

CURRICULUM BOOKLET 2026-27



**WORK
HARD
BE KIND**

YEAR 8 THE TERM AHEAD
for students, parents and carers


Be**World**Class

THE TERM AHEAD



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest Curriculum Newsletter.

At the heart of our school community is a shared drive to Be World Class, rooted every day in our core ethos: Work Hard: Be Kind. We firmly believe that when pupils challenge themselves academically, demonstrate resilience, and treat those around them with kindness and respect, they lay the strongest possible foundation for both personal growth and future success.

Achieving these high standards is a joint effort. A strong, collaborative partnership between home and school is essential to ensuring every child reaches their full potential. Learning naturally extends beyond the classroom door, and by working closely together, we can provide the consistent support, encouragement, and structure our students need to flourish.

Inside this newsletter, you will find vital information to keep you informed and involved in your child's educational journey throughout the Autumn Term:

What Your Child Is Learning: *A breakdown of the key topics, concepts, and skills your child will be exploring this term across the curriculum. We strongly encourage you to discuss these themes at home, as asking your child about their learning helps deepen their understanding and enthusiasm.*

Homework Expectations: *Clear guidance on weekly routines and tasks designed to consolidate classroom learning, build confidence, and develop crucial independent study habits.*

Key Dates for Your Diary: *An overview of upcoming events, assessment windows, trips, and key school milestones over the coming weeks.*

Thank you for your ongoing support, dedication, and partnership. By continuing to work together, we can ensure every pupil is supported to be the very best they can be.

Warm regards,

Mr Oakes
Interim Headteacher

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing summer break. The entire team are excited to have welcomed the children back, for the start of the Autumn term, and there is already a fantastic energy buzzing through the classrooms and corridors.

We have a vibrant term ahead, packed with engaging learning and plenty of memorable experiences for the children. Here are a few exciting highlights to look forward to:

Autumn Term Learning: *Our teachers have designed an inspiring curriculum full of creative projects and hands-on activities to keep the children curious, motivated, and growing every single day.*

After-School Clubs: *We are bringing back a rich variety of extra-curricular activities. From sports and arts to STEAM, and drama, these clubs offer something for every interest. Keep an eye out for our sign-up form arriving in your inbox later this week.*

Fun Fridays at Break Times is Back: *To celebrate all the hard work during the week, we are introducing Fun Fridays! Break times this will feature special outdoor games, music, and interactive activities to help the children unwind, play together, and build strong friendships.*

Your partnership means the world to us, and we are dedicated to making this term a safe, happy, and successful one for every child. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or the main office if you ever have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's make it a fantastic Autumn term!

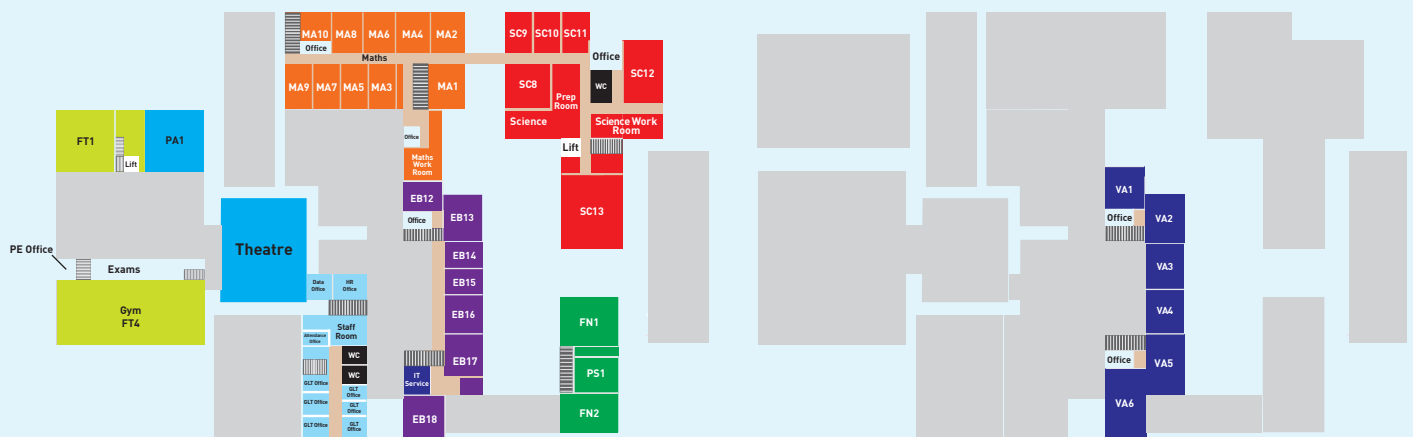
Warmest regards,

Mrs Morgan
Head of Year 8

SDCC MAP



Second Floor



Tutor: to email, use staff initial and surname @sdcc-smhc.net for example mhussey@sdcc-smhc.net

YEAR 8 TUTORS

Head of Year: Mrs Morgan						
Tutor Group	Tutor	Room		Tutor Group	Tutor	Room
81	B Plumpton	EB13		88	H Richards	VA1
82	R Turner	EB12		89	S Geoghegan	VA2
83	J Farrow	EB14		810	E Roberts	VA3
84	S Green Th (A Reid)	EB15		811	R Harvey	VA4
85	L Tanner W(A Reid)	EB16		8A	L Aldridge	CT3
86	M Skeemer	EB17		8B	K Frude	CT2
87	A Clift M (A Reid)	EB18				



GREENSHAW
LEARNING TRUST



Tutor Time

Reading Programme

YEAR 8

TITLE

AUTHOR

Adventures of a Young Naturalist
Animal Farm
Chinese Cinderella: The True Story
of an Unwanted daughter
Children of blood and Bone
I Am Malala
Life of Pi
Looking for JJ
Maggot Moon
Mud, Sweat and Tears
One
Noughts and Crosses
The Curious Incident of the Dog in
the Night Time
The Giver
The Hiding Place
The Hobbit
The Lion, The Witch and The
Wardrobe
The Ruby in the Smoke
The Woman in Black
Wed Wabbit

David Attenborough
George Orwell
Adeline Yen Mah

Tomi Adeyemi
Malala Yousafzai
Yann Martel
Anne Cassidy
Sally Gardner
Bear Grylls
Sarah Crossan
Malorie Blackman
Mark Hadden

Lois Lowry
Corrie ten Bloom
J.R.R. Tolkien
C.S. Lewis

Phillip Pullman
Susan Hill
Lissa Evans

Students complete 20 minutes of reading each morning, giving them an experience of
a wide range of texts

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SDCC Year 8 Curriculum	TERM 1	
	HALF TERM 1	HALF TERM 2
Maths	Students begin by continuing their work on percentages, moving into finding percentage increase and decrease. They will look at indices, and work with the index laws.	Students will build on their solving equations skills from year 7, and also investigate different types of sequences. They will then work with ratio and proportion, including sharing into ratios and looking at scale diagrams.
English Language & Literature	Unit 4: Fear of the Unknown To consider how and why the gothic genre allowed writers to explore our greatest fears. Students will delve into the depths of famous gothic writers and poets with a view of understanding how our fears have developed throughout time.	
Science	Students start the year learning about the reproductive systems of humans and plants. They then move on to learning about the basic principles of forces through the lens of the Earth and its position in the solar system. Students build on this by applying their forces knowledge to investigations about springs.	Students learn about more complex chemical reactions such as metals and oxygen, acids and water. They will look at how metals are extracted from their ores. Students then move on to learn about health and disease in humans.
French	My friends and me: French phonics, descriptions (age, best friend), relationships	My holidays: destinations, means of transport, holiday activities, using the past and future tenses, expressing opinions
Geography	Development Development indicators, factors affecting development, perceptions of Africa, physical geography of Ghana, poverty and improving quality of life in Ghana. Students develop a wide understanding of the concept of development, linking physical and human factors to understand differences in development. Locational knowledge of Africa is taught and cultural capital is grown through consideration of perceptions of Africa.	Cold environments (Russia) Characteristics of cold environments and Siberia. Students will look at the characteristics of cold environments exemplified by Siberia, students develop an understanding of key interactions in this harsh wilderness.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

History	Empire and problems in the 20th century - this module builds on the Year 7 module of slavery- looking specifically at the reasons for the desire for an Empire and the impact it had on the indigenous people. It culminates in looking at how this led to WW1 becoming a world rather than a European war. It examines the disciplinary concepts of contestability and perspective	Turning points WW1 and WW2 - this unit looks at the significant events of WW1 and WW2 which had an impact on the outcome of the war. It introduces the idea of importance
Art	Students begin the year re-visiting basic skills in numerous materials, producing a series of still life studies on the theme of Food.	Students start to explore the work of artists, using Claes Oldenburg as inspiration to produce colourful 3D clay cupcakes and Michael Craig Martin to produce colourful graphic still life images.
Computing	Introduction to Python Programming This unit introduces learners to text-based programming with Python. The lessons form a journey that starts with simple programs involving input and output, and gradually moves on through arithmetic operations, randomness, selection, and iteration. Emphasis is placed on tackling common misconceptions and elucidating the mechanics of program execution.	Computing Systems This unit takes learners on a tour through the different layers of computing systems: from programs and the operating system, to the physical components that store and execute these programs, to the fundamental binary building blocks that these components consist of. The aim is to provide a concise overview of how computing systems operate, conveying the essentials and abstracting away the technical details that might confuse or put off learners. The last lessons cover two interesting contemporary topics: artificial intelligence and open source software. These are linked back to the content of the unit, helping learners to both broaden their knowledge and focus on the topics addressed in the unit. Assessment Point 1 Students will sit their end-of-term assessment. Following a formal assessment in class, they will review their performance and address any gaps in knowledge.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Drama	Aberfan: Exploring Historical context of the Aberfan Disaster as experienced by the children and staff at Pantglas Infants and Junior School. Skill development - spontaneous improvisation, duologues, whole class tableaux, scripting.	
Food Technology/ Catering	To know what a commodity is in food production. To understand what the different commodities are, how they are produced or reared and how they can be cooked and used to produce different recipes. Students will then cook with these commodities, building on their skills from last year and learning how to use the hobs. They will then learn how to evaluate their dishes and shop brought ingredients to create sensory star profiles	
Modern Britain	Diversity - What does it mean and where do we see it? How we deal with prejudice and stereotyping and understanding other cultures that live in the UK. BLM and racial equality play a major role in acceptance of others and all of us being equal for all human kind.	Democracy - Understanding what is a democracy and what is a dictatorship. Learning that we live in a democracy and the role of parliament. Students can learn about the role of a Member of Parliament and their duties and responsibilities. To understand the purpose of political parties and how it's vital that everyone has a choice and opinion when it comes to voting in a general election.
Music - Technology 2	Keyboard skills 2 - Students continue their keyboard work into Year 8, looking at chord progression and structures. They look at the chords C, A, F and G and consider how the order might affect the way they sound. Students will play chords to a selection of pop songs and work on their timing and rhythmic skills.	
PE and Health	The effects of a warm-up Develop attacking principles of play Develop passing/shot varieties	Examples of a cool-down Develop passing/shot varieties Develop agility to quickly change direction
PSE/RSE	Celebrating Diversity and Equality: Equality Act and Protected Characteristics, LGBTQ+ What is it?, Rights Across the World, Sexual Orientation	Health and Well-being; Self love, Positive Body image, Being You

Textiles	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Developing research and analytical skills to form opinions by exploring the work of Textile artist Vanessa Barragão. Exploring a range of textile techniques using upcycled materials including weaving, Batik and fabric inks.	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Part 2): Students continue their project by embellishing their Batik designs with beads, sequins and buttons. They will develop their pattern cutting knowledge as well as developing sewing machine skills to make their outcome. (The project will run for one term and then groups will rotate to a new technology subject)
Media	Film Promotion. Media production using Adobe Creative Cloud. Creating promotional websites. Introduction to video editing. Film Sound.	
Spanish	My friends and me: French phonics, descriptions (age, best friend), relationships	My holidays: destinations, means of transport, holiday activities, using the past and future tenses, expressing opinions

KEY DATES

Open Evening (Years 6-7)
Wednesday 16th September 2026
Year 8 Parents Evening
Tuesday 18th May 2027

CAROUSEL

What?

Students now complete the majority of their homework on Carousel Learning.

Online homework for Sparx (Maths, English, Science) will remain.

Carousel Learning is a widely renowned programme designed with improving student outcomes at its heart. Carousel Learning allows teachers to quiz students on specific knowledge for their homework and then uses that data to help inform the lessons.

Students will self-quiz given predetermined 'decks' of questions. They are able to revise all the relevant information for the quiz and then submit their answers.

Why?

We want our students to be knowledgeable and to apply that knowledge across a variety of subjects and contexts. The process of self-quizzing is proven to help cement knowledge into long term memory and will allow students to better apply their understanding in lessons.

Carousel Learning helps students prioritise information and continually quizzes them on key facts. Teachers are able to see how individuals are performing at their homework and use this analytics within their lessons to further check and support their learning.

How?

Homework will continue to be set for the same subject areas as currently provided.

Students can access their Carousel homework via:

<https://student.carousel-learning.com/login>

Students will be able to log in using their usual school account through Google.

Please note that if their browser is set to a personal Google account, this won't be possible and they will need to sign out of their personal account, or open an incognito browser.

When?

The following table indicates which homework should be completed each week. Whilst all homework will have a deadline of Friday 4pm, we recommend that students follow the timetable below.

Day	Online HW (Campus)	SDCC	SMHC
Monday	Sparx Maths	Geography	Health Sciences
Tuesday	Sparx Science	History	Psychology
Wednesday	Sparx Reader	Languages	PSE
Thursday	Sparx Catch Up	Modern Britain	Geography + French
Friday	Sparx Catch Up	Computing	History + Spanish

We are also working directly with Carousel so will report back any feedback you have.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

M Hussey

MHussey@sdcc-smhc.net

EVERY
MOMENT
MATTERS

WE ARE
#TEAM
SDCC



CLUBS

AUTUMN 2026

EVERYDAY

BREAKFAST CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* KS4 Canteen
When? 7.45AM

CAMPUS RADIO CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* EB17
When? Both Breaks

MORNING FOOTBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* 3G/Sports Hall
When? 7.45 - 8.20am

SPARX READER BREAKFAST CLUB

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* EN1
When? Before school

MONDAY

ECO COUNCIL

Who? All years | *Where?* EB18
When? Break B

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

ZINE SCENE

Who? All years | *Where?* Library
When? Break A

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

YEAR 7 & 8 FITNESS

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* FT1
When? After school

STEAM

Who? All years | *Where?* CT1
When? Week A - After school

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

YEAR 9 & 10 FITNESS

Who? Years 9 & 10 | *Where?* FT2
When? After school

TUESDAY

TEXTILES CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA2
When? After school

YEAR 13 A LEVEL BIOLOGY INTERVENTION SESSIONS

Who? Year 13 A Level biologists only |
Where? SC6
When? After school

KEYBOARD CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* PA3
When? Week A - Break B

7 & 8 BOYS FOOTBALL

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* 3G
When? After school

ALL YEARS NETBALL

Who? All years | *Where?* Courts/Sports Hall
When? After school

LANGUAGES

Who? All years | *Where?* EB6
When? After school

FUTURE MEDICS AND DENTISTS CLUB

Who? Years 12 & 13 (There will also be sessions on an adhoc basis for Yr 10/11 students at both schools) | *Where?* SF07
When? Tutor time

WEDNESDAY

YOUNG CARERS CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* EN12
When? Break A

ART AND CLAY CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA3
When? After school

DANCE CLUB

Who? All year | *Where?* PA1
When? After school

ROCK CLUB JR

Who? Year 7 (beginner students across years) | *Where?* PA3
When? After school

DRUM LESSONS

Who? All years | *Where?* Practice Room
When? All day

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Who? All year | *Where?* 3G
When? After school

YEAR 7 & 8 BASKETBALL

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* Sports Hall
When? After school

SCIENCE CLUB

Who? Years 7 - 9 | *Where?* SC3
When? After school

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA1
When? After school

EAL CLUB

Who? EAL students in all years
Where? EAL Classroom
When? Break A

THURSDAY

DoE CLUB

Who? Years 9 & 10 (This is only open to students who sign up for DoE in September)

Where? TBC

When? After school

DRAMA CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* PA2

When? After school

KEYBOARD LESSONS

Who? All years | *Where?* Practice Room

When? Afternoons

SDCC SINGERS

Who? All years | *Where?* PA3

When? After school

FURTHER MATHS

Who? Year 10 top sets | *Where?* MA6

When? After school

CAMPUS TV

Who? All years | *Where?* VA6

When? After school

ACADEMY ONLY FOOTBALL

Who? Year 7 | *Where?* 3G

When? After school

RUGBY

Who? All years | *Where?* Grass

When? After school

YEAR 7 & 8 NETBALL

Who? Years 7 & 8 | *Where?* Sports Hall/
Courts

When? After school

SPEEDY COOKS

Who? Years 7 or 8 who don't have food in that term | *Where?* Fn1

When? Break A

CODING CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* CT2

When? Break A / Break B

MEDIA CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA5

When? After school

SPRINKLZ' LGBT+ CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* VA6

When? Break B

SCIENCE - POWER UP SUPPORT

Who? Year 11 | *Where?* SC1

When? Break A

PARAGON MATHS

Who? All years | *Where?* MA5

When? Week A - After School

FRIDAY

ROCK CLUB SR

Who? KS4 primarily (skill based) |

Where? PA3

When? After school

FURTHER MATHS

Who? Year 11 top sets | *Where?* MA6

When? After school

KEYBOARD CLUB

Who? All years | *Where?* PA3

When? Week B - Break B

OVER
40
CLUBS

WORK
HARD
BE KIND

Attendance Matters

#EVERYDAYCOUNTS

Medical Appointments
When possible book them outside of school hours

90% Attendance
or less can reduce your chances of good outcomes by half

Family Holidays
You have 175 days a year where you are not in school. A one-week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can get is 97%

35 missed Lessons

ALMOST THERE

96% Attendance
Equates to 7 school days off each year

80 missed Lessons

DANGER ZONE

92% Attendance
Equates to 16 school days off each year

100%

PERFECTION

100% Attendance

55 missed Lessons

94%

NEEDS TO IMPROVE

94% Attendance
Equates to 11 school days off each year

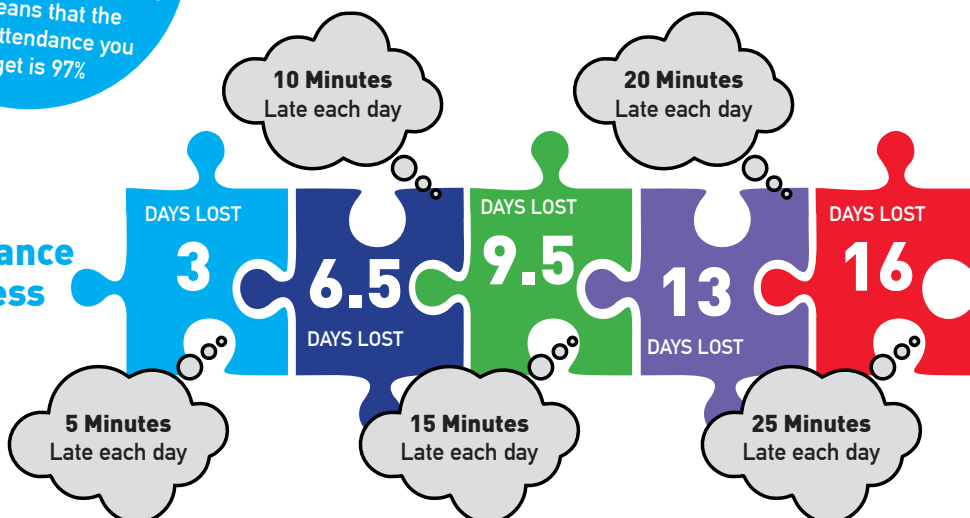
100 missed Lessons

90%

EXTREME IMPACT!

90% Attendance
Equates to 1 month off each year

Best chance of success



Serious impact on education

Average learning hours per day is 5 hours.
If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of school in 1 year!