



## Year 8 Subject Leader Comments – Term 2

Subject	Subject Leader Comment
Art	In Term 2, students have been developing their use of accurate line and tone through the study of Portraiture. Measuring the face and progressing to working from life has enabled students to obtain a likeness in their drawings. Students have been working from primary and secondary sources to capture character whilst building on pencil and charcoal techniques.
Computer Science	So far this year in Computer Science, students have been learning how to solve problems computationally & exploring the problem-solving process. Learning about defining the problem before tackling it, then preparing, trying and reflecting on their attempts. They have been introduced to the concepts of abstraction & decomposition, using flowcharts and creating solutions for mimics in Flowol. They have also taken part in the UK Bebras Challenge, a global computational thinking competition, and will have most recently been introduced to the Python programming language, learning how to use this text-based programming language to build on the fundamental programming concepts learnt previously, including using arithmetic expressions, use of variables, using selection to control program flow, iteration to repeat sections of programs as well as using Boolean variables, operators, and expressions within their code.
Design Engineering	Over the course of this term, students have been producing a 'PIC licence' circuit board. This project re-introduced students to soldering, component identification and component placement. The board was then used to complete a variety of microcontroller flowchart programming challenges, having to test and download each of the challenge flowchart programs and then downloading their own bespoke final program for the project board. This requires students to program the monitoring of both analogue and digital inputs to control multiple digital outputs. All the tasks are being assessed in line with the Design Engineering department's marking policy.
Drama	This term, Year 8 students have explored drama scripts and wider contextual information based on the diary of Anne Frank. This work has demanded maturity and empathy and has required them to explore the three areas of Drama; acting, scriptwriting and design.
English	Over the academic year thus far, students in Year 8 have been studying 'The Bone Sparrow', an emotive and thought-provoking novel about refugees and their experiences in immigration detention centres. During lessons, students have explored key characters, themes and contextual factors to build their textual understanding of the



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	novel. Students have also furthered their learning on how to analyse the effects of key language and structural features within key passages from the novel; this is a skill which students have been formally assessed upon.
EPR	EPR stands for: 'Ethics, Philosophy, and Religion.' It is via EPR that Religious Education is delivered. In the Ethics topics students examine key issues and ideas that relate to how we ought to behave. In the Philosophy topics students evaluate different people's responses to life's ultimate questions. In the Religion topics students learn about the religious traditions of the world. Year 8 students are presently concluding their study of how particular religious worldviews began and how they have developed over time.
Geography	Year 8 Geography focuses on global issues and sustainability. In the first term, Year 8 geographers completed a unit on 'why might some countries remain poor?' This unit explores what development is, the measures of development and it also examines what restricts countries from progressing. This grade is based on the end of unit assessment that they completed. Students are continuing to use their progression frameworks (ladders) to assess their own learning, building on their progress in year 7.
History	Since the start of the academic year, Year 8 students have completed a study of the English Civil War. This study included its causes, key events, and consequences. Students have more recently begun to explore the British Empire and have been learning about its first phase, the discovery of the Americas and the establishment of the thirteen colonies in North America. Students have developed their ability to analyse sources and have been introduced to the technique required to answer source questions. Students have been assessed by extended writing and regular knowledge tests.
Maths	In Term 2 topics that have been covered are decimals, area & perimeter, angles, bearings and constructions. Details of the Year 8 curriculum and can be found on the department website < <a href="https://mathematics.bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk/">https://mathematics.bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk/</a> >. Students are expected to spend time at home ensuring they have learned the material covered in the lessons prior to an assessment and indeed the Dr Frost website is set up to allow them to generate questions from the various topics we study. After every two topics there is an assessment which covers both topics and includes problem solving questions.
Music	Year 8 have been working on their knowledge of the musical elements during terms 1 & 2, through the topics of Indian Classical Music and Blues Music. The students have learned about the key features of Indian Classical Music and have composed their own rhythmic Tala cycles. They have recorded these on Garageband and then explored improvising using the notes of a Raga (scale). With Blues music, the students have learned about the 12-



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	bar blues and learned to play the chord sequence and a walking bass line on the keyboards. Finally, they have used these to put together a performance of the song In The Mood.
Physical Education	During this year students have been following a programme of activities which are undertaken in a series of 7 lessons per activity. The focus in Year 8 is for students to build on the skills and techniques developed in Year 7, and for the more able to start to apply tactics to outwit opponents. All students will have led their peers in a warm-up, and most will have been given the opportunity to officiate or umpire in small game settings. By Easter, all boys will have followed the activities of rugby, football and basketball, whilst the girls will have undertaken hockey, netball and football. Other activities completed by both girls and boys will be dance, fitness and orienteering.
Science	Year 8 students are taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics by a Science teacher this year. Each subject is divided into three or four separate topics. In Terms 1/2 students have been covering the following topics in their Science lessons: 'Further Forces', 'Solutions', 'Photosynthesis', 'Light and Sound' and 'Elements, Compounds and Mixtures'. Each topic contains a summative test, and some contain Investigative Skills Assessments (ISA); students' performance in all tests and assessments is used to measure their progress in Science.
Spanish	This term, Year 8 students have enjoyed talking about how they use their mobiles, their favourite types of music, and the TV programmes they like best. They have also learned to describe what they did yesterday. Grammar work has focused on consolidating the present tense, using opinions and comparisons, and learning how to form the preterite tense with regular and irregular verbs like hacer, ver, and ir.