

The Year 8 Curriculum at Cavendish

Throughout each year of Key Stage 3 at Cavendish pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum. Within each subject they study a variety of topics which are designed to develop and deepen their skills and knowledge so that they are prepared for the demand of the GCSE courses they will take for GCSE. Below is some brief information about the topic areas they will study in each subject.

If you would like additional information about the topics please contact the Head of Faculty for each subject. Their contact details can be found on the school website.

English

Term	Topic
1	Animal Attack scheme (compiled by Sara) based on extract from Bill Bryson's 'A Walk in the Woods - reading assessment based around the style of the new GCSE English Language Paper One
2	'The Woman in Black'. Reading Assessment based on how tension is created in the novel from an extract of 'The Sound of a Pony and Trap' and across the novel as a whole. If time, students can develop their own piece of gothic horror writing inspired by an image.
3	'Don't Get me Started!' scheme, looking at persuasive and argumentative writing. Writing assessment - an entertaining and persuasive rant about something trivial that annoys the student. Opportunity for S&L - students can present their rants to the whole class as preparation for the GCSE Spoken Language unit.
4	Media/ advertising.
5	War poetry - reading assessment comparing how two poets present contrasting views of war (usually using Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est' and Pope's 'Who's for the Game?') and there are opportunities to encourage creative writing inspired by poems they read.
6	Travel writing

Maths

Classes in Maths are set according to ability. In Year 8, there are two year halves and each half has 3 classes. Each class follows a scheme of work tailored to their ability which very much focuses on improving understanding of topics and mastering concepts.

Each scheme covers between 12 and 16 topics over the year. They cover aspects of Number, Algebra, Shape and Handling Data and we try to include problem solving in our lessons wherever possible.

The schemes of work reflect the changes to the new Maths GCSE; we have added or modified our teaching to enable students to feel confident with new content from an earlier age.

Each class will sit short tests over the year to see progress within a topic. We would hope that students would then use this information about their strengths and weaknesses to complete some independent work to address these areas to improve. Pupils will sit more formal exams three times in the year. These results will inform the grades that are reported home.

Each pupil will have access to MyMaths; an online Mathematics programme. We will sometimes use this software in lessons and it can also be used to complete homework or revision activities. Pupils will be given guidance on how to use MyMaths effectively.

Science

In Science pupils rotate throughout the topics set out below throughout the year.

Topic
Biology 1. Health & Lifestyle 2. Ecosystem Processes 3. Adaptation and Inheritance
Chemistry 1. The Periodic Table 2. Separation Techniques 3. Metals and Acids 4. The Earth
Physics 1. Electricity and Magnetism 2. Energy 3. Motion and Pressure

History

Term	Topic
1	The Tudors
2	The British Empire
3	Slavery
4	Children in the Industrial Revolution

5	The Suffragettes
6	Soldier's experiences of World War I

Geography

Term	Topic
1	Energy and Environmental Issues
2	Population Change
3	Extreme Environments
4	Development
5	Coasts
6	Holocaust Cross Curricular Project

RE

Term	Topic
1	Religious views of God
2	Does God exist?
3	Introduction to Buddhism
4	Environment
5	Martin Luther King: Christianity and racism
6	Responding to discrimination

Spanish

Term	Topic
1	Describing friends and celebrities, free time activities
2	Going out, places in town, making excuses
3	Holidays: destination, transport, activities
4	Food: mealtimes, shopping for food, eating at a restaurant

5	Fashion and travel: clothes, school uniform, trip to Argentina
6	Barcelona: tourist destinations, shops, directions

French

Term	Topic
1	Media: television programmes, films, books, internet
2	Paris: tourist attractions, planning what to do, saying what you did
3	My identity: personality, relationships, music, clothes
4	At home: describe your home, food and meals, future events
5	Talent and ambition, say what you can do, describe people's personalities
6	World geography and French-speaking countries

Computer Technology

Term	Topic
1	Logic
2	Cyber Safety
3	Web technologies
4	Branding
5	Games development
6	Photoshop/ Graphics

PE

Term	Topic
1	Boys – Football/ Table Tennis, Girls – Netball/ Football, Mixed – GYM/Trampoline
2	Boys – Trampoline/ Basketball, Girls – Hockey/Badminton, Mixed – Badminton/Trampoline

3	Boys – Gym/ Dance, Girls – Hockey/Badminton, Mixed – Gym/Table Tennis
4	Boys – Rugby/ Badminton, Girls – Trampoline/Basketball, Mixed – Basketball/Handball
5	Boys – Athletics, Girls - Athletics, Mixed – Athletics
6	Boys – Tennis Baseball, Girls - Netball/GYM, Mixed – GYM/Trampoline

Art

Colour

Pupils gain an understanding of colour mixing and its application through the use of mixed media, paint, collage and pencil crayon. Imaginative presentations and observational work, together with experimentation will be carried out in sketchbooks. Outcomes will be developed through a variety of 2 and 3 dimensional processes.

Drama

Term	Topic
1	Commedia Dell A'rte
2	Monologues & Duologues
3	Devising (Heaven and Hell)
4	GCSE Taster Playwrights
5	GCSE Taster Theatrical Practitioners
6	Further Devising skills

Music

Term	Topic
1	African Music
2	Band Ensemble Skills
3	Variations
4	The Blues
5	Form and Structure
6	Film Music

Design Technology

Pupils will build on skills learnt in Year 7 by completing projects which cover a range of DT specialisms.

Food Technology

Pupils will develop their food preparation and cooking skills. They will develop the ability to work confidently with a range of equipment and produce a range of products, predominantly savoury. They will improve accuracy through learning a range of different cutting techniques. Products made include a layered salad, burgers, fruit and veg muffins, macaroni cheese, Dutch apple cake, Chow Mein, Rataouille, pizza and curry. Pupils will develop their knowledge of a range of diet needs and deepen their knowledge of different nutrients and vitamins. They will also develop their technical knowledge through understanding gelatinisation and enzymic browning and fermentation.

Textiles sublimation printing

Pupils will look at 'Pop Art' as a design theme for this topic. They will develop designs to print using the sublimation process. They will use transfer dyes and a heat press to transfer their design onto polyester. They will also develop accuracy using the sewing machine in assembling their final product. Pupils will also develop their knowledge of fibres further in comparing synthetic and natural fibres and fabrics.

Vacuum forming

Pupils will further explore the properties of plastics, looking at thermo and thermoset plastics, environmental issues and new developments in Bio plastics. They will design and make a reusable vacuum formed mould for chocolate. Pupils will build on workshop skills from Year 7 and develop their ability to shape a wider range of materials to create their mould. They will also use digital design to present their design ideas.

PSHE

Term	Topic
1&2	Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education
3	Healthy Living (First Aid)
4	Emotional Health and Well-being
5& 6	Sexual Relationship Education