

Year 8 Curriculum 2020-21

The purpose of this document is to give you an overview of the Ermysted's curriculum and help you understand what your child will be learning during the year. It also explains how the curriculum develops higher up the school, how you will be kept informed about your child's progress and what support is available.

The following comments summarise more lengthy explanations that are available on the school website (www.ermysteds.co.uk). The relevant source documents are listed in **bold-type** at the end of each section.

What will my child study in Year 8?

Pupils in Year 8 are taught in four forms of mixed ability; there is no setting in any subject. All pupils follow the same extensive programme in Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Latin, French, German, Art, History, Geography, Design Technology, Music, Religious Studies, Physics, Personal Development and Physical Education; thereby, going far beyond the statutory National Curriculum.

Art

Pupils will explore a broad range of materials and processes, including drawing skills and techniques, photography, sculpture, ceramics, portraiture, colour, expression, mark-making and architecture.

Biology

Pupils will be studying Ecology and factors affecting the distribution of organisms, Photosynthesis, Diet and Digestion, Respiration and Gas Exchange. We will be concentrating on the theoretical aspects of the course until pupils are able to work in laboratories. There may be opportunities to carry out some practical work in the teaching rooms or outside, such as sampling on the school field.

Chemistry

Pupils will be studying Atoms and Elements, Compounds, Reactions of metals and their compounds, The Earth and Atmosphere, and Chemical Reactions. We will be concentrating on the theoretical aspects of the course until pupils are able to work in laboratories. There may be opportunities to carry out some practical work in the teaching rooms.

Computing

Pupils will study website development – HTML and CSS; Python games programming; photo editing; Binary and denary arithmetic; 2D computer animation; computer hardware; data handling and algorithms; spreadsheets; apps using AppInventor; and 3D drawing with Google Sketchup.

Design Technology

Pupils will design and make projects to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills in different areas, including electronics systems. They will work with a wide variety of materials. The two principle projects for the year are making an amplifier and a wooden automaton. Pupils also learn about various machines and hand tools; develop some drawing and designing techniques; use Computer Aided Design software; learn about the use of the vacuum forming machine; and plan and build a mechanism for their project.

English

Language and literature skills are developed from year 7. The ability to analyse fiction and non-fiction texts is further developed and these are used as models to inspire pupils' own writing. This includes the production of a persuasive piece of writing; analysing a range of poetry, including writing their own narrative poem; and the study of the mystery and horror genre; the Shakespeare play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and the 20th century novel, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

Food and Nutrition

Pupils consolidate and extend on practical skills acquired in Year 7, as well as exploring food from a multicultural perspective to understand and appreciate cultural backgrounds. Pupils develop confidence in

more advanced food preparation and cooking techniques, with a particular emphasis on the Eatwell Guide, as well as analysing the nutritional content and costing of recipes. More advanced Food Science Investigations extend their Food Science knowledge in preparation for future success in GCSE Food, Preparation and Nutrition.

French and German

In French, pupils will cover the topics of hobbies, places in town, health, opinions, favourite TV programmes, and chores. In German, units include the house and its location, in the town, clothes and shopping, holidays, parts of the body, keeping fit, and a study of the film *Das Fliegende Klassenzimmer* (2002) Assessment will be in the form of listening, written and end of year tests.

Geography

Pupils will study plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, glaciers and natural landscapes; they will learn about the physical and human geography of Asia; consider the distribution and features of the world's biomes; learn about the characteristics of the Tropical rainforest, and the causes of deforestation. Pupils will be introduced to geographical information systems to consider how rates of deforestation can be monitored. Pupils will consider the effectiveness of recycling in school; and learn about our changing coastlines.

History

Pupils will study the following events: (1745-1901) Industrialisation/industrial city life – study of *Saltaire*; the slave trade; political study; a brief overview of the British Empire; causes of World War 1; western front and trenches; Treaty of Versailles; rise of Hitler; the holocaust; an overview of World War 2; the study of a significant society or issue such as the Russian revolution 1917, collapse of Soviet Union 1989-91 or Civil rights in the USA.

Latin

Pupils will study Roman education; Roman politics; the destruction of Pompeii and its rediscovery; farming in Roman Britain; Celtic culture; Roman invasion of Britain; consolidate key grammar; infinitive with *possum*, *volo* and *nolo*; adjectival agreement; *qui*, *quae*, *quod* and the relative clause; the dative case of the noun.

Mathematics

Pupils will study graphs and equation of straight lines, directed numbers and the order of operations, algebra (expanding and factorising expressions) and setting up and solving equations, circles and Pythagoras' Theorem, finding lowest common multiples and highest common factors, constructions, and transformations.

Music

During KS3, pupils will study notation; learn to use the keyboard, work on Computer software programmes (*Audacity* and *Sibelius*), learn to compose on keyboard and computer, study music of the Tudors and learn guitar chords. When social distancing permits, they will also return to Balinese Gamelan music; musical elements; rap (incorporating computer software); folk song; and other units which require group work.

Personal Development

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) is delivered by form tutors and in a discrete PSHCE lesson each fortnight. Topics encourage values, which will allow pupils to participate fully and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. They include anti-bullying, drugs awareness, pupil mental health, relationships and sex education, diversity and transition.

Physics

Pupils will be studying Forces and Motion, Waves, Electricity and qualitative DC circuits; Magnets and Electromagnets. We will be concentrating on the theoretical aspects of the course until pupils are able to work in laboratories. There may be opportunities to carry out some practical work in the teaching rooms.

Physical Education

Pupils will take part in a range of activities across the key stage, which will include: rugby union, basketball, badminton, table-tennis, volleyball, football, dance, health related exercise (components of fitness and principles of training), outdoor and adventurous activities, cricket, athletics, rounder/softball, and ultimate Frisbee.

Religious Studies

Pupils will study a range of topics including differences in belief between Christians and Muslims; Pupils will consider how religion is a power for peace or a cause of conflict in the world today. Topics encourage pupils to explore reasons behind suffering and solutions. Pupils learn about how people express the spiritual through music and arts. Pupils also explore the idea of how living biblically means obeying the Bible.

See the **Curriculum Policy** and the individual curriculum areas of the school website for more details.

What happens higher up the school?

During Year 8, pupils make their options choices in preparation for starting their GCSE courses at the start of Year 9. The Year 8 Options Evening is currently scheduled for Tuesday, 2nd February, when you and your child have the chance to speak to subject specialists about their courses. However, this event may have to run virtually if social distancing rules continue. During this time, pupils will also receive support and guidance in making these choices through their PSHCE lessons.

Key Stage 4

All pupils follow a compulsory programme of six GCSEs in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and select four optional subjects from a choice of twelve. This selection must include a language (French, German or Latin) and a humanity subject (Geography or History). Classes are set by ability in mathematics but are mixed ability everywhere else.

In addition, pupils will follow compulsory non-examined subjects such as Art, Careers, Classics, Computing, Drama Ecology, Economics, Italian, Law, , and Music via a carousel and receive regular lessons in Personal Development, Physical Education and Religious Education. All external examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

See the **GCSE Options Booklet** on the school website

Key Stage 5

Pupils wishing to remain at the School for Sixth Form make their A-Level options choices in the autumn term of Year 11. Typically, pupils choose three subjects to follow at A-Level but for pupils with sufficiently high prior attainment at GCSE, a fourth A-Level subject can be added. The range of A-level courses on offer varies each year, but typically includes: Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Engineering, Economics, English Language, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Politics, Product Design, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, and Philosophy & Ethics. All external examinations are taken at the end of Year 13.

A-level work is supplemented by a Lecture Programme that offers distinguished visiting speakers the opportunity to present significant issues for question and discussion. There are also compulsory non-examined courses in Personal Development and an enrichment programme that includes advice on careers and preparation for higher education. Physical Education is part of the compulsory curriculum in the Sixth Form.

See the **A-Level Options Booklet** on the school website.

How will I know how my child is getting on?

The first formal tracking information of Year 8 will be provided to parents at the end of the autumn term. This information coincides with an opportunity to make an appointment with your child's form tutor during

Consultation Day, currently scheduled for Wednesday, 2 December 2020, to discuss his progress. These appointments may be held virtually pending social distancing regulations.

Reports will include a target grade for each GCSE subject, which is generated from your child's prior attainment at Key Stage 2. You will also receive an Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade (E: Exceptional; G: Good; I: Inconsistent; U: Unsatisfactory) and a forecast grade, which is what the teacher thinks your child could achieve in Year 11 based on his current performance in the subject.

A full written report on your child will be provided in the summer term.

See the **Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy** on the school website.

Class Charts

This is an online system that allows you and your child to view what has been set for homework and the positive and negative comments that have been provided during the course of the day. It also displays reminder notes that may have been provided by teachers. You will need a password in order to log in. Class Charts does not provide the capacity to reply to the school. Should you wish to contact a member of staff, please email the School Office (admin@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk) and they will direct your enquiry.

Microsoft Teams

This is a secure school web-based platform from which pupils can access every class in which they are taught. It will continue to be the teaching platform for any subsequent school closures and pupils self-isolating. For remote learning, an invitation to attend the lesson will be created by the teacher on Teams. When the pupil clicks on the "join meeting" button on the calendar in Teams, they will be able to access the live lesson. For this to be successful, all pupils will need access to either a computer, laptop, tablet, smart or i-phone on which they have downloaded the Microsoft Teams app. Headphones will also be of use.

Marking, feedback and assessment

The School's marking, feedback and assessment system aims to make effective use of teacher time to maximise impact. The school's aim is to encourage pupils to use feedback to improve their work and to develop independent reflection and review strategies. All subjects will complete a test or assessment at the end of a unit or sequence of learning which is awarded a percentage, numerical mark or written statement. This will occur at least twice termly in subjects where pupils are taught 4 hours or more a fortnight. On substantial, identified pieces of work, your child will receive a teacher comment preceded by an R. This will direct him to make alterations to the aspects of the piece of work in green pen in order to improve it. All other work will be monitored but not marked in depth. Under the current hygiene restrictions, more work is likely to be requested to be provided electronically. This will be uploaded onto Teams as a photograph of hand-written work or as a typed word document, placed under the relevant assignment set by the teacher in the "Assignments" section for that class and subject.

What pastoral support is available to my child?

Mrs Diccox is Head of Lower School and oversees the pastoral care in Years 7-9. She is assisted by Miss Kirsten Waudby – Deputy Head of Lower School, and Mrs Pam Bradley – Assistant Head of Lower School. In Year 8, the main point of contact for any general pastoral concerns should be your child's form tutor. You can contact any of these staff directly by email. If you do email a member of staff please allow 24 hours for a reply. If your concern is urgent you may prefer to telephone the school office. You or your child can also report a concern to the school via the 'report a concern' button on the school website homepage. All messages are delivered directly to the School Safeguarding Lead. Pupils should include their name and contact details should they require a response.

We have a range of resources available to support pupils in school. Listed below are the main providers:

- School Counsellor

- Youth Worker
- Social prescription Service
- Outreach Worker
- School Nurse.

You or your child can request access to any of these services. Your request will be considered by the pastoral team and directed to the appropriate professional. We will always inform you if your child is working with one of these providers.

A text service in school is available for pupils to pass on concerns or ask advice from a member of staff. A member of the pastoral team will respond initially through text and then in person. The number for this is displayed around the school: **07544 239 770. This service is not available to parents.**

Email addresses for Pastoral leads are listed below:

- Mr A Jackson Assistant Headteacher ajackson@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk
- Mrs L Diccox Head of Lower School ldiccox@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk
- Mrs K Waudby Deputy Head of Lower School KWaudby@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk

See the **Anti-bullying, Attendance, Behaviour, Child Protection, SEND** and **Separated Parents Policies** on the school website.

If you have any questions about this document or any school related matter, please let us know by contacting the School Office.