



6th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 Curriculum Information – Spring 1

In Year 8, students continue to build on the strong foundation laid in Year 7. To keep you informed and involved in their learning, we are pleased to share an overview of what your child will be studying this half-term across all subjects. This overview is designed to support productive conversations at home and help you feel connected to the learning taking place in school.

What will my Year 8 child be learning during Spring 1?

Subject	Key Topics/Focus Areas
English	Year 8 scholars will study Shakespeare's Richard III, with an academic focus on historical context, the concept of kingship, and Machiavellian villainy. Students will analyse and apply Shakespearean methods to enhance their own analytical writing.
Maths	Year 8 mathematicians will develop and solve problems skills involving direct proportion, developing an understanding that a multiplicative relationship between two quantities can be expressed as a ratio or a fraction. As well as working between decimals, fractions & percentages.
Science	Year 8 scientists will be learning about electricity. They will learn about the four foundational concepts of electricity: current, charge, potential difference and resistance and will have a chance to build their own circuits.
MFL	Year 8 French and Spanish students will learn how to have transactional conversations about daily routine and invitations to further develop their confidence in speaking.
History	Year 8 historians will be exploring how the 'world turned upside down' in the 17 th century by investigating the English civil war as well as the impact of witchcraft on English society.
Geography	Year 8 students will be introduced to the topic of 'ecosystems' During this unit of work, students will develop their understanding of the features of different ecosystems such as the taiga and coral reefs.
Art	Year 8 artists will be introduced to key artists that feature on their 'Art Timeline'. Practical responses will include Da Vinci style anatomical drawings using measuring to recreate figures and portraits in a renaissance style.
Music	Students are guided to understand how to compose music from a pop genre. They create two chord progressions in different keys with an effective melody.
Religious Studies	Having studied the Abrahamic Faiths, Year 8 students will begin to learn the main similarities and differences between the dharmic faiths of Hinduism and Buddhism.
PE	Students will perform complex tactics and creative processes (Fit to Perform), demonstrate good knowledge of anatomical structures (Fit for Life), develop their knowledge of complex tactics and creative processes and will communicate these ideas with good verbal and non-verbal skills (Fit to Lead) through Rugby, Volleyball, Football, Gymnastics and Table Tennis.

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Dance	Students will explore dance styles through the decades. Starting with the Charleston from the 1920's right through to present day. This exploration enables students to appreciate how dance has developed and changed over time.
Drama	Students will begin looking at how Drama can be used to teach their audience messages and confront negative issues happening in the world. They will be exploring a play called DNA that focuses on the key themes of peer pressure and bullying.
D&T	Students will study graphics, textiles, and food. They will experience the workshops for the first time and make a mood light involving woodwork and CAD/CAM skills, explore weaving inspired by Tammy Kanat and macrame skills, and cook dishes such as bread rolls, lemon flan and stir fry.
PSHE	Students will be learning about puberty and its changes, including body image and the science behind physical and emotional development.
Computer Science	Students will begin learning Python by using sequence, selection, and iteration to build the structure of a story-based program. They will develop their understanding of these core programming constructs by creating ordered instructions, adding conditional choices, and incorporating repeating sections to control the flow of their narrative.

You can find more about our curriculum approach and how we support all learners by visiting the link below:

[Curriculum Overview | Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies](#)

If you have any questions about the Year 8 curriculum or how to support your child's progress at home, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

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