



Belfast Model  
School for Girls  
ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

# NEW BEGINNINGS, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.



YEAR 8 PARENT INFORMATION  
2025-26

# WELCOME TO YEAR 8

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your daughter and I hope you will feel at home here in Belfast Model School for Girls. I appreciate that the move from Primary school to 'big school' can present unique challenges for both parents and students. Please be assured therefore, that much effort is made to ensure a smooth transition and that your daughter is happy from the outset.

For many of the students this will be the first opportunity to develop their independence; it could be the first time travelling on a bus on their own, organising their school bag and following a timetable. Please remember this is not the first time we have welcomed Year 8 students into our school. Our Year 8 team bring with them a wealth of experience and we specialise in putting the students at their ease and in helping them develop positive relationships with both students and staff. Throughout Year 8, students will meet regularly with their Form Tutor and will also have the support of myself and the Assistant Leader of Learning, as well as older students. We have encountered practically every problem or dilemma and will do our utmost to resolve any issues that may arise.

This is also a time of great excitement for our Year 8 students, in the months and years ahead your daughter will be able to enjoy new subject areas, pursue new activities, form new friendships as well as achieve great results.

Our school Mission statement is 'Achievement for All' and as a school we provide many opportunities for students to achieve in many ways. I hope that your daughter will avail of the wealth of opportunities on offer.

**"...AS A SCHOOL WE PROVIDE FOR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE IN MANY WAYS."**

As well as new opportunities and challenges, Year 8 is also a fresh start for everyone. George Eliot said, "It is never too late to be what you might have been." In Belfast Model School for Girls we believe that every student can be who or whatever they want to be. In an atmosphere of respect, care and love we encourage every student to believe in themselves, their talents and abilities and to believe and hold tight to their hopes and dreams for the future. Your daughter is a valued member of our school and her well-being is paramount.

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision Statement summarises our beliefs and commitments to you and your daughter.

Belfast Model School for Girls is a vibrant, inclusive learning community. We work in partnership with parents and the local and wider community. Wrapped within a culture of care, support and challenge, all are safe, happy, respected and valued. We are committed to delivering progressive, personalised, high quality education and opportunities to empower all to become the very best that they can be: Model citizens; Model learners; Model professionals.

We look forward to the year ahead and hope and pray that it will be a healthy, rewarding and enjoyable Year 8 for all of our students, parents and staff.

Let today be the start of something new!

**S. McKeown**

*Mrs S McKeown - Year 8 Leader of Learning*

# LEARNING JOURNEY

Our Year 8 Learning Journey gives you an idea of what to expect from a typical first year at the Belfast Model School for Girls.

*Highlights include:*

*Induction - September*

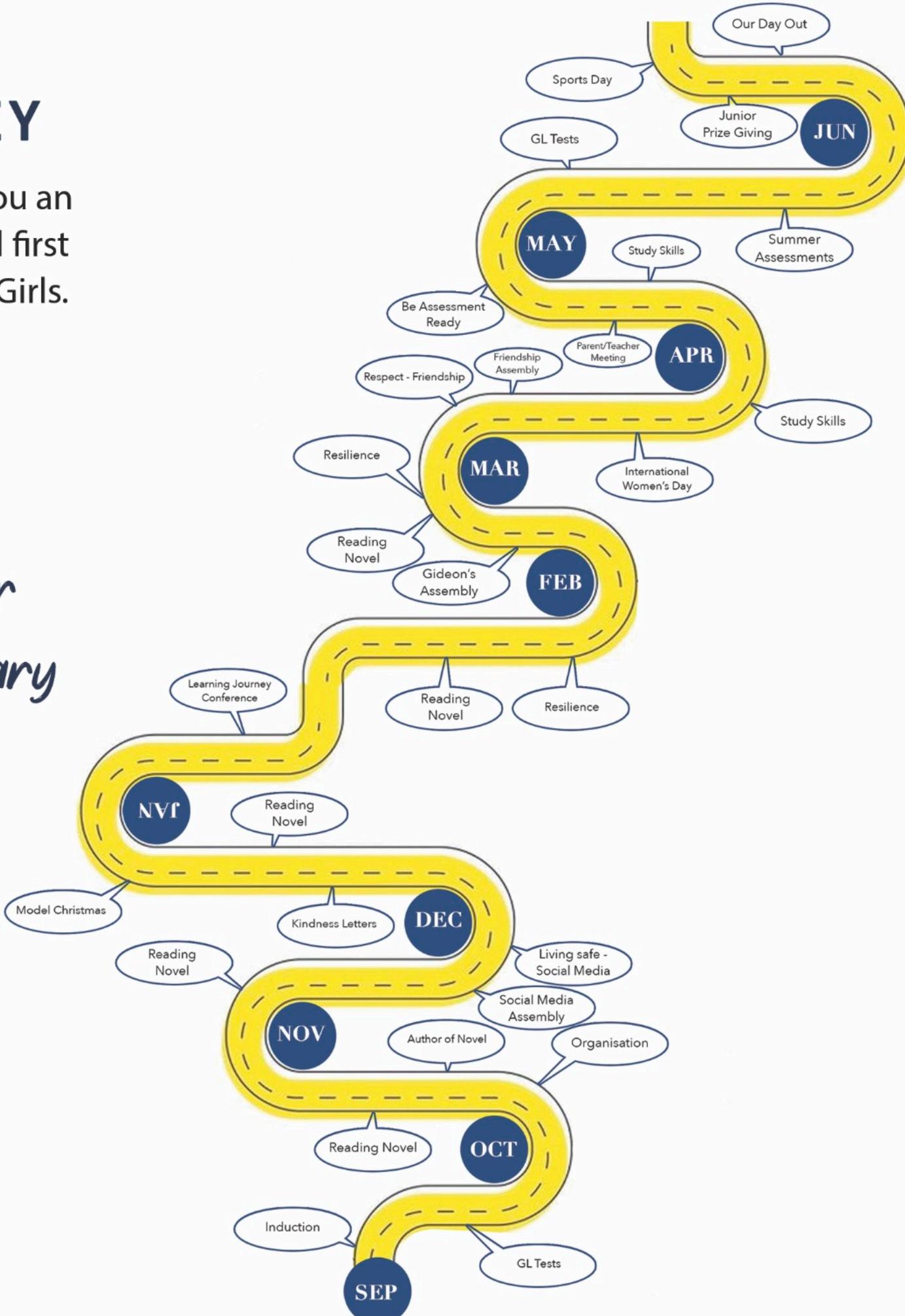
*Model Christmas - December*

*Learning Conference - January*

*Junior Prize Giving - June*

*Sports Day - June*

*Our Day Out - June*



## PEOPLE YOU WILL GET TO KNOW

Some faces you can expect to see more of in 2025/26:



**Mr P Perry**  
Principal

**Ms G Ferguson**  
Vice Principal

**Mrs A Graham**  
KS3 Leader  
of Learning

**Mrs S McKeown**  
Year 8 Leader  
of Learning

**Mrs P Goodfellow**  
Assistant Year 8  
Leader of Learning

# ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW.

A school year is very short. It has only 185 days for students. This leaves 180 days for holidays and activities at home. A school week is also very short. Most students spend 7 to 7½ hours at school on each of the five days they attend during term time. This means only approximately one third of a school day is spent in school. Most of the day and the week is spent at home. Time in school is precious. Absence from school and lateness to school can have a negative effect on a student's educational progress, achievement and employment prospects. Therefore, daily attendance and excellent punctuality is our goal for all students, in line with our mission statement 'Achievement for All'. Students must be in school when they are expected to be.

To ensure that absence is kept to a minimum and that all non-urgent appointments are made outside of school hours. It is appreciated that this can be difficult, however pupils finish at 2.25pm on Thursday and Friday which does allow most of Thursday and Friday afternoons for non-urgent appointments. **Students must be collected by a parent or guardian when leaving school before the end of the school day.**

## KEY REASONS TO ATTEND:



Although good attendance is expected, we do reward students for full and improved attendance. We have termly certificates and prize draws for students as well as class and year group incentives. We have an annual Attendance Award Ceremony where we celebrate excellent attendance in school. We hope you will be able to join with us next year because your daughter has attended school every day in Year 8!



Attendance Ambassadors 2024-25

# ATTENDANCE TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Every month the students are made aware of their attendance percentage and number of days missed. The students discuss this with their Form Tutor and decide whether it is on target or in need of improvement using the idea of traffic lights. They note their attendance information in their Student Planner. What surprises some students and also parents is that 90% attendance is not good; as it would be in a test or assessment!

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

THERE ARE *185* DAYS IN A SCHOOL YEAR



ATTEND TODAY,  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW.



ATTENDANCE  
matters

MISS SCHOOL  
MISS OUT



# The MODEL Way

## Ready

- Take pride in your uniform and be well equipped for school.
- Remain focused on learning in the classroom.

## Respectful

- Be polite and respectful to everyone.
- Take responsibility for your own actions.

## Safe

- Move around the school in a quiet, responsible way.
- Take pride in our school environment.

# KS3

# LEARNING AGREEMENT



1. I will wear full uniform/PE kit at all times as outlined in the school policy.
2. I will attend school every day and be punctual (8.50am - 3.35pm).
3. I will have a positive attitude to my work and always try my best.
4. I will focus in lessons, completing the work to the best of my ability.
5. I will behave in a positive manner when in school and on my way to and from school.
6. I will at all times show respect and good manners to all staff and students, using positive kind language to communicate to others. I will follow The Model Way.
7. I will complete all homework set to the best of my ability at all times.
8. I will not use a mobile phone in school at any time from 8.50am - 3.35pm.
9. I will use social media sites and ICT appropriately and in a positive manner to enhance the learning experience.
10. I will follow the school Healthy Eating Guidelines at break and lunchtime not consuming inappropriate fizzy drinks and unhealthy foods e.g. Boost/Lucozade/BPM/Coke etc.

Student's Signature:

September  
2025

As parents / guardians, I / we will encourage my / our daughter to do her best to comply with the above contract, I / we will support the school to support my / our child.

Parent/Guardian  
Signature:

September  
2025

As a school we will encourage and support each student to do her best to comply with the above contract.

Staff Signature:

September  
2025

# SCHOOL REWARDS

Excellent behaviour is expected here at the Girls' Model. We endeavour to recognise and reward good manners, politeness and kindness, as well as effort and commitment to all aspects of school life. We congratulate these efforts and achievements by way of Celebratory Assemblies, post cards to parents, certificates, prizes and organised reward events.

Every half term the students will have the opportunity to gain extra reward points for making a determined effort in certain areas as detailed below:

## REWARDS FOCUS

TERM 1	SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER	Kindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be polite</li><li>• Have good manners</li><li>• Be kind to others</li><li>• Invite someone to be your friend</li><li>• Think about your words and actions</li><li>• Participate in random acts of kindness</li></ul>
		School Routines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be punctual</li><li>• Have excellent attendance</li><li>• Wear full &amp; correct uniform</li><li>• Be organised–pack your bag the night before</li><li>• Use your Student Planner well</li></ul>
TERM 2	JANUARY – EASTER	Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Think about your words and actions</li><li>• Respect other people's views and opinions</li><li>• Accept we are not all the same</li><li>• Listen to others</li><li>• Take turns</li><li>• Think about your social media usage - should you change how you use it?</li></ul>
		Homework & equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Try your very best at all times</li><li>• Use your planner to record all homework</li><li>• Ensure you have the correct equipment</li><li>• Hand homework in on time</li><li>• Manage your time wisely</li><li>• Seek help when necessary</li></ul>
TERM 3	EASTER – JUNE	Examination Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make a revision timetable</li><li>• Manage your time wisely</li><li>• Ask your teachers for revision lists and techniques</li><li>• Set up a revision folder</li><li>• Make flashcards, mindmaps, etc.</li></ul>
		Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attend every day</li><li>• Avoid getting out for appointments</li><li>• Be punctual</li></ul>



# THE MOVE TO **BIG** SCHOOL

## How you can support your daughter:



Helping her to be organised for school each day  
(e.g. all necessary books, equipment, PE kit)



Ensuring she is wearing the correct uniform each day



Making sure she gets a good night's sleep



Ensuring she arrives punctually every day at 8.50am



Ensuring she is only absent from school if she is really unwell



Checking her Student Planner for homework and encourage it to be completed the day it is given



Taking an interest in what she is doing in school and encourage her to get involved in extra-curricular activities



Monitoring social media



Contact her Form Tutor if you have any concerns



# PASTORAL PROGRAMME

At Belfast Model School for Girls we believe in building character and instilling values which are important in shaping the girls as model citizens within the community.

Our Model Mind to be Kind programme is about helping young people understand the importance of demonstrating kindness, showing respect and living without harm not just to those people who are like them but to people who are not like them: How we relate to people who don't think the same way as us, or believe the same things, is a crucial skill that needs to be taught. These 3 principles will be addressed in assemblies and form period throughout the year.



**Alongside our Model Mind to be Kind programme we will also cover the following areas:**

Respect	<i>The Animal in Any</i>	Organisation	Study Skills
<i>Confidence &amp; Self Belief</i>	<i>Positive Relationships</i>	<i>Healthy Mind &amp; Body</i>	<i>Resilience</i>

## **Principle 1: Doing Acts of Kindness**

- Students are kind in what they think about themselves and others who are different to them
- Students can recognise acts of kindness in themselves and others who are not the same as them

## **TERM 1**

## **Principle 3: Living without harm**

- Students can recognise unkind actions in themselves and others

## **TERM 3**

## **Principle 2: Showing Respect**

- Students are able to accept other people have different views to them and that it is OK that they do
- Students are able to show people respect at all times even if they don't like them, what they say/do or what they believe

## **TERM 2**

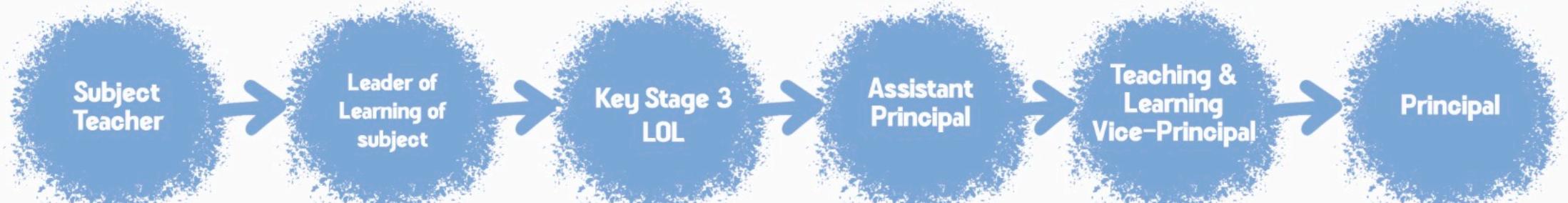
# SCHOOL TIMETABLE

PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	8.50 - 9.12	8.50 - 9.12	8.50 - 9.12	8.50 - 9.12	8.50 - 9.12
<b>1</b>	9.15 - 9.50	9.15 - 9.50	9.15 - 9.50	9.15 - 9.50	9.15 - 9.50
<b>2</b>	9.50 - 10.25	9.50 - 10.25	9.50 - 10.25	9.50 - 10.25	9.50 - 10.25
<b>BREAK</b>	10.25 - 10.50	10.25 - 10.50	10.25 - 10.50	10.25 - 10.50	10.25 - 10.50
<b>3</b>	10.50 - 11.25	10.50 - 11.25	10.50 - 11.25	10.50 - 11.25	10.50 - 11.25
<b>4</b>	11.25 - 12.00	11.25 - 12.00	11.25 - 12.00	11.25 - 12.00	11.25 - 12.00
<b>5 (Yr 8 lunch)</b>	12.00 - 12.35	12.00 - 12.35	12.00 - 12.35	12.00 - 12.35	12.00 - 12.35
<b>6A (Yr 10,12,13 lunch)</b>	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10	12.35 - 1.10
<b>6B (Yr 9,11,14 lunch)</b>	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45	1.10 - 1.45
<b>7</b>	1.45 - 2.20	1.45 - 2.20	1.45 - 2.20	1.45 - 2.20	1.45 - 2.20
<b>8</b>	2.20 - 2.55	2.20 - 2.55	2.20 - 2.55	BUSES COLLECT AT 2.25PM	
<b>9</b>	2.55 - 3.35	2.55 - 3.35	BUSES COLLECT AT 3.05PM		

## CONTACTING US

If you have a question, query or concern about any aspect of school life, please contact:

### A SUBJECT/CURRICULUM CONCERN



### A PASTORAL/ SAFEGUARDING CONCERN



Where at all possible, parents should avoid coming to the school without an appointment. Instead we ask that you ring ahead to seek an appointment at a time when the member of staff who you need to speak to is free. This avoids any interruptions to teaching and learning, as we do not allow teachers to leave classes for meetings.

Please ring the school, leave a message with our reception team with a brief outline of the issue and the member of staff will call you back as soon as they can. It is reasonable that this call may come the next day (for example, some staff teach all day without a break and then may have a personal appointment/child-care arrangement after school). Alternatively, you can leave a note in your daughter's planner requesting a call back.





# HELP IN SCHOOL

If you have a concern about your own safety or the safety of another student the people to speak to in school are:



**Mrs J Clarke**



**Ms G Ferguson**

**Designated Teachers  
for Child Protection**



**Ms L Campbell**

**Mrs A Graham**



**Deputy Designated Teachers  
for Child Protection**

**Leader  
of Learning**

**Canteen  
Supervisors**

**Peer  
Mentors**

**Classroom  
Assistants**

**Vice-  
Principals**

**Form  
Tutor**

**Anti-Bullying  
Ambassadors**

**Assistant  
Principals**

**Assistant  
Leader of  
Learning**

**Principal**

**Teachers**

**Prefects**

**School  
Counsellors**

**WHERE ELSE  
CAN I GET HELP?**



[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**Our full Safeguarding Policy is available on our website at:**

[www.belfastgms.org/site/parents/school-policies/](http://www.belfastgms.org/site/parents/school-policies/)

# WELLBEING HUB

Students can use the Wellbeing Hub to get help and support in relation to health and emotional needs, for example, paracetamol, plasters, hygiene items, uniform, access to counselling services and supports.

## Medical Protocol

***If a student needs to take medication in school:***



Parent to bring  
medication into  
the school office

Parent to complete form  
AN8 (copies in office)

Student medication will be kept  
in The Wellbeing Hub.

***It is essential data capture forms are  
returned to let staff know if there is a  
short or long term medical issue.***

Student will be issued with a  
'Wellbeing Hub card' giving  
permission to leave class to go  
and take their medication when  
required.

Louise Finlay will be based in the  
Wellbeing Hub at these times to  
administer medication.

To access The Wellbeing Hub students should:



Speak to their class teacher



Class teacher to email Louise Finlay who will go to the student.  
Student must **NOT** be allowed to go to the office

**In an emergency contact the on call first aider for your zone**

*\*Please note for the administering of buccal midzolam*

Louise Finlay and Janice Clarke **MUST** be contacted immediately

# TERM DATES & HOLIDAYS



## 2025/26

ALL DATES ARE INCLUSIVE

 <b>AUTUMN TERM</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025</b>	
	<b>Mid Term Break</b> <small>(Halloween)</small>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
	<b>INSET</b> - Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 <b>P7 Taster Day</b> - Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025 <b>SDD</b> - Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	
	<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025 - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026
 <b>SPRING TERM</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b>	
	<b>Mid Term Break</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>PTC</b> - Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 (Year 11 & 12) <b>PTC</b> - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025 (Year 10) <b>PTC</b> - Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 (Post 16) <b>St Patrick's Day</b> - Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2026		<b>PTC</b> - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 (Year 8 & 9) <b>SDD</b> - Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 <b>INSET</b> - Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
 <b>SUMMER TERM</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>	<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
	<b>SDD</b> - Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	
	<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	
<b>BH</b> - Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 <b>SDD</b> - Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 <b>BH</b> - Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026		

### PLEASE NOTE:

School inductions take place from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Year 8 commences Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

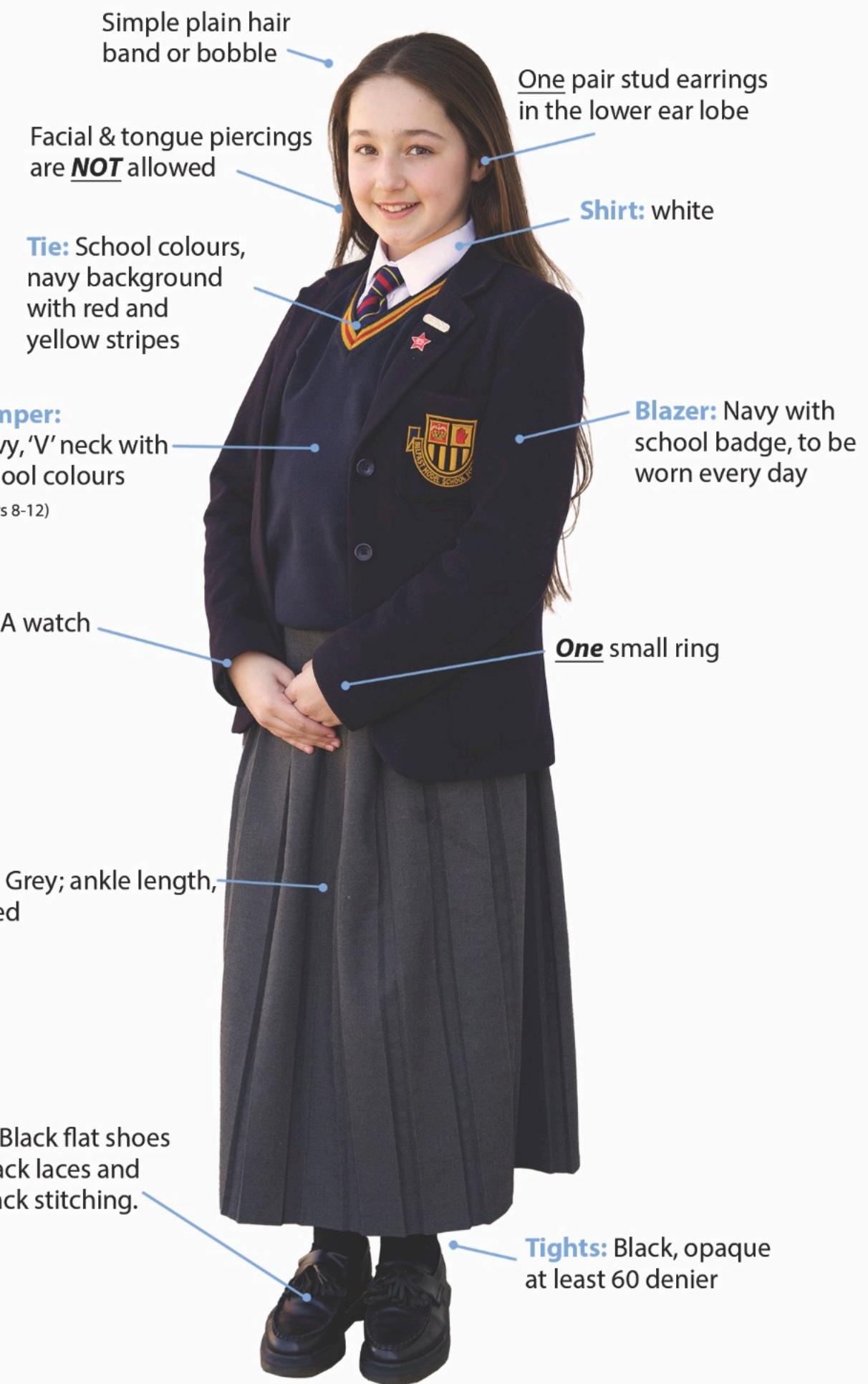
### KEY:

**PTC** - Parent Teacher Consultation (students in (brackets) only expected to attend)

**\*SDD** - School Development Day    **\*BH** - Bank Holiday    **\*INSET** - In-service Training    **\*P7 TASTER**

\* = students not required to attend

# SCHOOL UNIFORM



You can purchase tracksuit bottoms OR leggings\*.

You can purchase hoodie OR 1/2 zip\*.

\*Purchasing both is optional but not required.

**Trainers:** Vans/Converse etc are **NOT** permitted

# CURRICULUM MODEL

In Belfast Model School for Girls we understand that talent and capability are only the starting point. We believe that effort and determination are key to success.

We encourage our students to embrace a growth mindset. We know that intelligence can be developed. We help our students to become resilient and persistent learners who embrace challenges and who see failure as an opportunity to learn. We strive and work hard together to ensure 'Achievement for All'.

In Year 8, classes are all-ability across the year group.

Year 8 - Year 10	Teaching Groups
<b>All classes all-ability across the year group</b>	<i>Subjects are taught in Form Class Groupings, with some subjects taught in different teaching groups for practical subjects</i>
<b>Access Group</b>	<i>Students are taught within the Access Group across the curriculum</i>

## YEAR 8 ACCESS GROUP

### THE 'ACCESS' GROUP WILL BE A FORM GROUP

The Access Group is made up of those students who we know, for a wide variety of reasons, will need most support with their transfer to post-primary school to secure the knowledge, skills, competencies and wellbeing needs required to be successful. This group will have the same specialist teacher for English and Maths.

# YEAR 8 WILL STUDY:

Art	Digital Technology	Drama	English
French	Geography	History	Home Economics
Learning for Life & Work	Mathematics	Music	Physical Education
Religious Education	Science	Technology	

## PLEASE NOTE:

- Students in the Access Group will have additional English literacy time in place of French.

## FORM GROUPS:

- Your daughter's Form Tutor is a parent's first point of contact.
- Form Groups and Teaching Groups are the same for most subjects.
- Form Groups and Teaching Groups are all-ability and follow the same learning programme.



# ADDITIONAL EDUCATION NEEDS (AEN)



## What is an additional education need?

It is where learning has been impacted due to one or more of the categories below:

### **Learning**

including:

- SPLP
- MLD
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Discalcula

### **Social, Emotional Wellbeing**

- Communication
- Mental Wellbeing

### **Behaviour**

School based and multi-disciplinary supports

### **Medical**

- ASD
- ADHD
- ADD
- other medical issues

## If the student has a AEN - what do I do?

1

Put all information onto the data capture form.

2

Bring all information (diagnosis/statementsmedical reports) to school for the LSCO & ALSCO

3

Make an appointment to speak to the LSCO/ALSCO



**Mrs J Clarke**

Assistant Principal - Learning Support Co-ordinator (LSCO)

**Dr P Scott**

Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator (ALSCO)



# SUBJECT INFORMATION

## A-Z

SUBJECTS YOUR DAUGHTER WILL BE LEARNING THIS YEAR

PAGE	SUBJECT
19	Art & Design
20	Digital Technology
21	Drama
22	English
23	French
24	Geography
25	History
26	Home Economics
27	Learning for Life & Work
28	Mathematics
29	Music
30	Physical Education (PE)
31	Religious Education (RE)
32	Science
33	Technology & Design



# ART & DESIGN

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS F WARD

## CONTENT

- Lettering/Graphic Design
- Colour Theory
- History of Art – Pop Art
- Use of paint
- Using Line and Tone for drawing
- Monoprint

## SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Drawing
- Painting
- How to analyse Art
- Printmaking



## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED

Continual assessment based on work carried out throughout the year including key homework.

## HOMEWORK

- Drawing
- Researching
- Collecting
- Learning
- Writing about Art

## HOW CAN YOU HELP

- Provide basic materials for Art. e.g. 2B drawing pencil, rubber, sharpener, felt tipped pens, glue stick
- Discuss her sketchbook with her



# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

LEADER OF LEARNING: MS T MCCRACKEN

## CONTENT:

### 1. ***File Management***

- Learning how to log in and save work to the network.
- Understanding the protocols of appropriate file naming and folder management

### 2. ***eSafety***

- Safety using digital devices
- Responsible and respectful use of online communications
- Empower young people to make positive choices online

### 3. ***eMail***

- Sending and receiving emails
- Using advanced features of email
- Setting up contacts and distribution
- Recognising the dangers of email
- Virus protection

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Managing Information
- Self-management
- Literacy and numeracy skills
- Research skills
- Creativity
- Working together
- Logical thinking

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- End of topic tests
- Task feedback
- End of year examination

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Homework sheets available from Google Classroom

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Check that homework has been completed to a high standard and that deadlines are met
- Help with revision for tests and the examination
- Encourage positive use of online platforms to develop responsible, respectful digital citizens of the future

### 4. ***Parts of a computer***

- Learning about the hardware used in a computer system
- Identifying input, output and storage devices
- Understanding how a computer works

### 5. ***"Hour of Code"***

- A worldwide initiative to encourage coding.
- Your daughter will be part of a week-long festival in school with various games and activities

### 6. ***Microbit Programming***

- Understanding the fundamentals of coding
- Programming a pocket-sized computer
- Problem solving activities
- Creating emojis and games

### 7. ***Careers in Computing***

- Researching and investigating job opportunities in the Computing/ICT Sector
- Developing skills in video creation
- Creating a video on chosen career



# DRAMA

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS N SPEIRS

## CONTENT:

- Baseline Assessment Task
- What is a Still Image and how can it be used in Drama?
- How to create a Dramatic Improvisation using Stimulus Materials
- Seven Deadly Sins
- Soap Opera
- Devised Drama

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Working with others
- Use of Imagination
- Confidence
- Empathy
- Self-Awareness
- Evaluation of her own and others work
- Performance Skills

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- Baseline Assessment Task - in the first few weeks of Year 8
- Creating
- Performing
- Responding
- Continual Practical Assessment throughout the year
- Report issued in June based on attainment and progress made throughout the year

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

There is no formal set homework for Drama in Year 8.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Encourage your daughter to get involved in all Drama activities including performing and to contribute to whole class discussions.



# ENGLISH

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS C GREEN - KS3 LEADER OF LEARNING: MR N MCILHATTON

## CONTENT:

### **Term 1**

- Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone/The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- Exploring fiction
- Focus on reading (Accelerated Reader)

### **Term 2**

- An induction to Shakespeare/A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Focus on reading (Accelerated Reader)

### **Term 3**

- An introduction to Poetry
- Focus on reading (Accelerated Reader)

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

### **Communication Skills:**

- Talking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

### **Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:**

- Managing Information;
- Thinking, problem solving,
- Decision making;
- Being creative;
- Working with others;
- Self-Management

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

PTE Online Tests

Formal Controlled Assessment tasks in each of the three skill areas:

Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

Informal continuous assessment across each of the three skill areas:

Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

 Your daughter will also use critical self-evaluation to assess her own work before submission for marking.

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Reading every evening as part of the Accelerated Reader Programme
- 1 x Written homework (30 mins) per week
- A learning homework may be set in addition to written and reading homework.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Encourage your daughter to read and make sure she always has reading material in her bag
- Encourage your daughter to take Accelerated Reader quizzes
- Encourage your daughter to practise her English skills by logging onto revision websites at home
- Check homework tasks and deadlines in her Pupil Planner
- Sign your daughter's homework to show you have checked it
- Encourage your daughter to try her best

# FRENCH

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS L HUGHES

## CONTENT:

- Greetings
- Schoolbag items
- Age
- Birthday
- Classroom furniture
- Alphabet
- Countries
- Nationalities
- Family
- Pets
- Colours



## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

Listening for key words and phrases and understanding the meaning of these in English, spelling key items of vocabulary, writing single words and short phrases, translating phrases, reading short texts for meaning and giving personal details in Spanish.

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

Homework booklet, class tests, vocabulary and end-of-unit tests, peer/self assessment.

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

Vocabulary learning for meaning and spelling, grammar rules and corresponding exercises, topic-based tasks incorporating reading and writing activities, learning to say the key words and phrases in Spanish.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Ask vocabulary from English to Spanish, checking for spellings, use flashcards to consolidate meaning of vocabulary in English, check all homework for presentation and content. Ensure that the homework is completed by checking planner.

# GEOGRAPHY

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS S WOODS-MCADAM

## CONTENT:

### Term 1

- What is Geography and what has it got to do with me?
- The UK Region - Where do I live?
- Settlement - Why do I live where I do?
- What a Wonderful World - How can we protect our Home?

### Term 2

- The Living World - Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforests

### Term 3

- Rivers and Landscape Processes

## Practical Geography:

There may be opportunities to:

- Take a field trip to the River Colin to investigate river processes and landforms
- To consider our world by making something new from waste.
- To model a settlement or street where you live.



## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Geographical Thought
- Spatial awareness
- Map Skills
- Thinking Skills
- Independent Study Skills
- ICT skills - use of Google Classroom, Teacher Made and Seneca Learning Apps
- Literacy

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- Summative assessments are completed as a class before learning and completing under controlled conditions.
- Quizlet may be used to assess understanding and enhance learning.
- Quizzes may be used in class to check understanding.
- Extended writing will be introduced as structured paragraph writing.
- Project work.

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Homework will be set weekly but will not always be written work.
- Homework may be spellings or definitions of key terms, research online, preparation for a class presentation, making a model etc.
- Homework may be set on Google Classroom for completion online.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Ensure that your daughter comes to class prepared for learning both in terms of equipment but also with a positive mindset.
- Check via Google Classroom if assignments have been set or alternatively her homework diary. Encourage homework to be completed the day it is set, not the day before it is due. Homework will rarely be for the next day.
- If your daughter is absent, make sure she contacts her classmates to copy up on any work she has missed, to prevent her falling behind and becoming anxious.
- Revise topic tests - your daughter will have a model answer to learn from in preparation for class tests. Test her on the facts at home before she completes the test to ensure that learning becomes a positive activity.
- Develop an awareness of the environment and our planet. Encourage discussions about issues happening in the news, perhaps a volcanic eruption, a flood, heavy snowfalls etc.
- Develop an understanding of space when out and about within Belfast, Northern Ireland or the wider world.

# HISTORY

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS N KELLY

## CONTENT:

### ***What is History?***

- Measuring Time
- Chronology
- Examining Evidence
- Reliability
- Interpretations

### ***Who were the Normans?***

- Background information
- Jobs/beliefs/types of soldiers etc

### ***The Norman Conquest***

- England before the Normans
- Rivals to the Throne
- The Battle of Stamford Bridge
- Types of Soldiers
- The Battle of Hastings
- Reasons for Norman Victory

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Knowledge and understanding of various topics in KS3 History
- To use evidence to produce an argument
- How to analyse sources to test their usefulness and reliability
- How to present their findings in a structured and explained manner
- How to place events in chronological order

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- End of topic tests
- Structured Homework
- Ongoing feedback in classwork books
- Research projects
- End of year examination

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Regular topic research
- Report based tasks throughout the year to prepare for and extend learning in lessons
- Creative writing and model-making tasks (e.g. castles)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Check homework tasks and deadlines in homework planner
- Discuss your daughter's learning with her regularly e.g. encourage her to share what she has learned with you
- Encourage your daughter to try her best



# HOME ECONOMICS

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS C FARRINGTON

## CONTENT:

### ***Theory lessons***

- Introduction to Home Economics
- Health & Safety
- Equipment and cooker licence
- Weighing and measuring
- Healthy eating & the nutrients
- Home & Family Life
- Project – Farm to Fork



### ***Practical lessons:***

- Confident & Safe cooking - Cheese Toastie, Scrambled Egg, Apple Crumble
- Knife skills – Lentil Soup, Easy Pizza, Christmas Cooking
- Weighing & Measuring – Fairy Buns, Bread & Butter Pudding
- Healthy Snacks – Couscous Salad, Fruity Muffins
- Cooking for my Family – Fruit Salad, Easy Spaghetti Bolognaise
- Farm to Fork – Potato Salad

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Knowledge and understanding of Home Economics.
- How to work safely, independently and confidently in the kitchen.
- A range of food preparation and cooking skills e.g. knife skills, baking skills and how to use the cooker.
- How to apply healthy eating messages to their daily lives.

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

A range of fortnightly formative and summative assessments throughout the year as well as an end of year exam.



## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

Regular topic research and report based tasks throughout the year to prepare for and extend learning in lessons e.g. produce a time plan for making Fruity Muffins, record and analyse your daily diet.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Check homework tasks and deadlines.
- Discuss issues surrounding Home Economics as a family e.g. Where does food come from? As a family, how can we be healthier?
- Encourage your daughter to help to cook family meals at home and support her in trying new recipes.

# LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK

LEADER OF LEARNING: MISS L LAVERY

## CONTENT:

- Personal Development
- Citizenship – Diversity and Inclusion
- Employability

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Self-management
- Managing information
- Working with others
- Research skills
- Creativity
- Literacy

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- Continual assessment of classwork throughout the year

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Completing classwork activities
- Research tasks

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Discuss your daughter's learning with her regularly
- Encourage your daughter to be aware of world news and events and discuss current affairs issues



# MATHEMATICS

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS L WATSON – KS3 LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS E RODGERS

## CONTENT:

- Number - Types of Numbers, 4 Operations, Place Value, Negative Numbers, BIDMAS, Decimals, Rounding, Estimation
- Shape - 2D and 3D Shapes (Properties, Nets, Area, Perimeter and Volume)
- Data Handling - Tally Charts, Bar Charts, Pictograms and Frequency Tables
- Measures - Metric Units, Time and Timetables
- Algebra - Algebra Notation and Write Simple Expressions

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Basic manipulation of numbers
- Problem Solving
- Managing Information
- Working with others
- ICT skills



## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- End of topic written assessments
- Homework tasks
- Times table Rock Star
- Teacher observations
- PTM computer assessments at the beginning and end of Year 8

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

One written homework each week in homework book

### ***Other homework could include:***

- Learning times tables
- Key vocabulary
- Research
- Finishing classwork or revising for end of topic assessments

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Looking at classwork book together and asking questions about the work
- Helping to learn times tables
- Signing homework
- Visiting websites such as [www.corbettmaths.com](http://www.corbettmaths.com), [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search for specific topics) to revise
- Encouragement to create revision notes or spider diagrams to help prepare for end of topic tests and end of year exams.

# MUSIC

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS R ASHE

## CONTENT:

- Music notation
- The elements of music
- Metre
- Piano
- Classroom singing

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- How to rap to a steady pulse
- How to read music notation
- How to write music notation
- How to work out the metre of a piece of music
- How to perform on an instrument/as a singer

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- Performing – practical assessment each week
- Composing – practical
- Written test at the end of each unit

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Practising performance work on piano
- Writing up rap
- Spellings
- Practise of writing music notation
- Revising for end of unit tests

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Check homework planner for homework
- Encourage the making of condensed revision notes at the end of each unit
- Listen to them practise their performance pieces



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS J DOHERTY-CLARKE

## CONTENT:

A broad range of sporting activities including:

- Hockey
- Netball
- Gymnastics
- Athletics
- Dance

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

Practical skills for each of the activities and applying those skills to the game situation or performance scenario.

Alongside this, each student will develop:

- Team working skills
- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Evaluating skills

Each student will be challenged to identify areas of strength and develop weaknesses within each activity area.

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

***Each activity will be marked out of 20:***

10 marks: Skills in isolation

6 marks: Application of skills in the game/performance

2 marks: Knowledge of the component of fitness required for each activity

2 marks: Attitude to Learning

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

It is encouraged that each student participates in at least one extra-curricular PE club every week.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

You can support your child by ensuring she is prepared with PE kit for every lesson.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS L DALZELL

## CONTENT:

### 1. *God and the Bible*

- The Bible as a special book
- The structure of the Bible
- Locating Bible references

### 2. *Christmas Story*

- The season of Advent
- The Christmas story
- Significance of Christmas for Christians

### 3. *Jesus' World*

- Geography of Palestine
- Roman Occupation
- Homes in Jesus' time/Daily Life
- Places of worship/Religious leaders

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Managing Information
- Self-management
- Literacy skills
- Creativity
- Working together
- Locating Biblical References

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- End of topic tests
- Task feedback
- End of year examination

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Homework Booklet
- Learning Homework

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Check that homework has been completed to a high standard and that deadlines are met
- Help with revision for tests and the examination

### 4. *Followers of Jesus*

- The 12 disciples
- Women who followed Jesus
- Outcasts
- Zacchaeus
- Religious Authorities

### 5. *The Easter Story*

- The events of Holy Week
- Why Easter is important for Christians

### 6. *Christians Through the Ages*

- Saint Patrick
- William Wilberforce
- Martin Luther



# SCIENCE

LEADER OF LEARNING: MRS L MURPHY – KS3 LEADER OF LEARNING: MR P MERCER

## CONTENT:

A broad range of Science topics to include:

- Safety and Solutions
- Cells
- Particles and Heat
- Sound
- Human Reproduction
- Elements, Compounds and Mixtures
- Variation in Living Things

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Practical skills
- Communication skills
- Literacy Skills
- Numeracy skills
- Working with others
- Following instructions

## HOW SHE WILL BE ASSESSED:

- Homework
- Teacher feedback
- Six end of topic tests
- End of year examination

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

*Homework to include a combination of:*

- Written
- Learning
  - Spelling and meaning of key words
  - Definitions
  - Revision for tests
- Research

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Check homework tasks and deadlines in homework planner
- Discuss your daughter's learning with her regularly
- Help your daughter to revise the learning intentions at the front of each Science booklet before she completes her end of topic tests
- Encourage your daughter to try her best



# TECHNOLOGY

LEADER OF LEARNING: MR N ADAMS

## CONTENT:

- What is Technology?
- Safety in Technology
- Introduction to the Design Process
- Learning to Design
- Introduction to Materials Technology – Wood
- Manufacturing a Christmas Project
- Mechanisms – Cams
- Toy project

## SKILLS SHE WILL BE DEVELOPING:

- Communication skills
- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Analytical
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Working with others

## HOW WILL SHE BE ASSESSED:

- Class tests at set points throughout the year
- Assessment of practical skills – design and manufacture
- Quality of written work in both class and homework
- Summer examination

## WHAT HOMEWORK WILL SHE BE DOING?

- Homework will be either research based or the competition of a Learning Diary.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP:

- Ensure that all homework is completed on time and is well presented
- Help with the revision of topics before tests and assessments





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