



Brannel School Year 8 Curriculum Overview

Year 8 is a year of **connection, context and meaning**. Students build on the foundations of Year 7 by strengthening their ability to explain ideas, make links and understand why knowledge looks the way it does. They explore how time, place and culture shape meaning, how things change or stay the same, and how interpretation, perspective, function and purpose influence understanding. This guide outlines what students will learn, how their knowledge connects across subjects, and how we support them to grow academically, personally and socially.

What will I learn in Year 8?			
Tutor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen organisation, independence and positive routines. Develop reading fluency through daily tutor-led reading. Deepen wellbeing and character skills through the Personal Development Passport. Continue to be Ready, Respectful and Safe every day. 	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore Victorian context, letters and social attitudes. Study <i>Oliver Twist</i> and analyse character, theme and writer's intentions. Develop non-fiction writing about identity and voice. Read, perform and analyse scenes from Shakespeare's <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build fluency with vectors, transformations and FDP conversions. Strengthen algebra through expanding, factorising and forming expressions. Develop confidence with graphs, sequences, ratios and percentages. Apply geometry in circles, area, volume and angles in parallel lines. 	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen laboratory skills and working-scientifically techniques. Study the respiratory system, chemical reactions, electricity and metals. Explore Earth structure, reproduction, waves, magnets and evolution. Complete an independent investigation applying scientific enquiry skills.



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Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore physical processes that shape Earth's landscapes. • Investigate conflict, peace and geopolitical tensions. • Study the Middle East and its physical/human geography. • Learn about glacial and coastal processes and complete fieldwork enquiry. 	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study the Industrial Revolution in Britain and Cornwall. • Explore colonialism, global empire and transatlantic enslavement. • Investigate civil rights movements and social change. • Examine migration and multicultural Britain.
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use past tense (preterite) to talk about holidays and past events. • Describe towns using comparatives, superlatives and directions. • Talk about sports using stem-changing verbs and three time frames. • Strengthen pronunciation, vocabulary and cultural awareness. 	Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create digital games using events, variables and logic. • Strengthen computational thinking with abstraction, decomposition and flowcharts. • Build text-based programming skills in Python. • Learn about networks, online communication and cybersecurity.
RE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore Hindu beliefs about reincarnation, karma and liberation. • Study Sikh beliefs, identity and community practice. • Learn Buddhist teachings on suffering, mindfulness and modern practice. • Evaluate how belief shapes human behaviour and worldview. 	PSHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about risks, substances and responsible decision-making. • Understand discrimination, rights and respectful behaviour. • Strengthen digital safety and critical thinking online. • Explore body image, healthy lifestyles and future careers.
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine skills in invasion games including movement, tactics and teamwork. • Build fitness, strength, control and coordination through gym and dance. • Develop accuracy, timing and strategy in net/wall and striking/fielding sports. • Improve running, jumping and throwing in athletics. 	Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore cultural masks and symbolism across world cultures. • Study artists such as Yusuke Asai and Kimmy Cantrell. • Develop mask designs using symbolism, form and annotation. • Construct a 3D mask and apply surface decoration and pattern.



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<p>Drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore <i>Curious Incident</i> through physicality, movement and ensemble skills. • Study Melodrama and use exaggerated character and staging techniques. • Create devised theatre using Brecht's techniques and social messages. • Build confidence performing and justifying creative choices. 	<p>Music</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop rhythmic fluency, syncopation and chord patterns. • Explore polyrhythms and learn early music-technology skills. • Perform, compose and record using DAW software. • Study conventions of Rock and Rock 'n' Roll.
<p>Design Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop drawing, idea generation and specification writing. • Learn manufacturing skills including joints and accurate assembly. • Improve products through refinement, finishing and evaluation. • Study timber properties and develop CAD modelling skills. 	<p>Food & Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepen understanding of nutrition, energy and ingredient function. • Prepare a wide range of increasingly complex dishes. • Study food choice, provenance, seasonality and food miles. • Build independence through planning and evaluating practical work.



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What will I learn during the Autumn Term?

Tutor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen routines, organisation and independence. Develop reading fluency through daily tutor reading. Complete early Personal Development Passport tasks. Key assembly themes: Respect & Equality; Staying Safe Online. 	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study Victorian letters, tone and audience. Read <i>Oliver Twist</i> and explore character, theme and setting. Analyse Dickens' social commentary on poverty. Write clear analytical paragraphs using evidence.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen vectors, translations and rotations. Build fluency converting between fractions, decimals and percentages. Develop accuracy expanding expressions and drawing graphs. Interpret data using charts, averages and simple correlations. 	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit laboratory safety and enquiry skills. Study breathing and the respiratory system. Learn types of chemical reactions and word equations. Build and test simple series and parallel circuits.
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn how landscapes form through tectonics, weathering and erosion. Explore how humans interact with physical environments. Study causes and impacts of modern global conflicts. Evaluate strategies for building peace. 	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study the Industrial Revolution and its impact on Britain. Explore urbanisation, technology and population change. Investigate Cornwall's mining and engineering heritage. Use local sources to understand historical evidence.
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the past tense to describe holidays and activities. Strengthen phonics and accurate pronunciation. Describe towns using comparatives and superlatives. Learn directions and vocabulary for your local area. 	Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and create digital games using events and variables. Develop logic and problem-solving through game design. Strengthen digital literacy using GDevelop software. Improve creativity through design, testing and refinement.



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<p>RE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Hindu beliefs about reincarnation and karma. • Explore how belief influences choices and moral action. • Learn core Sikh beliefs about identity, equality and community. • Understand how faith shapes everyday practice. 	<p>PSHE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about risks linked to alcohol and drugs. • Explore rights, equality and discrimination. • Develop safe behaviour online and recognise misinformation. • Build confidence making positive, informed choices.
<p>PE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tactics and teamwork in invasion games. • Improve control, accuracy and decision-making. • Strengthen fitness and movement skills in gym/dance. • Build resilience through competitive and cooperative activities. 	<p>Art</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the cultural meaning of masks from around the world. • Develop annotated sketches showing symbolism and identity. • Experiment with shapes, features and early design ideas. • Understand how artistic choices communicate meaning.
<p>Drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore <i>Curious Incident</i> using physicality and ensemble work. • Develop skills in gesture, proxemics and movement. • Interpret text to show character viewpoint. • Build confidence performing short extracts. 	<p>Music</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen rhythmic fluency and syncopation. • Explore global rhythms and simple chord patterns. • Build ensemble accuracy and performance confidence. • Develop control of timing, balance and expression.
<p>Design Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop design ideas using sketches and specifications. • Analyse existing products for function and quality. • Practise safe workshop routines and basic joints. • Begin constructing products with increasing accuracy. 	<p>Food & Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen hygiene routines and preparation skills. • Learn about energy, nutrition and ingredient functions. • Prepare a range of autumn dishes confidently. • Understand food origins, commodities and seasonality.



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What will I learn during the Spring Term?

Tutor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build confidence, independence and positive learning habits. • Continue daily tutor-led reading to strengthen fluency. • Complete Personal Development Passport tasks on wellbeing and choices. • Key assembly themes: Internet Safety; Holocaust Remembrance. 	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore autobiographical writing and personal voice. • Study <i>The Bone Sparrow</i> and analyse character and theme. • Write letters and opinion pieces with clear viewpoint. • Strengthen extended analytical writing using evidence.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop confidence with area, perimeter and compound shapes. • Strengthen algebra through solving linear equations. • Improve fluency with fractions, percentages and number operations. • Apply reasoning to shapes, measurements and calculator use. 	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study health, lifestyle choices and microorganisms. • Explore balanced/unbalanced forces and friction. • Learn about the periodic table and simple reactivity patterns. • Work with acids, alkalis and neutralisation.
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate natural resources and global inequalities. • Learn how human activity depends on environmental systems. • Study coastal processes including erosion and deposition. • Explain how landforms change over time. 	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore power and authority through Magna Carta and early Parliament. • Learn about medieval medicine and the Black Death. • Compare medieval and modern beliefs about disease. • Use evidence to explain change over time.
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your house, rooms and local area. • Use adjectives and agreements to build accurate detail. • Give opinions about school subjects and teachers. • Learn <i>ir</i> and practise high-frequency present tense verbs. 	Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen computational thinking with flowcharts, decomposition and abstraction. • Explore bubble sort and insertion sort. • Apply logic through Bebras-style reasoning challenges.



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<p>RE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Christian beliefs about the Trinity and Jesus' teachings. • Explore parables, healing stories and ideas about forgiveness. • Examine historical and modern interpretations of Christian belief. • Build skills explaining belief, context and impact. 	<p>PSHE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand online scams, fake news and misinformation. • Explore why people troll and how to respond safely. • Learn how democracy, Parliament and elections work. • Build confidence expressing your views respectfully.
<p>PE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop balance, control and strength through gymnastics. • Build fluency and coordination through dance. • Learn components of fitness and how exercise affects the body. • Improve evaluation and performance-refinement skills. 	<p>Art</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study how artists use colour, texture and mark-making for meaning. • Explore expressive techniques inspired by Van Gogh and Yellena James. • Develop mixed-media skills including layering and pattern. • Build confidence analysing and discussing artistic choices.
<p>Drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore key scenes from <i>Macbeth</i> through performance. • Develop character intention, voice and movement skills. • Learn about Elizabethan theatre and staging. • Build analysis skills when evaluating performance. 	<p>Music</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop rhythmic confidence through simple and compound time. • Perform and create layered rhythmic patterns. • Explore pentatonic scales in composition. • Strengthen ensemble rehearsal skills and vocabulary.
<p>Design Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete product manufacture with greater accuracy. • Evaluate the design against a specification. • Refine work using finishing techniques and quality control. • Apply iterative design thinking to improve outcomes. 	<p>Food & Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study vitamins and their role in health. • Prepare a wider range of dishes (e.g., pizza, pasta, pancakes). • Develop timing, consistency and control in practical work. • Learn how factors influence food choice and justify decisions.



What will I learn during the Summer Term?

Tutor Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen independence and readiness for Year 9. Maintain reading fluency through daily tutor-led reading. Complete Personal Development Passport activities focused on contribution and reflection. Key assembly themes: Pride Month; Caring for Our Environment 	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study <i>The Tempest</i>, focusing on power, identity relationships. Explore Shakespeare's language, staging and character choices. Write extended analytical responses using evidence and interpretation. Develop spoken language skills through rehearsal and performance.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply ratio to recipes, scale, conversions and best-buy problems. Develop multiplicative reasoning and direct proportion. Strengthen angle reasoning and shape properties. Explore introductory probability through simple events. 	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study ecosystems, food webs and human impact on habitats. Learn about space, seasons, orbits and gravity. Build confidence using scientific models to explain processes. Complete a small-scale enrichment investigation.
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate global trade and supply chains. Study interdependence between countries and regions. Explore the Middle East's physical and human geography. Develop respectful understanding of place and culture 	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study Tudor England and the Reformation. Explore the causes and events of the English Civil War. Examine Cornwall's role in the conflict. Strengthen skills explaining causes, consequences and interpretations.
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe free-time activities and holiday plans. Learn vocabulary for weather, food and eating out. Build confidence using present and future tenses. Strengthen opinions and conversational fluency. 	Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build programs using sequence, selection and variables. Develop debugging and problem-solving strategies. Combine Python and/or Scratch to create interactive programs.



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<p>RE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Islamic beliefs about prophethood and the Qur'an. • Explore the Five Pillars and how they shape daily life. • Understand diversity within Muslim practice around the world. • Strengthen comparison skills across belief systems. 	<p>PSHE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop positive body image and understand lifestyle impacts. • Explore sleep, routines and wellbeing. • Learn about budgeting, saving and borrowing. • Explore future careers and personal strengths.
<p>PE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop skills in tennis, badminton and cricket. • Improve accuracy in serving, rallying, striking and fielding. • Learn running, jumping and throwing techniques in athletics. • Build confidence measuring progress and working towards personal bests. 	<p>Art</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and make a final mixed-media card relief inspired by sea forms. • Build layers, composition and depth with a range of materials. • Apply controlled painting and expressive mark-making. • Reflect on artistic intention, choices and outcomes.
<p>Drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a final performance project in small groups. • Develop character, voice and movement with confidence. • Use techniques such as contrast, symbolic movement and direct address. • Explain and justify creative choices clearly. 	<p>Music</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study features of Soul music including chord progressions and groove. • Perform Soul-inspired pieces with expression and control. • Compose short Soul-style pieces using melody and chords. • Strengthen listening and appraisal skills.
<p>Design Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn marking out and joining methods through a small box project. • Develop accuracy and independence in practical work. • Strengthen finishing, quality control and measurement. • Build CAD confidence modelling simple 3D components. 	<p>Food & Nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare dishes independently with increasing accuracy. • Learn about sustainability, food miles and seasonality. • Interpret food labels and nutritional information. • Plan, produce and evaluate an end-of-year practical dish.