

10 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 8 Learning Journey**

In June, we conducted a parent voice survey to obtain feedback and support our strategic planning moving forward. One such topic we sought feedback, asked parents to rate how aware they are of what their children will learn during an academic year. In response to this, please find below a learning journey for the forthcoming half-term. This provides an overview of the topics your son/daughter will cover in each of their subjects. Our intention is to publish a Learning Journey each half term so that you can effectively support your child. Additionally, Long-Term Plans that provide an overview for each subject can be found under the 'curriculum' section of the school website.

**Year 8 – Autumn Term 2 – Learning Journey**

| Subject                            | Topic(s)   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| English                            | Conflict and Resistance through the ages: Reading and Writing.                             |
| Maths                              | Averages<br>Basic Algebra<br>Probability   |
| Science                            | Biology - Ecosystem (Photosynthesis and Interdependence)                                   |
| Art                                | Sculpture - Wire trainer project and painting trainer design                               |
| DT - Engineering                   | Practical project – making a clock inspired by design movement                             |
| DT - Food                          | 'Baking success'   |
| Drama                              | Developing physical skills (characterisation and levels)                                   |
| Geography                          | Tropical rainforests<br>Global ecosystems  |
| History                            | ENQUIRY: Why did the Transatlantic slave trade boom and who was responsible for ending it? |
| ICT                                | Creating graphic products  |
| Modern Foreign Languages - French  | Ma vie de famille<br>En Ville  |
| Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish | Viva 1 Module 5 .... what is this???   |
| Music                              | Harmony (chords)   |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Physical Education  | Students will undertake a variety of game-based activities this term e.g. Football, Netball, Rugby, Badminton in addition to Health-Related Fitness |
| PSHE                | Physical and Emotional Health and Wellbeing   |
| Religious Education | Islam   |

Students will also continue to have a lesson each fortnight of Accelerated Reader and Reciprocal Reading that will further develop their reading ability and comprehension.

### **Home Learning**

Our home learning policy is built around the importance of retrieval to embed the knowledge and skills students learn in lessons. Home learning will be set by teachers every 2-5 lessons and all home learning tasks will be set through 'Assignments' on Microsoft Teams. Most home learning tasks will be retrieval tasks on Microsoft Forms, for example a multiple-choice quiz or an exam question. Students are expected to record brief details of the task in their planner, along with the completion deadline We ask for the support of parents/carers in checking your child's planner and assignments on Teams to encourage them to keep on top of the home learning tasks they have been set. Microsoft Teams can be accessed on any device (such as a mobile phone, gaming console, PC laptop, tablet etc), however if students do not have access to an electronic device on which to complete the home learning tasks, home learning support sessions will run daily from 3.10-3.40pm in IT4.

### **Assessment Reporting and Recording**

You will be aware that we use three different forms of assessment at Hungerhill to assess understanding and inform planning. Low Stakes assessments involve the home learning quizzes mentioned above in addition to quick, informal assessments that take place each lesson – for example the questioning posed in lessons by the teacher and every lesson starting with a 'Do Now' activity that focuses on the understanding of previous learning. Medium Stakes assessments are undertaken at the end of each topic/unit of work and are used to assess students understanding of the knowledge from that period of learning and the skills they have developed. Your child may refer to these as Check 20s, Progress Checks or STARs assessments. Finally, High Stakes assessments are those assessments carried out at set points throughout the year to assess all learning undertaken to that point and to provide a **current working level** for all students. These are reported home along with updated information regarding students' Attitude to Learning, home learning, attendance and conduct information such as the number of achievement and behaviour points received throughout the academic year.

Please note the forthcoming **important dates** for Year 8 students:

- 13.01.22: ATOL grades and subject grades reported home
- 19.01.22: Subject Teacher Parents' Evening
- 31.03.22: ATOL grades and subject grades reported home
- 04.07.22: GL Progress Tests all week
- 14.07.22: ATOL grades and subject grades reported home

### **Other Updates**

At our recent Parents Advisory Group (PAG) meeting, the group highlighted parents would like greater clarity on some of the school systems, including the current behaviour policy. At this point, please can we signpost parents to page 9 of the student planner where an overview can be found. The detailed policy,

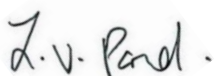


along with other key policies can all be found on the school website here: [Hungerhill School - School Policies](#)

Thank you also to those parents/carers that participated in our online Parents' Evening consultation. The results were close, but the majority of parents/carers voted for the virtual option. Therefore, given the added variables of a rise in Covid cases within the local community and us heading into the winter months, we have decided to hold the upcoming Year 11 evening virtually. We do, however, appreciate that this option does not fully represent all our parents/carers, therefore, we are going to investigate the possibility of holding a hybrid model where parents/carers can select either a face-to-face or virtual appointment for subsequent evenings moving through the year. This will remain under review, and we will communicate more details in the lead up to each event.

If you have any questions about any of the contents of this letter or in general regarding your Year 8 student, please don't hesitate to contact their Achievement Leader Mrs Marriott or other member of staff via the 'Send us a Message' function of the school website, clearly denoting the intended recipient.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond  
Headteacher



Mr P Storey  
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs J Laidlaw  
Deputy Headteacher

