases; The Way of the Dodo; Water; Materials and Recycling; All that Glitters; Explaining the Earth; Heat Transfers; Forces and Transport; Light; Sound and Hearing. Students' work is regularly assessed, throughout the whole of Key Stage 3, by a combination of end of unit tests; assessment tasks, homework and class work exercises; this provides an individual profile of the skills, processes and knowledge required by the National Curriculum. Students are encouraged to use the internet wisely for research and to develop their independent study skills. *Dr Finn, Leader of Science*

## PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Students are members of a vertical tutor group and discuss a range of social and moral issues through the Tutor Time activities in which they complete tasks and discussion topics individually, in pairs and in 'families'. As part of Year 8 PSHE students explore the value of all work and the importance of education. During PSHE Curriculum Days and elsewhere in the curriculum there are opportunities to explore more deeply a range of issues including achievement, bullying, health and citizenship. Year 8 students will also begin to look ahead to career related issues. All subjects work to develop in students a variety of skills such as organisation and time management, self-discipline, care and concern for others, understanding emotions, establishing proper balanced relationships and making good judgements. *PSHE Co-ordinator*