



**Lewis Girls' School
Year 8 Curriculum Overview
Autumn Term 2020**



Wellbeing

Active Wellbeing

The pupils started the term with fitness & yoga to comply with the current situation we are in. This will develop their knowledge of the benefits that physical activity can have on their physical, mental & social wellbeing. They will develop their knowledge & understanding of components of fitness and how these are used in various sporting activities. All pupils will take part in a 1km 'well being' warm up walk/run/jog at the start off each fitness lesson.

Health & Wellbeing

Pupils in year 8 have started the year by reflecting on the experiences of the last few months, and identifying well-being priorities for themselves over the coming year. Pupils who may have a caring role are encouraged to identify themselves, so that appropriate support can be put in place for these pupils. We have studied the HPV vaccination, which enables pupils to learn more about what the HPV virus is, and why vaccination is offered. This helps pupils to feel well-informed about the choices they will make later in the year. Our new "Relaxation, Resilience and Routine" assignment enables pupils to learn more about the importance of being , and the distinction between healthy and unhealthy approaches to relaxation are explored. Pupil resilience is also a focal point of this unit, with pupils reflecting on the areas of their lives where resilience can be built upon and developed. The role of trusted adults and positive peer relationships, as well as the ability to develop interests, problem-solve and ask for help are all vital ingredients in nurturing stronger resilience in times of challenge. The significance of routines, and how to regain positive routines in the face of disruption is a final focus for this unit, leading pupils to create their own well-being action plan. We will be moving on to learn more about the concept of being "Learning Fit". Pupils will explore what this means in practice, and the steps they need to take in order to become more confident , independent learners. With our developing approach to blended learning and experience of distance learning over the last few months our aim is to give pupils the knowledge and understanding required to manage their learning in a positive and practical manner. In the second half of the term, pupils will explore how they manage their online presence. They will then focus on diversity and discrimination, inclusion and equality.





Languages, Literacy and Communication

English

Pupils will have a 'spooky' return to lessons after half term in English, focussing on how literature fires the imagination. We will introduce them to the world of nineteenth century Gothic Fiction where we will study a range of excerpts from exciting, complex texts such as 'Frankenstein' and 'Dracula'. The learning plans also encourage analysis of poetic forms such as 'The Raven' by Edger Allen Poe. Gothic themes, settings and imagery will be studied. Pupils will be assessed on their oracy, reading and writing skills. A blended learning approach will continue to be taught through online and offline activities.

International Languages

The International Languages department employs a range of strategies to ensure students learn in an enjoyable, positive and inclusive environment. To enable our students to become successful language learners, we have reviewed our curriculum and created teaching resources to implement the Extensive Processing Instruction (EPI) method principles into our lessons. Where possible we replicate the order by which children naturally acquire their first language. Therefore, we started Year 8 by revisiting key phonics in French. The learning of these sounds is reinforced in every unit of work, when we introduce new sentence builders. In the autumn term, we build on the key grammatical ideas on which all languages are built. Students start by introducing themselves in the present tense, describing where they live and introducing family members. This allows students to learn how adjectives behave, the importance of the gender of nouns, cognates, subject pronouns and verbs. When appropriate we also 'plant' chunks of language. This exposes students to common chunks of language before students are expected to understand the grammar behind the phrase. For example, students learn the important phrase 'I would like' from the first term, even though the conditional tense is not taught explicitly until Year 9. Our students learn about famous Francophones and their contributions not only to French society but to the world. This term we are looking at the famous French singer-songwriter Édith Piaf. Pupils access their work through google classroom and complete their work on an online digital exercise book.

Pupils also get to participate in lots of activities during languages week in September. They are invited to become Language Ambassadors. Pupils can also access online vocabulary learning from their own home via [www https://uk.language-gym.com](https://uk.language-gym.com). Letters for our French trip in the summer term are distributed at the beginning of December. We also offer students the opportunity to purchase Mary Glasgow magazines, which enable them to read articles designed for learners of their own age on current affairs and contemporary topics.





Languages, Literacy and Communication Continued...

Welsh

Pupils will learn how to express a good opinion this term through the topic YSGOL (School). In order to ensure pupils can do this well, pupils will be revisiting the present tense with some past tense also introduced. Pupils will also learn lots of good adjectives to enable them to give opinions in all areas of school life. At the end of the topic, pupils will be writing an email to an old friend describing their new school and will have an oral assessment. Throughout the term pupils will learn lots of new vocabulary and will use apps such as Quizlet and tinycards to reinforce the vocabulary learned. Pupils are encouraged to use these apps at home, and parents could log on too to have fun learning new vocabulary with their children. Duolingo is also a very useful app to help improve language skills at home. All homework is posted in Google Classroom. We have a twitter account and parents can follow us on @LGSCymraeg.

Humanities

Humanities

This term pupils will explore the changing roles of women in society. Firstly, pupils will examine how the role of women changed around the time of World War One and evaluate the sacrifices both men and women made. In addition, pupils will discover how women are traditionally portrayed in religious texts and debate the extent to which these ideas have evolved. Finally, pupils will consider how the role of women within business and society as a whole has changed over time.

Science & Technology

Digital Design

Pupils will further develop their understanding and skills of spreadsheet software by designing a range of spreadsheets, one of which will focus on managing money. In addition, pupils will consolidate their understanding of the dangers linked to the internet by creating a website aimed at teenagers to outline important topics, such as cyberbullying, grooming and sexting.





Science & Technology Continued.....

STEM

Pupils will be looking at different forms of energy. As the year goes on they will concentrate on electrical energy and its methods of production both by fossil fuels as well as green energy sources. Through a range of experiments using various models of different energy production methods pupils will be able to test both the effectiveness of these forms of energy production as well as be able to make comparisons between them. Later in the year pupils will then look at insulation and the importance of insulation to architecture in order to save wasting the energy that has been produced in order to heat buildings. Again pupils will be conducting experiments to compare various forms of insulation used in construction.

Design technology

Pupils will be working in Google classroom researching and specifying requirements for a design project that develops both sketching skills as well as introducing 2D Computer Aided Design to create drawings which can then be cut out using a laser cutter allowing them to create their final product to take home. Later this term pupils will be designing a computer game character based on retro 8 and 16 bit style graphics. This character will then be laser cut out and made into a promotional keyring. Later in the year the same character will be used in a computer game that the pupils will be programming using Scratch computer programming language in Digital Design and Technology lessons.

Textiles

Pupils will be looking into the textile industry and understanding of the environmental impact it is having on the planet. Pupils will understand the different types of fibres and make their own opinions on which fibres are best to use for the planet. Pupils will look into a few case studies to gain an insight into some of the impact the textiles industry has had on the environment as well as lives.





Science & Technology

Science

Pupils begin the year with the Biology topic: 'Protection from pathogens'. This topic provides numerous opportunities for pupils to enhance their understanding of how microbes affect us in everyday life including the current pandemic situation. Pupils learn how our bodies are adapted to defend against dangerous microbes. They move on to learning how vaccinations and antibiotics are used to help us fight against infectious diseases. Pupils will then move on to discover other aspects of the overall iDiscover theme of 'Protecting planet Earth' such as what the earth is made of and how we can conserve natural resources and our wildlife to live sustainably. Throughout the topics, pupils will work on their scientific, literacy and numeracy skills. These will be showcased in their exercise books, along with written homework exercises, while lesson material will be accessed using their Chromebooks. They will also use their Chromebooks to process data using GoogleSheets. As well as assessment of scientific skills, each topic will be assessed by a written test.

Maths & Numeracy

Mathematics

During Year 8, pupils will continue to build on previous mathematical knowledge. They will study topics taken from Algebra, Geometry, Measures, Number, and Data. During the first half of the term, pupils will study proportional reasoning, with a focus on ratio and scale, multiplicative change and multiplying and dividing fractions. In the second half of the Autumn term, pupils will further develop their skills in beginning to understand the equation of a straight line, functions and graphs, and probability. Pupils will be introduced to Hegartymaths in order to support them to become ambitious and capable learners.

Numeracy

During year 8 numeracy lessons pupils will spend time developing both their numeracy reasoning and procedural skills. These skills will include; area and perimeter; calculations involving buying and selling; volume of cubes and cuboids; interpreting graphs; probability using two way tables; application of time and finding percentages of amounts. Reasoning lessons are designed to develop their skills in question analysis and how to communicate their answers clearly.





Creatives

Music

In the first part of the term, pupils worked on understanding (and recognising) the concept of tonality and will be able to distinguish between major and minor chords. They have worked on paired / solo performances of the Sea Shanty 'The Drunken Sailor' using the root position triads of D minor and C major. In the second half of the term, pupils will be given the opportunity to compose their own incidental film music as well as learning about some of the techniques exemplified in the music of blockbuster composers such as John Williams and Jerry Herman.

Drama

During the autumn term, we will be looking at the theme of Night and Day. This topic will run through the whole of Year 8, leading to an exploration of aspects of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Initially, they will look at associations between Night and Day, consider Dreams and Nightmares, and think about performance ideas such as shadows and reality. They will look at a script from Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, think about the language in his poem The Jabberwocky. Links will be made between the learning in the other iCreate subjects with reference made to artworks and music as stimulus for drama. All of the material is posted in the student's Google Classroom allowing access in and out of school. During Year 8 we aim to improve the students' confidence and performance skills.

Art

Pupils started the autumn term with a printmaking project centred on the work of the African artist, John Muafangejo. After exploring similar themes to the artist, pupils will develop their skills in drawing from observation using proportion. They will also make relevant connections to numeracy and try to understand how artists use number to calculate size. After developing their studies into compositions, pupils will then transfer, cut and print their own lino print using the same techniques as Muafangejo.





Helping at Home

- Follow us on Facebook: @Lewis Girls' School
- Follow us on Twitter : @lewisgirlssch or via the school website <https://www.lgs.wales/>
- Maths: multiplication strategies using the magic stick. This can be supported using the video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DhOVugVqsymHPUucKOOohi24O5KutM9o/view?ts=5a9d2677>
- Possible rehearsal of performances and encouraging the completion of lesson logs.
- Parents and carers can support their child by discussing the relative benefits of receiving the HPV vaccination, the role played by trusted adults in building resilience and setting positive routines that promote good physical and mental health and well-being, and talking through pupil well-being action plans to help support the making of good choices. Parents have an important role to play in supporting and developing the skills and attitudes required for independent learning, both online and offline.

