

Year 8 Curriculum

Heathcote School has a broad and balanced curriculum, which satisfies National Curriculum requirements and includes full access to all the 'softer' subjects, such as Art, Design and Technology (DT) and Drama which are so important for the development of our pupils. The timetable is made up of 25 periods of 60 minutes per week and is a 2 week timetable – week A and B. Pupils will have some double lessons as they move through the school. The curriculum will be supplemented by a number of exciting enrichment activities (subject to the pandemic).

Lessons per fortnight	
Subject	Year 8
English	8
Maths	8
Science	8
Design & Technology	3
Modern Foreign Language	3
History	3
Geography	3
Art	2
Music	2
Drama	2
PIE	2
PE	4
Computing	2

Most subjects are taught in mixed ability classes in Year 8 in their tutor group, with the exception of:

English where pupils are setted in 7 sets to provide more bespoke learning experiences.

Science where pupils are setted in 2 halves in 3 sets.

When setting is used, a growth mind-set is adopted by staff and pupils can move from set to set after an assessment or improve progress.

Mathematics where pupils are taught in tiered classes (Higher and Foundation). There will be mixed ability groups within each tier to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to reach their full potential within an appropriate structure and framework.

Languages where all pupils learn either French or Spanish.

DT where there are smaller mixed ability groups for Health and Safety.

PE in which pupils are placed in groups of either single or mixed gender groups.

Teachers ensure that work is set at the right level for all pupils in the class and extra support is provided if necessary.

Pupils have 15 - 20 minutes of Tutor time 4 times a week and one assembly. This is at the end of the day. In Year 7 and 8, pupils follow the Accelerated Reader programme.

Some pupils will have additional intervention during lesson time to support numeracy and literacy or to provide emotional support, such as social skills groups.

Homework

Homework is set via Google Classroom and can also be recorded in pupil planners. Pupils should expect up to 2 hours per week in Maths, English and Science and up to 1 hour in other subjects. Much of the homework set will be 'flipped' homework involving preparation and research in advance of the lesson.

Marking and Feedback

Pupils' work will be marked regularly with specific comments from the teacher providing pupils with information on how they can improve their work. During review and feedback time in lessons, pupils are given opportunities to reflect and respond to teacher comments, and improve their work. Pupil improvements will be marked and acknowledged by teachers for the progress in work. Literacy is also a focus for assessment from all subjects.

Assessing Pupil Progress

Formal assessments take place for all pupils at key points during the year during Challenge Weeks. A programme of revision will be followed in class and resources recommended via Show my Homework and a full timetable provided. The week will be interspersed with Drop Down and enrichment activities.

Reports will be sent home three times a year in November, March and July. Parents and carers are invited in for a Parents evening once a year.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Heathcote School recognises that many pupils at some point in their school career have special educational needs which may require support. The school also has a deaf provision. We never consider this as an excuse for under-achievement, and high aspirations are key to all our school improvement work. Every teacher is a teacher of every child, including those with SEND and this is central to the philosophy of our school and part of the diversity that we celebrate. The school also aims to encourage a culture of peer support and inclusion that encourages strong friendship groups for pupils with SEND.

Pupils with SEND will receive different levels of support depending on need. This may be support from a Teaching Assistant (TA), special exam arrangements, extra literacy and numeracy, speech and language therapy or monitoring by the team. You will receive further information about any support from the SEND Team and some of this may be after school. Please do not hesitate to contact our SENDCO, Ms Gardiner. The full SEND Policy is on the school's website.

Enrichment and Intervention

There is a wide variety of enrichment and intervention for pupils outside of the main taught curriculum. Most of this takes place after school. Full details of the schedule of enrichment activities will be published on the school website and we encourage pupils to attend as many activities as they can. Intervention is mostly targeted to individuals or groups of pupils.

We plan to offer a free breakfast to all pupils before school for those that wish to access this subject to funding.

Library

The library is a rich learning resource environment that we hope to re-open for some pupils, at break times, lunch times and after school. Pupils are able to complete their homework and use the facilities in the library to support independent study. Opening hours will be confirmed once a plan has been put in place in line with our risk assessment.

School Ethos and Environment

Heathcote School aims to provide a safe and ordered environment where everyone is expected to show respect, be ready to learn and be responsible for themselves and their learning. All pupils are expected to follow the Behaviour Policy and show concern and consideration for others. This shall be reflected in their behaviour at all times. Pupils are required to demonstrate a commitment to all aspects of their education in order to achieve their maximum potential.

Parents/carers are expected to co-operate with the school in matters of discipline and expectations. Detentions may be given for a number of reasons and we normally inform parents through email/phone call home. We aim to ensure pupils have regular praise and rewards.

Heathcote School aims to maintain a safe secure, and attractive working environment. Pupils will ensure that the school is kept free of litter, graffiti and chewing gum.

Equipment, Uniform and Personal Belongings

Appropriate facilities and equipment are provided for on-site activities and the National Curriculum. We sometimes ask parent/carers to support their children by contributing to food technology ingredients, certain texts and revision books particularly in upper years. We may be able to support pupils facing financial difficulties if a request is made to the Inclusion Manager, Ms Austin.

It is essential that pupils come to school fully equipped for all lessons as per the equipment list.

Knowledge Organisers have been given to all pupils in Years 7-9 and should be available for every lesson. It is their responsibility to ensure that these are kept in excellent condition and not lost.

Uniform and Physical Education kit are compulsory and we expect pupils to wear their uniform with pride including a lanyard (see the Uniform and Equipment area for details). We aim to ensure pupils are dressed professionally at all times and discussion about the wrong uniform disrupts learning time. We lend items to pupils who do not have them in school.

Pupils are responsible for all personal property. The school is not responsible for money or valuables as they should not be brought to school.