

Year 8 Curriculum evening 2016

Key Stage 3 will ensure that your child follows a broad and balanced programme combining the Core subjects with the Arts, Humanities, Languages, Design Technology and Physical Education. Students develop a range of skills and competences and a substantial body of knowledge covering a wide and interesting subject range. We want them to explore and to experience a variety of subject areas to provide a strong foundation for the future.

Students will receive the following subjects.

<i>4 lessons per week</i>	<i>3 lessons per week</i>
English and mathematics	Science, MFL and Physical Education
<i>2 lessons per week</i>	<i>1 lesson per week</i>
Geography	Literacy
History	Art
Design & Technology	Dance
	Drama
	Music
	ICT
	Philosophy and Ethics
	PSCHEE (taught weekly, on a carousel throughout the year)

The curriculum offer will prepare Year 8 students in their journey towards the new GCSE and BTEC specifications which will be in place for all subjects when they begin Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11). All written examinations will place a far higher emphasis on literacy and in particular the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar. With this in mind we would encourage your child to read regularly for enjoyment and pleasure as well as for the specific purpose of education. Students will be better placed to achieve highly with a broader vocabulary and a deeper appreciation of various styles of writing.

In the Spring Term all students will identify subject preferences in terms of the GCSE and/or BTEC courses that they would like to specialise in for the three years of Key Stage 4. They will receive a broad range of opportunities to discuss which subject combinations best suit them as an individual, in association with a specific evening for parents / carers to speak with current students following the courses, as well as subject specialist staff. This evening is Preferences evening which is on Tuesday February 7th 2017. We strongly encourage you to attend.

Students will be informed of their pathway based on a number of considerations which include progress, attainment, engagement, aptitude for learning and potential for success. Factors considered will include

- End of Year 7 exam results
- Progress made whilst here at Park High School
- Aptitude for, and engagement in, learning
- Prior learning outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2

We would urge you to encourage your child to maintain good working habits and come fully equipped for lessons with the basic equipment needed (pen, pencil, ruler and rubber). It is also important that you provide suitable conditions for home learning. The contact book is an essential document which you should check and sign regularly. This will also be checked and signed on a regular basis by your child's tutor. It is designed for students to record details of

home learning and any other essential information. It also contains useful information on teaching and learning. If you have any concerns about homework or other matters please contact your child's tutor.

Progress is monitored during Year 8 by individual subject teachers and the Year Team. There will be 3 Review Days this year on 17 November 2016, 8 February 2017 and 13 July 2017, when your child will be able to discuss their progress with his/her tutor based on progress checks completed by all subject staff. You will be able to access further progress checks throughout the year (see Key Dates on the website for more details). Do feel free to contact your child's tutor if you require further information about his/her progress.

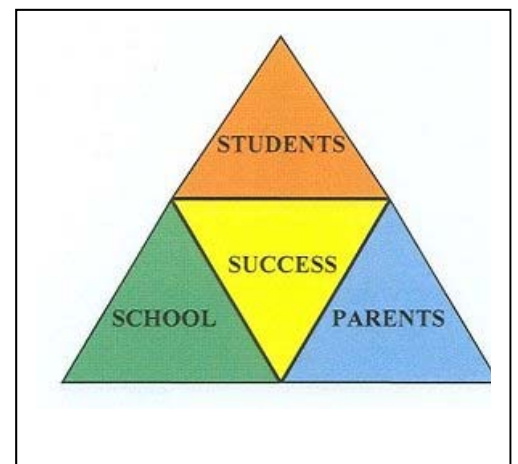
Year 8 End of Year assessments

Although assessment is an on- going process throughout the year we believe it is important that the students are well prepared for more formal examinations. We therefore have an assessment week in the summer term for Year 8. You will be advised well in advance of the assessment timetable and your child will be informed in lessons what topics s/he will need to revise. You will be notified of the outcomes of the assessments in the end of year report.

Attendance is a legal requirement. Should your child be sufficiently unwell please phone in to the school each morning and on their return write a note in their contact book.

Please take an active role in your child's journey through Park High.

- Ask questions about their day, what they learnt and what they found challenging.
- Check their contact book weekly.
- Encourage a positive work ethic.
- Provide an appropriate working space for home learning away from the television, smart phone and video games.
- Encourage them to join a club or try something new.
- Read with them and discuss current affairs.



Helpful websites for the Core subjects

English

BBC bitesize

Read and blog in the Library room on Fronter

Mathematics

mymaths

Username: park high

Password: triangle

Science

A digital version of the textbook used [Activate 1] can be accessed via www.Kerboodle.com

The curriculum booklet is available on the school website www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk

The preferences booklet will be available on the website, in the final week of the Autumn term.

If you do not have access to the internet, please leave your name, your child's name and their tutor group in the foyer and we will ensure you receive a hard copy.