

Bishop Stopford School

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CURRICULUM OUTLINE

YEAR 8

2020 - 2021

Dear Parents

In order to build on links between school and home which were established in Year 7, this booklet gives details of the curriculum followed this year.

This outline shows the teaching programme, which we trust will lead to enjoyable and meaningful learning. Students, of course, learn much more than can ever be listed in a booklet. Social skills, positive attitudes and other qualities form an important part of what we are aiming to develop at Bishop Stopford. A wide range of extra-curricular activities complements the planned timetable of lessons, and STEM days continue.

An overview of the timetable is given below:

	Number of lessons per fortnight	Organisation of teaching groups
Art & Design	2	mixed ability
Computer Science	2	mixed ability
Design Technology*	4*	mixed ability
Drama*		
Foundation Learning	1	mixed ability
English	6	mixed ability
Geography	3	mixed ability
History	3	mixed ability
Mathematics	6	setting
Modern Languages	6	setting
Music	2	mixed ability
Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education	1	mixed ability
Physical Education	4	mixed ability
Religious Education	3	mixed ability
Science	6	setting
Tutorial	1	mixed ability
STEM Days	1 x 1 day	mixed

(Lessons last for one hour. Tutor groups consist of approximately 27 students).

*DT and Drama are taught in a carousel, with each block lasting between 7 and 8 weeks. Students will have 1 block of drama and 4 blocks of DT throughout the year.

Homework is an extension of the curriculum offered at school, nurturing self-reliance in learning as well as giving an opportunity for consolidation or extension of topics covered in the classroom. Homework tasks will be set in line with the homework timetable and students record this in their planners. You are required to sign the planner once a fortnight. You can also use it to record any messages you wish to pass to the form tutor.

We will be pleased to respond to any concerns you may have about teaching, learning and life in Year 8. In this way, we hope to build on the good foundations laid down in the last year, and make this year a happy and fulfilling time.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Silverthorne & Mr L Stevenson
Headteacher **Head of Year 8**

Faculty : Expressive Arts

Department : Art

Faculty Introduction:

Techniques learnt in Year 7 are consolidated in Year 8 with a greater focus on 3D materials.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

Observational Drawing Project

- Students will be given the chance to experiment in a variety of mixed media including ICT.
- Direct observational study to investigate tone/texture/form.

Ceramics Project

Graphic Project

- Investigation into comic book design and layout. Character design and typography also explored.

Multi-cultural Studies

Possible projects may include mask making.

Assessment:

- Targets for improvement identified on individual assessment sheets and given verbally throughout.
- Formal written assessment completed at the end of each project.
- Bishop Stopford Assessment levels given to major pieces of work.

Homework:

Extension tasks set over a number of weeks to complement classwork. Homework will amount to approximately 3 hours per term.

Enhancement Activities:

- Art Club
- Opportunity to have work displayed around school

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Students are required to have the following items which can be purchased through the school:
B pencil, blendable colouring pencils.

Faculty : Technologies

Subject : Computer Science

Faculty Introduction:

A high-quality Computer Science education equips students to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computer Science has deep links with mathematics, science and design and technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems. The core of computing is computer science, in which students are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming.

Building on this knowledge and understanding, students are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computer Science also ensures that students become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

Topics to be covered in the year will include:

- Operating Systems
- Manipulating files and folders
- Binary
- Instruction Set Design
- Programming using selection statements and Boolean expressions
- Connecting to the Internet
- Programming a high-score table
- How to make computers appear smart
- Recursive Patterns

Assessment:

- The students will be assessed using a mixture of teacher assessment and end of unit tests, depending on the topic.
- Students will be assessed against a new Computer Science Progression Pathway, which replaces the old National Curriculum levels.

Enhancement Activities:

Lunchtime and after school computer use with Internet access.

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

No textbooks are issued for Computer Science. All resources (including the course textbook) are available on-line using a Dynamic Learning login that is issued to every student in September.

Faculty : Technologies

Subject : Design Technology

Faculty Introduction:

In Key Stage 3 students follow a varied programme of study which covers all aspects of the National Curriculum.

Year 8 develops subject knowledge, whilst enhancing practical skills and abilities. Students will complete all modules of work on a rotational basis.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- Textile Technology – Assembling three dimensional fabric products.
- Product Design – Manufacturing with precision and automated robotic systems.
- Food Preparation and Nutrition - Cultural cuisine and healthy eating.

Assessment:

- All work will be assessed according to the Bishop Stopford assessment system.

Homework:

Within Year 8 homework comprises two set pieces for each project designed to both test and broaden a student's knowledge.

Enhancement Activities:

- Rotary Club Technology Tournament
- STEM days

All students are actively encouraged to enhance the presentation of their work by the use of ICT. ICT facilities are available within school at lunchtimes.

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Texts are used during lesson time for specific learning objectives as and when required.

Faculty : Expressive Arts

Subject : Drama

Faculty Introduction:

Drama in Year 8 is taught in a block on rotation with other subjects

Topics/Modules to be covered:

“The Pied Piper of Hamelin”

Developing paired and group dynamics through tableaux and mime

Heroes and Heroines

Development of acting style through awareness or melodrama

In the Trenches

Assessment:

- Assessment is made at the end of half-termly modules.
- Assessment is based upon performance of practical work.

Homework:

No homework is set for Drama

Enhancement Activities:

- Students’ work may be showcased at lunchtime during Open Studio sessions
- Drama Club (weekly after school)

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Various texts such as : “The Ballad of William Corder”

Reference work “Mobb’s Boys” and “Private Peaceful” – Michael Morpurgo

These are returned to the Drama teacher at the end of term.

Faculty : English

Subject : English

Faculty Introduction:

All students follow a range of units of work covering the key skills of reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary and spoken English. A wide range of literature is at the heart of our work.

Topics/Modules to be covered in the year:

- The Novel: study of a modern novel.
- Literary Heritage: study of a pre 20th century text. This year we will be studying Oliver Twist by Dickens.
- Shakespeare: study of a Shakespeare play (*The Tempest or A Midsummer Night's Dream*).
- Non-Fiction: study of a range of non-fiction forms, with a particular focus on travel writing/other cultures.
- Poetry: study of a range of poems of different forms including ballads.

Assessment:

- Each unit has a summative assessment point.
- These assessments receive 'What Works Well/Even Better If' comments and require a 'My Response Is' from the student.
- All students complete an end of year test to check overall progress.

Homework:

Students follow a programme of homework which aims to develop literacy skills and consolidate the work they have been doing in class lessons. This homework should take approximately 30 minutes. Teachers might, at times, give students homework which extends their class work, such as drafting an essay, or producing a project about books they have read.

Enhancement Activities:

- Competitions.
- Book Week including visits by writers
- 'Chapter One' reading club

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Students will be issued with a copy of the class reader at some stage during the year. If it is lost or mislaid, students are responsible for paying the replacement cost.

Faculty : Modern Languages

Subject : French

Faculty Introduction:

Students will follow five modules. There are also opportunities for completing ICT activities and independent cultural projects.

Topics/Modules to be covered in the year:

- Free time activities
- Holidays
- About me
- Home life
- Talent contents

Assessment:

- Two written common assessments per year, one of which is an end of year exam.
- Four teacher assessments (one per module).
- Targets for improvement identified.

Homework:

30 minutes homework is set once per week.
Students will be using the on-line resource Quizlet.

Enhancement Activities

- International Day

Texts to be used:

“Studio 2” will be used in lessons. Students are expected to bring their own bi-lingual dictionary to lessons. Students will also have the opportunity to subscribe to a French foreign language magazine.

Faculty : Humanities

Subject : Geography

Faculty Introduction:

'What other subject tells us so much about the great issues of the age – global change, natural and human?'

Students are taught in mixed ability groups for 3 lessons a fortnight.

Topics/Units to be covered:

- Tropical Rainforests
- Antarctica
- Development in Ghana
- Coasts

Assessment:

- 3 end of topic assessments.
- Effort graded 1 – 5 and whole class feedback
- End of year exam.

Homework:

Homework tasks will include a variety of mediums. These will include research prior to learning, independent research tasks, planning for presentations or developing revision skills. There will also be extended writing pieces or completion of questions.

Enhancement Activities:

- Research and project-based work
- Independent research

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

"Geography Matters, 1, 2 and 3". All textbooks utilised are kept and used at school.

Faculty : Humanities

Subject : History

Faculty Introduction:

Students are taught in mixed ability tutor groups in Year 8. A variety of topic areas are covered. The emphasis is on British history.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- **Kings, Crowns and Parliaments:** Tudor monarchs; The Gunpowder Plot; Charles I; Oliver Cromwell and the Civil War; Social history contrasting the life of the rich and that of the poor; Portraits as evidence.
- **Indigenous peoples of North America:** The life and culture of the peoples of the Plains and other regions.

Assessment:

- Specific assessments are given using the Bishop Stopford assessment system
- Targets for improvement identified.
- End of year test

Homework:

Some homework will be research, planning or revision. Some will be completing extended writing tasks or assessments.

Texts

“Societies in Change”.

Faculty : Mathematics

Subject : Mathematics

Faculty Introduction:

Students are taught in four broad ability sets. Different sets cover a topic in differing depths ranging from GCSE grades 0 - 4. Scientific calculators and maths equipment must be bought by all students and brought to all lessons.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- Whole numbers, decimals, fractions.
- Negative numbers.
- Algebra, co-ordinates, angles, symmetry.
- Areas, perimeter, volume.
- Mean, mode, median and range.
- Charts and graphs.
- Probability and problem solving.
- Investigations.

Assessment:

- Regular assessment of homework, mental and investigational skills.
- Regular tests, which can result in movement between sets.
- Targets for improvement given where necessary.
- End of year test.

Homework:

30 minutes' homework is set up to twice a week.

Homework is generally further practice/consolidation of the topic covered in class, so usually needs to be completed by the next lesson.

Maths Help is available weekly for extra assistance with homework or classwork.

The school have a MathsWatch subscription. Each student will have a password and login provided at the beginning of the year. MathsWatch can be used for homework, revision or enrichment.

Enhancement Activities:

- Extension activities for more able mathematicians.
- The most able mathematicians enter the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge.
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities which develop problem solving skills.
- MathsWatch and Maths Help.

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Students use a textbook in the classroom. A separate homework book is issued or worksheets are given for homework.

Faculty : Expressive Arts

Subject : Music

Faculty Introduction:

Students develop their musical skills through topics which allow them to cover the National Curriculum. All topics are taught with an integrated approach to the three disciplines of performance, composition, listening and appraising.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- Blues – blues scale and twelve bar blues chord structure, syncopated rhythms.
- Popular music – developing knowledge of harmony and song structures
- Intervals – use of intervals in composition and their effect.
- Ground Bass – repeating bass lines with changes in texture and melodic lines above. Group arrangement of Pachelbel's canon.
- Keyboard skills, building on 5 finger technique from y7, adding bass notes and chords.
- Short 'set works' listening, performing, keywords and context. Dvorak's "Largo"

Assessment:

- Assessment using Bishop Stopford Assessment system.
- Targets for improvement identified through verbal and/or written feedback.

Homework:

No homework is set in Year 8.

Enhancement Activities:

- A wide variety of choirs and instrumental ensembles are open to all students throughout the year. (Those students who take instrumental lessons are expected to attend at least one choir or ensemble).
- Girls and boys choir and ukulele ensembles, open to all.
- Visiting musicians workshop
- Creative Worship – performing in assembly/Eucharist
- Carol Service
- End of term concerts
- African Drumming

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Not applicable.

Subject : PSHE

Faculty Introduction:

PSHE helps students to develop inter-personal, communication and social skills. Topics are divided between:

- A tutorial led by the students' form tutor.
- Personal, Social and Health Education lessons, taught by a member of the Personal, Social and Health Education team.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

Personal, Social and Health Education

- Health Issues
 - alcohol and drugs
- Citizenship
 - prejudice

Tutorial

- Study skills; identifying strengths
- One to one interviews and monitoring of progress
- Everyone reading in class
- Preparation for residential visit to Isles of Scilly
- Assembly preparation
- Families
- Thinking and study skills
- Careers
 - Health & Safety in the workplace
 - Take your child to work day – briefing and debriefing activities
 - Understanding the world of work
 - Skills for work
 - British values and extremism

Assessment:

Homework:

Homework is not set, although students may sometimes need to collect materials for use in lessons.

Enhancement Activities:

- Take Our Children to Work Day.
- External Speakers

Faculty : Physical Education

Subject : Physical Education

Faculty Introduction:

PE helps students to develop positive associations with physical activity, acquire skills and apply tactics, evaluate and improve performance, gain knowledge, understand about fitness and health and develop their personal qualities.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- **Games Activities:** hockey, football, rugby, netball, handball, rounders, cricket, basketball, badminton, tennis, volleyball, softball and table tennis
- **Athletics Activities:** athletics
- **Body Management:** rhythmic gymnastics and health related fitness

Assessment:

- Assessment in line with other practical subjects
- Short and long term reports
- On-going self and peer assessment in lessons

Enhancement Activities:

- Year 8 students have the opportunity to attend a residential in the Isles of Scilly where they experience a variety of outdoor and adventure activities.
- School teams are organised in all the major games and activities, with practices at lunchtimes and with matches after school.
- The school enters a team in the district cross country and athletic championships. Talented students are put forward for selection at district/county level.
- Inter-house competitions – various activities
- Level 3 School Games (winter and summer) in some activities.

Faculty : Humanities

Subject : Religious Education

Faculty Introduction:

Religious Education in Year 8 is designed to develop skills in displaying knowledge, and in understanding and evaluating religious responses to personal and ethical issues.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- Basic Christianity
- Islam
- Sikhism

Assessment:

- End of module tests, using the Bishop Stopford Assessment system
- Effort Grade A-E
- Targets for improvement
- End of year test

Homework:

Homework is set for 30 minutes per week. Use of ICT to complete homework is encouraged.

Enhancement Activities:

- Experiential projects eg making Torah scrolls.
- Use of ICT for extension tasks.
- Use of Ipads for virtual visits.
- Meet the Faiths Workshop

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

Text books are issued for lessons but are not taken home. Electronic version available through Kerboodle.

Faculty : Science

Subject : Science

Faculty Introduction:

The second year of Key Stage 3 develops skills further and introduces new areas of knowledge. Students are set in broad ability groups.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- Plants
- Food and nutrition
- Light
- Multicellular organisms
- Breathing and respiration
- Periodic table
- Heat transfers
- Rocks
- Earth and space
- Fluids
- Combustion

Assessment:

- End of block tests (3 per year), using the Bistopford internal assessments.
- Effort graded A-E
- Targets for improvement identified
- Practical investigation work
- Weekly homework

Homework:

30 minutes homework is set each week. Homework tasks include questions to test knowledge and understanding; revising for tests; research and planning; writing up investigations and work to develop skills e.g. graph work. In addition, students are expected to use time at home to formally assess key work and assessments.

Enhancement Activities:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Activities
- Information and additional homework tasks are available on the VLE

Texts to be issued and arrangements for return:

A KS3 revision guide can be purchased from the Science Faculty. Additional workbooks are available.

Faculty : Modern Languages
Subject : Spanish Second Language

Faculty Introduction:

Students in Sets 1 and 2 in Bands A and B will begin studying Spanish as a second language. They will have 2 lessons a fortnight of Spanish and 4 of their first language French.

Students study six modules of work, generally one per half-term. There are also opportunities for ICT and independent reading.

Topics/Modules to be covered:

- Personal ID
- School
- Free time
- House and home
- Town
- Holidays

Assessment:

- Two common assessment per year.
- Four end of module teacher assessments.
- Targets for improvement identified.

Homework

Homework is set for 30 minutes once a week.

Enhancement Activities:

- International Day

Texts to be used:

Students will use a variety of resources in class but will not be issued with a textbook.

Faculty : Wider Curriculum

Department : Foundation Learning

Faculty Introduction:

The Foundation Learning programme is in two sections:

ICT Skills

From getting to grips with the school's Virtual Learning Environment (Firefly), using the school's email system to creating PowerPoint presentations and spreadsheets. The programme will help students to become familiar with the ICT systems used by the school.

Bishop Award (Year 7 only)

The Bishop Award is an innovative new program designed to stretch and challenge Year 7 students to step out of their comfort zone as they try new things and develop their skill set. We believe that this will improve your confidence, aptitude and academic success.

Modules to be covered in the year:

- Firefly – the school's VLE
- Folders and Sub-folders
- School email
- Use a search engine
- Create a PowerPoint
- Create a business letter
- Create a spreadsheet
- Create an A4 newsletter

Assessment:

There is a short digital assessment at the end of each Foundation Learning lesson.

Year 7 students will also have their progress on the Bishop Award monitored during the Foundation Learning lessons.

Homework:

No homework is set during Foundation Learning lessons – Year 7 students are expected however to acquire evidence for the Bishop Award.

Enhancement Activities:

The 'Bishop Award' is designed as an enhancement activity.

Resource to be issued and arrangements for return:

All resources are available on Firefly. Students will be provided with headphones each lesson.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Introduction:

We live in a time where the pace of change is more rapid than at any point in history. Changes in society and the nature of work (including the use of technology and the influences of the global market) will have a profound effect on patterns of employment. To meet these challenges, the CEIAG programme helps our students to develop the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to make well informed, considered choices and plans which enable them to progress smoothly into further learning and work, now and in the future.

The CEIAG programme for Year 8 is delivered within the tutorial programme. It is mapped to the learning outcomes of the Career Development Institute's (CDI) Careers, Employability and Enterprise framework. The framework focuses on 3 elements:

- Developing yourself through careers, employability and enterprise education
- Learning about careers and the world of work
- Developing your career management and employability skills

Topics:

In Year 8, students have the opportunity to take part in Take Our Children to Work Day. They gain an insight into the world of work and apply their learning from school into the work environment. Students undertake a number of preparatory sessions in their careers lessons. Once back in school, there is time to reflect on their day.

- **What is work?** - students recognise the value of different forms of work to individuals in society and identify the opportunities and rewards from each of the pathways available.
- **Health and safety in the work place** - activity linked to Take Our Children to Work Day.
- **Labour Market Information** - students learn what the labour market is and how individuals can be affected by the changing supply and demand for labour.
- **Take Our Children to Work debrief** - reflection and evaluation of the work shadowing day.

These lessons are supported with a workbook containing all the completed activities and reference resources to assist with learning. Students who visit the work place have a further workbook to document these activities and learning points.

Enrichment Activities:

- **Take Our Children to Work Day** - Students spend the day work shadowing in a business setting. An enterprise and career development activity is provided for any students who are not able to go out of school. This is provided to the school by The Young Enterprise Company – Learn to Earn Programme.
 - **Progress Review Evening** - an opportunity for students and parents to meet with the school's Careers Adviser.
 - **Careers Talks** – Year 8 students are welcome to attend any of the lunchtime Careers Café or career talks arranged at lunchtimes across the school year.
 - **Careers help and advice** - parents and students are welcome to book an appointment with the Careers Adviser. Email: careers@bishopstopford.com

Quality Assurance

The CEIAG programme at Bishop Stopford School is delivered to nationally accredited standards. The school are holders of Career Mark, a Quality in Careers national standard for excellence.

STEM Days

Students take part in one technology day to 'join up' their learning in the technology subjects (Design and Technology, Maths and Science).

On each of the days, students take part in a variety of activities which enables them to make links between the subjects and enhance their own learning.

Learning takes place in teams and will be themed.

Enhancement Activities

Trips and Visits: Voluntary Contributions

The viability of trips and visits is entirely dependent on parents recognising their value, and therefore supporting them with voluntary contributions. There is no obligation to contribute, and students will not be deselected because of a lack of parental contribution. However, information regarding trips or visits will state processes for cancelling a trip and returning monies, should the school not receive sufficient voluntary contributions for the activity to go ahead. Consideration for students facing financial hardship will be detailed in any information issued.

NOTES