



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Rejoice in being the best that we can be.

Dear Parents / Carers

September 2025

Overview of the Year 8 Curriculum

Head, Heart & Hand

The knowledge and skills we want our students to learn and develop at Malbank School is our core purpose. We continuously review our curriculum provision in Key Stage 3 to ensure that our students have the very best opportunity to make progress and be the best that they can be. Identifying what they need to learn and the order in which they learn knowledge and develop skills is key to this.

At Malbank, we believe that there should be clarity and consistency so that staff and students are clear on what knowledge and skills should be taught and learned in each curriculum area, academic year, topic and in each lesson.

To support with this, we have adopted a Head, Heart & Hand curriculum model which takes into account all aspects of the National Curriculum.

Head represents the key knowledge to be learned.

Heart represents the key personal skills that will be developed and also help students to understand the world around them.

Hand represents the key skills that will be developed as a result of the knowledge learned.

I have included a topic overview at the end of this letter so that you can see what topics your child will be covering this term in each curriculum area, so when if like my children they tell you that they did nothing in school that day you will be able to ask about specific topics.

More information about the Year 8 and whole school curriculum can be found on our website - [Malbank School & Sixth Form College - Curriculum](https://www.malbank.com) or www.malbank.com and follow the links for curriculum.

I have also added a copy of our reading newsletter to the bottom of the letter.

Please remember, that these are overviews and sometimes topics may take a little longer or not as long to get to grips with, to secure the knowledge and skills needed to move on.

I hope that this information is useful. If you have any concerns over how your child is progressing please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's Progress Manager or the Key Stage 3 team.

Yours Sincerely,
Janine Edwards – Deputy Headteacher

 **Headteacher: John D. Harrison B.A. (Hons.)**
 **Welsh Row, Nantwich, Cheshire East, CW5 5HD**
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 **[malbank.com](https://www.malbank.com)**



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Year 8

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Art	An introduction to portraiture	The work of Andy Gotts
Dance	Unit 1 – Greased Lightning: Stylistic Qualities, Creativity and Problem-Solving, Confidence through Performance, Evaluation.	
Drama	Detention centre - practical	Urban myths and legends
English	Justice and Freedom – this will be explored using different texts such as the bone sparrow and ghost boys.	
Geography	Population and migration - Kenya	Ecosystems
History	History through the microscope and telescope	Was Elizabethan England really a 'Golden Age'?
ICT	Unit 1 – Graphic skills	Unit 2- Binary
Maths	Ratio and proportion Transformations Area and volume Number	
French	Holidays	Celebrations and festivals
German	Holidays	Media
Music	Musical beginnings – Find your voice	Musical beginnings – ode to joy
PE	Pupils will cover 2 sports from the lists below this term Indoor: Badminton, Trampoline, Fitness Suite, Rugby Outdoor: Hockey, Football, Netball	Pupils will cover 2 sports from the lists below this term Indoor: Badminton, Trampoline, Fitness Suite, Rugby Outdoor: Hockey, Football, Netball
Reading to Learn	Using a range of texts to gain a wider knowledge of the world and how literature plays its part. Students will also gain an appreciation for reading and practice a range of comprehension skills	Using a range of texts to gain a wider knowledge of the world and how literature plays its part. Students will also gain an appreciation for reading and practice a range of comprehension skills
RS	Judaism	Buddhism
Science	Nutrition and Digestion, Gas exchanges systems and Reproduction	
Spanish	Holidays	Free time
Technology	Food - Health and Safety, Healthy eating, knife skills, buying measuring and preparing ingredients – making sausage rolls, Chicken nuggets and Bolognese D&T – Making a clock and looking at Timbers, past and present designers, structures and forces.	

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READING NEWSLETTER

Key Stage 4 Formtime Reading

In years 9 and 10, students will spend one morning a week reading either a short extract of fiction or a newspaper article. These are designed so that students can finely tune their reading for information skills that will be crucial in their GCSE exams as well as in their adult lives.

Key Stage 3 Formtime reading

In years 7 and 8, students will spend one morning a week reading a short fiction book linked to an area of the Education for Life curriculum. Students might be reading about characters who are suffering from bullying, dealing with climate change or the challenges that technology brings. These stories have been chosen to allow the students to explore the issues through a different lense and broaden their horizons, as well as developing a lifelong love of reading

Reliable news source

The Day publishes several articles every day, covering the main stories from around the world. These are designed for high school students and are a great way for pupils to keep up to date with events that are happening around the world whilst avoiding dangerous misinformation. The link is on the school website but can also be found below

www.theday.co.uk/?id=FBB6BBD8-90FA-4FCB-A2FC-044514FB9802

The School Library

Our school library is open every break and lunchtime. Students can borrow from a wide range of books (both fiction and non-fiction). They can also use the library as a quiet space where they can read, complete homework and revise



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