

Year 8 Super-curricular activities 2025-26



Name:

Tutor group:

Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door and can be lots of fun! You may choose to complete some of the optional activities in this booklet to extend your classroom learning (they're called 'super-curricular' activities). Be sure to bring your work in or take pictures of the activities you complete to show your teachers so that they can reward you with achievement points. If you complete 12 activities and cut out the record sheet at the back of this booklet to give into your college reception you will also get the open-mindedness badge to reward your curiosity.

Visual Arts and Performing Arts

During Year 8 you will learn and develop a wide range of skills in the fields of Art, Drama and Music. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



- Ask your Art teacher about extracurricular Art Clubs and competitions. Practise your blending skills at home by creating a smooth gradient from light to dark using colour pencils.
- Get involved with extra curricular dance opportunities such as Dance4 to experience live performance opportunities. See Miss Crossley for more details.
- Join a drama group from outside school. See Mr Wilson for more details.
- Begin to consider forming a band in your own friendship groups. See Mr Williams or Mr Evason for advice on how to proceed.

WATCH/LISTEN



- YouTube for clips on how to use clay, modroc and paper mache.
- Various styles of dance such as street dance, contemporary, ballet, and tap on music channels and YouTube.
- BBC film reviews on YouTube and follow age appropriate advice on what to watch.
- Instrument specific tutorials on how to play the tracks you want to learn to play on an instrument you have access to at home.

READ



- From www.tate.org.uk read the biography of Andy Warhol.
- Find out about the careers of Darcy Bussell and Shirley Ballas (avoid Wikipedia).
- Research and read poems written by soldiers serving in World War I.
- Explore music rags such as NME and read about events happening and new releases.

VISIT



- The Yorkshire Sculpture Park and have a go at drawing some of the artwork.
- LPAC and follow links to Dance Performances .
- 'Sheffield Theatres' or The Theatre Royal Nottingham .
- Use WHAT'S ON board in the Music Corridor and the promoted QR codes to find out about the various local music concert venues and other music events.

Design & Technology

During Year 8 in Design & Technology you will learn, develop and refine a wide range of practical and design skills. Furthermore, you will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the designed world. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.



DO

- Make your own paper kite, this link will help you
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHlyY_ugwCY&feature=youtu.be
- Follow this link from the Design Museum to make a range of different products - www.designmuseum.org/whats-on/families/create-and-make/create-and-make-at-home#
- Learn how to draw an architectural floor plan/drawing of a room of your house or plan view of your home and surround ground (garden).
- Make two new dishes to serve at home - sweet or savoury.
- Sample a new dish at home or restaurant, photo and review.
- Make a meal plan for the week.

WATCH/LISTEN



READ

- A design/make blog such as <https://makezine.com/>
- The brilliant online Design & Technology website <https://www.dezeen.com/>
- A food blog or recipe books of your own interest.
- A fashion designer blog.
- Robotics: Discover the Science of Technology of the Future with 25 projects by Kathy Ceceri



VISIT

- The National Space Centre in Leicester to experience STEM in action.
- Museum of Making in Derby.
- York's Chocolate Story in York.
- Papplewick Pumping Station in Nottinghamshire.

English

Throughout Year 8 you will study a range of literary texts, including *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare, alongside non-fiction texts. There are also opportunities to explore and practise many forms of writing forms.

DO



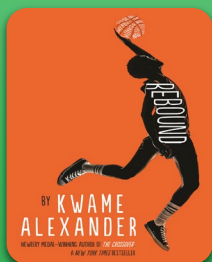
- Develop your writing skills and start a blog.
- Produce your own newspaper or magazine.
- Create your own TED talk.
- Create a short film about a journey.
- Create a collage which reflects the conflicts and contexts of your texts.
- Have your book review published by submitting it to the library.

WATCH/LISTEN



- A film adaptation of 'Of Mice and Men'.
- A live streaming or on demand performance from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.
- Youtube 'Where did English come from?'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y EaSxhcns7Y>
- Famous speeches at 'Figures of Speech' on YouTube.
- The Myth of Prometheus <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-myth-of-prometheus-iseult-gillespie>

READ



- Books that have won or been nominated for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals:
<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>
- Poems from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children>
- Newspaper articles or interviews.

VISIT



- Your local library or bookshop and ask for a recommendation!
- A 'Pay What You Can' performance at Nottingham Playhouse
- Nottingham Literary Festival or Newark Book Festival.
- Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.
- An outdoor performance of Shakespeare or Frankenstein:
<https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/whats-on/outdoor-film-and-theatre>
- Lakeside Arts or the Nottingham Contemporary.

Geography

During Year 8 in Geography you will learn about a range of topics including 'Be Cool' covering cold and glaciated environments; 'Blues and Twos' investigating patterns of local and international crime; 'Survival Academy' focusing on food and water resources; and 'Shake, rattle & roll' looking at plate tectonics and the impact of volcanic eruptions

You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



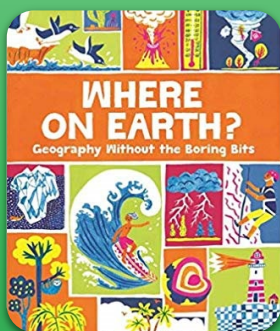
- Design a board game to teach someone about the Geography of Crime.
- Make an annotated model of a glaciated environment.
- Research crime statistics for your local area <https://www.police.uk/>
- Keep a diary of one day of eating sustainably e.g. Eating UK foods and drinking from a reusable water bottle.

WATCH/LISTEN



- An episode of the BBC's Frozen Planet documentary series.
- The News for one week to collate a range crime related stories.
- An episode of BBC Two's Inside the Factory to discover where our food comes from.
- Lonely Planet's Top 10 places to see before you die
<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/video/top-10-places-to-see-before-you-die/v/vid/1025>.

READ



- 'The Northern Lights' Trilogy by Philip Pullman.
- 'Where on Earth? Geography without the boring bits' by Jim Doyle.
- A Lonely Planet magazine to discover new places.
- A chapter of 'There is no Planet B' by Mike Berners-Lee.

VISIT



- A glaciated environment e.g. The Lake District; Snowdonia.
- A dam and reservoir e.g. Carsington Water; Lady Bower.
- A global location in person or virtually using Google Earth to study the physical and human characteristics of the place.
- A supermarket to identify where foods originate from.

Global Awareness

During Year 8 in Global Awareness you will learn about a range of topics including relationships, bullying, careers, money management, world issues, current affairs, and many other things. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

DO

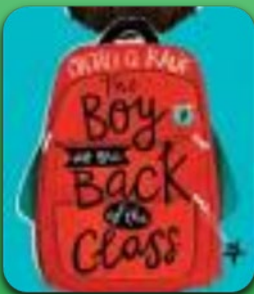
- Write a letter to a resident in a local care home telling them all about you and the things you enjoy to do.
- Research the Black Lives Matter movement.
- Think about an activity or hobby that interests you but you have never tried and give it a go.
- Offer to be form representative.

WATCH/LISTEN



- The evening news once a week.
- Watch Grayson's Art Club for an insight into different people's experiences of lockdown in 2020. Go to [channel4.com](https://www.channel4.com) and search for Grayson's Art Club
- Doctor Who Season 11 Episode 3 for a twist on Rosa Park's act of civil disobedience which changed USA forever. Find it on BBC iPlayer.
- 'Question Time' to find out about different peoples' views about current affairs.

READ



- Onjali Q Raúf's 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' about a refugee boy who starts school in the UK.
- David Barclay Moore's 'The Stars Beneath Our Feet', a story about a young boy reeling from the death of his brother in a gang-related murder.
- Lisa Williamson's 'The Art of Being Normal' which tells the story of David Piper's journey through life as a transgender teen.

VISIT



- An online art gallery or museum.
<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>
- (With an parent/carer) drop in on an elderly neighbour and take a gift - maybe something you have baked.
- A local place of beauty and take some time to enjoy it. You could do some sketching or simply enjoy the sights and sounds.

History

During Year 8 in History you will learn about a range of topics including Pocahontas and the New World, Slavery, Civil Rights in the USA, the British Empire, the Industrial Revolution, women's rights in the 20th century and World War. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



Don't forget to look at the super curricular display in the bridge for some extra meanwhile elsewhere activities!

- Create your own map showing the rise of the British Empire.
- Write a short story around the theme of slavery.
- Create a set of top trumps for several of the most significant women in History.
- Create a Suffragette banner and song to fight for women's rights
- Create a model of the Eiffel tower a monument made to celebrate the French revolution of 1789.

WATCH/LISTEN



- The film, 'Titanic' to learn about Industrial Britain and its society. This is a 12A so ask permission first.
- The film 'Suffragette' to learn about the struggle of women to get the vote. This is a 12A so ask permission first.
- The film 'The New World' to consider a different interpretation of the life of Pocahontas. It is a 12A so ask for permission first.
- The film '12 Years a Slave'. It is a 12A so ask for permission first.

READ



- Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse' to learn about WW1, a topic we look at in year 9.
- K.P. Koja's 'Tales from Africa' to learn about pre-empire Africa.
- Ntozake Shange's 'Freedom's a calling me' to learn about Slavery
- Any of the 'I Was There' collection of books, to learn about events such as the Norman conquest, the Titanic, etc.
- Any of the Horrible Histories book/magazines.

VISIT



- The Galleries of Justice in Nottingham.
- The Black Country Museum in Dudley.
- The British Museum London.
- The International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.
- Eden Camp in Malton, Yorkshire.

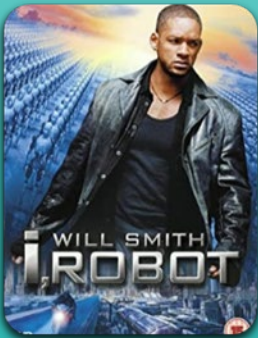
ICT & Computing

During Year 8 in ICT & Computing you will learn how to use a number of commercial software packages (e.g. Microsoft Inkscape, Canva, Game Maker and Wick Editor) to design and create, analyse data, and present ideas. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.



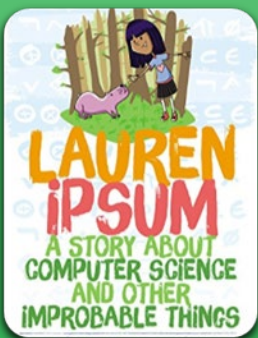
DO

- Try some hour of code activities, these a huge range to pick from on lots of different programming languages
<https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn>
- Build your own website using wix.com, make it about something that interests you.



WATCH/LISTEN

- The film 'iRobot', it is a 12A so ask for permission first. This film takes place in 2035 and is about a super computer turned evil and a technophobic cop trying to save humanity from AI.
- The film 'Moneyball', it is a 12A so ask for permission first. This film is about how computer data was used to create a champion baseball team made up of undervalued players under a minimal budget.



READ

- Carlos Buenos's 'Lauren Ipsum', it is a whimsical journey through a land where logic and computer science come to life.
- Richard L. Brandt's 'One Click'. This is an autobiography of the groundbreaking innovator Jeff Bezos, CEO and founder of Amazon



VISIT

- The National Science and Media Museum in Bradford.
- The National Museum of Computing in Bletchley Park. This is the former home to the code breaking team that helped Britain during World War II. If you can't visit, have a look at the NMoC website.
www.tnmoc.org

Mathematics

During Year 8 in Mathematics you will learn about a range of topics and how to apply these to problem solving. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



- Play a game of scrabble, combining your literacy and thinking strategy skills to maximise your word score.
- Improve your maths skills by playing on the online maths games on <https://nrich.maths.org/9108>

WATCH/LISTEN



- The '*Da Vinci Code*': A heart racing quest to solve a bizarre murder mystery, behing the veil of an ancient mystery society. It is a 12A so ask for permission first.
- '*A Beautiful Mind*': Brilliant mathematician, John Nash, on the brink of national acclaim when he become entangled in a mysterious conspiracy.

READ



- Lewis Carroll's '*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*' and '*Through the Looking Glass*'. Lewis Carroll worked as a mathematician and maths lecturer throughout his life. However, he's best known for his *Alice* works, which contain many references to mathematical concepts and logic, albeit often much obscured by absurdity.

VISIT



Woolsthorpe Manor (National Trust) in Grantham. The birthplace of Isaac Newton. Inside there are original panelled doors and 17th-century fireplaces and a variety of hieroglyphics - purported to be made by Newton himself.

The **Bank of England Museum**, located within the Bank of England in the City of London, is home to diverse artifacts detailing the history of the Bank from its foundation in 1694.

Philosophy and Ethics

During Year 8 in Philosophy and Ethics you will learn about a range of topics including discrimination and prejudice, spirituality in the media and religion in the news. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO

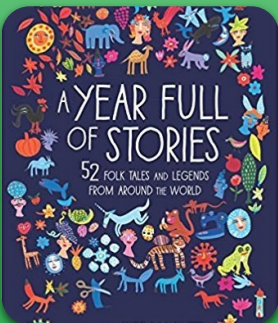


- Ask 10 people about their opinions about what happens when we die. See if you can spot reasons people have for their opinions.
- Research the laws in 3 different countries about homosexuality.
- Choose on the the philosophical question you discuss in your P4C lessons and carry on the discussion around the dinner table.



WATCH/LISTEN

- 'Beyond Belief' on BBC Sounds, to listen to different discussions on ethical issues/topics.
- The musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and consider whether or not Christians would be pleased with the depiction of Jesus.



READ

- A newspaper, and look at whether journalists mention religion as a good thing or a bad thing.
- 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio to consider the different forms of love shown through the book
- 'A year full of stories' by Angela McAllister to understand different viewpoints and cultures



VISIT

- A Mosque to see how Islam works in practice.
- Talk to somebody of a different religion and compare the things they do on a daily basis to the things that you do.
- A country with a different religion or culture and make a note of the differences you spot.

Physical Education

During Key Stage 3 in Physical Education you will learn about a range of topics including; how to overcome an opponent, problem solving, developing and repeating techniques and analysing performances. These will be achieved through sports and activities, including; association football, badminton, handball, gymnastics, trampolining and athletics to name a few. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



- Participate in an Inter College sports event.
- Attend an extra-curricular sports club at Tuxford Academy.
- Represent the Academy and your club in competitive sporting fixture.
- Take part in a recreational activity e.g. cycling, swimming, walking, running.
- Record a physical activity session each week using apps such as Strave or Apple Watch

WATCH/LISTEN



- An annual sporting event e.g. Grand National, FA Cup final, Wimbledon.
- Watch Sports Personality of the Year.
- Watch a sports documentary, e.g. The Last Dance, Future of Womens Football
- Watch a youtube clip about a sport which is being studied in a unit of work in P.E.
- Watch a programme/documentary around health and well-being.

READ



- An autobiography about a sporting icon.
- A sports magazine e.g. cycling/golf/fishing.
- An article from a newspaper focussed on sport.
- The rules associated with sports studied in Physical Education.
- A media platform e.g. BBC Sport

VISIT



- A local leisure centre., e.g. Retford, Ollerton, Newark
- Clumber Park, Sherwood Pines to take part in a 5km park run.
- Any facility associated with sport in the UK e.g. a climbing centre, skiing centre, Sherwood Pines (Red run)
- An international sporting venue e.g. Olympic Stadium, Nou Camp, Wimbledon.

Science

During Year 8 in Science you will learn about a range of topics including evolution, respiration, tissues and organs, elements and compounds, reactions and products, electrical energy, light and magnetism. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



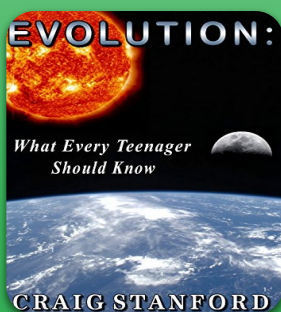
- Attend Science club.
- Visit www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments and do some of the experiments at home.
- Interview someone you know who has studied science, and find out about their career path.
- Go on a walk and see how many different species of animals and plants you can see.

WATCH/LISTEN



- The film 'The Martian', it is a 12A so ask for permission first.
- The film 'The Day After Tomorrow', it is a 12A so ask for permission first.
- The film 'Planet of the Apes', it is a 12A so ask for permission first.
- Any of the David Attenborough documentary series.

READ



- Jared Diamond's book 'The 3rd Chimpanzee' a book about the evolution and future of the human animal.
- Julia Gray's book 'I, Ada' the story of Ava Lovelace
- Ben Goldacre's 'Bad Science', a book that exposes dodgy data, ideas and theories.
- Craig Stanford's 'Evolution What Every Teenager Should Know'

VISIT



- A zoo, wildlife park or aquarium.
- Magna Science Centre in Templeborough.
- The Science Museum (Bradford, London, Manchester).
- Body Worlds in London.
- Kelvedon Hatch nuclear bunker
- James Clerk Maxwell's House

MFL

Throughout the Year 8 we introduce students to the exciting new world of Spanish, French or German speaking countries, exploring their customs and festivals. You learn how to sound like a native and by the end of the year you will be able to describe yourself with a rap, introduce yourself to a new friend and talk about sport! We promote the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. We practise these skills by studying topics on my world, school and free time. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



- An app that allows you to learn languages using games <https://www.duolingo.com>
- Start learning today with flashcards, games and learning tools www.quizlet.com or [Blooket](https://www.blooket.com), with a focus on **AVOCADO** words
- Create an artistic piece of work related to the language you study.
- Use Memrise - practise a language using video clips of native speakers and fun games.

WATCH/LISTEN



- You can watch any film or a series you already know in the language you study with subtitles. www.languagelearningwithnetflix.com/
- Watch the EXTRA series on YouTube.
- Watch a Disney song in the language you are studying.
- HelloTalk connects you to people who speak the language you want to learn.

READ



- Choose a book from this list to discover new literature from a new culture matadornetwork.com/read/8-foreign-language-books-every-english-speaker-needs-read/
- Read a foreign newspaper.
- Visit this website to practise reading skills www.atantot-extra.co.uk/index.php
- Use spreeder.com to type in a foreign text and outwit the reader - so much fun against the clock!!!

VISIT



- Visit music/dance festivals in Leeds to discover other cultures and traditions. (This is linked to activities suggested by CEA.)
- Visit a Christmas market either in the UK or abroad and look for foreign cuisine and influences.
- Visit Paris - actually or virtually!
- Visit historical sites when on holiday to know more about the culture.

Super curricular activities record

As you complete the activities fill in this record. Once you complete **12 activities** you will receive 10 achievement points. You will also be awarded you **open-mindedness badge** (if you haven't already earned it) to reward you for your curiosity.

Your name:

Activity 1

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 2

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 3

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 4

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 5

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 6

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 7

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 8

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 9

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 10

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 11

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 12

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:



Once you have completed 12 activities and filled in this record sheet, cut it out and **give it into your college reception**. You will then receive the open-mindedness badge and 10 achievement points by the end of the half term.