

MTP Curriculum Notes

Year 8 - Autumn 2016

ENGLISH: In English, the boys will be developing their analysis and use of narrative technique, focusing on setting, character and structure. A range of texts will be studied with 'Maggot Moon' by Sally Gardner featuring as the main class reader. A range of past 13+ papers will be practised in order to refine reading comprehension technique. The boys will concentrate on written tasks linked to entrance paper requirements. Emphasis will be placed on efficient planning and structuring of short compositions which contain a high level of accuracy, descriptive detail and sentence variety. Additional voluntary English sessions will be provided between 8.00am and 8.30am on Tuesday mornings. These sessions will focus on comprehension skills; all Year 8 boys are welcome.

MATHEMATICS: This term, pupils will spend a great deal of time practising, consolidating and extending skills, knowledge and concepts developed last year. Pupils will delve further into prisms, distance/speed/time, transformation geometry, inequalities, simultaneous equations, line and rotational symmetry. A big emphasis will also be placed upon problem solving and explaining their reasoning in order to reflect the evolution of 13+ Entrance Exams. In order to help prepare pupils for their final examinations, a weekly session will be given over to practising and correcting appropriate past papers. Boys will also be able to access additional support at the optional extra Maths sessions which take place between 08:00 and 08:30 on Wednesday mornings.

SCIENCE: In Science the boys will complete their work with Electricity and Magnetism, Human Reproduction and a quick revision of Photosynthesis in Plants. They will then begin a thorough revision programme in preparation for the mock and entrance exams. Homework will include 13+ papers. Please encourage your son to ask Mr De Vynck for additional help if he encounters difficulties with any topic in the Science syllabus and to attend Science Surgeries as often as possible.

FRENCH: The Year 7 range of topics and grammar will be revisited at the start of term, allowing time for 13+ papers practice, refinement of language skills and examination techniques. Listening and speaking practice will take place regularly and will be coordinated by Mr Crook. Mr Kopel will be in charge of the reading and writing skills, helping students designing their own template paragraphs on the topics of school, leisure, holidays and self/family/home. We will use a range of authentic resources for topics and grammar revision after the mock examinations.

CLASSICS: The Y8+ group will continue *Emilia Tertia* up to the end of CEE level 3. They will then study Latin composition in *Barnabus*. The Y8* group will complete the CAS course using *Emilia Tertia*. They will begin practising composition in both Latin and Greek using *Barnabus* and *Barnabas*.

GEOGRAPHY: This term we will be completing our fieldwork projects, revising and preparing for entrance examinations.

HISTORY: This term, boys will study a number of topics related to Medieval England, while focusing on the key skills of identifying and explaining inference, assessing the reliability of sources, and comparing sources. This provides direct preparation for the examinations they will sit at 13+.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: To prepare for 13+ entrance examinations (including the new MTS RS paper), pupils will be encouraged to develop their own opinions on significant ethical and moral issues, both historical and contemporary. They will practise past papers, revisiting appropriate Old and New Testament texts to support their arguments. They should continue to discuss current affairs using the point-example-explanation structure.

ART & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: Year 8 will be studying Portraiture. They will produce a self-portrait in pencil tone, learn to mix and blend skin tones before choosing a portrait artist to investigate. Pupils will then have the chance to work in acrylics and mixed media to develop an idea for their own large scale portrait.

DRAMA: This term, the boys will be working on a variety of theatrical exercises and dramatic texts with a view to their production auditions in the Spring term.

IT: In IT, the boys will build on the knowledge of internet safety. The boys will be developing their understanding of computer programming by using the software Python and linking it with their BBC Microbit. They will also start preparing for the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge' in November. In the 2nd half of the autumn term, they will be creating Apps.

MUSIC: Year 8 will this term continue to learn their selected instrument in a whole class band setting. The boys will learn musical discipline as well as continue to develop note reading and musicianship.

PE & GAMES: In PE the pupils will be developing their skills for competitive Hockey. In Games the pupils will be developing their Rugby skills in preparation for fixtures.