

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 8 Summer term letter**

I hope that your daughter was able to enjoy a half term week off after the KS3 assessment week. As the ease in lockdown restrictions enable us to take more time outdoors, I hope that there were some opportunities to spend some time in the outdoors. It was certainly nice to have the sunshine.

As we approach a new term, I wanted to give you an overview of some of the topics that topics that will be studied in the summer term.

In English, there will be a poetry unit where pupils will use poetry to explore different places and the natural world. For spoken Language, there is a mini unit to develop pupils' oracy through poetry recitals. Pupils will also be taking part in a national writing competition 'Generation Lockdown' where they have to write stories about their experience of lockdown. Teachers will select the most creative ones in each class, which will then be entered into the national competition.

In maths, students will be learning about ratio and proportion, algebra and solving equations, powers and standard form, 3D shapes and Pythagoras.

In science, there will be a topic on Earth's resources (the atmosphere, reduction reactions and metal extraction). Another topic will focus on magnetism, with an investigation into electromagnets, and uses of electromagnets.

The enquiry in history will be looking at political change and Suffrage movements in the UK (Chartists and Suffragettes). Students may also look at the Industrial Revolution. The students should reflect on the journey their learning has taken throughout Year 8, to question how did we begin with a monarchy under the Tudors and end with democracy?

Year 8 geographers will be studying rainforests until the end of the year. This includes the location of the world's major biomes and the reasons for these locations. The characteristics of the equatorial climate and region. A study of the tribes in the rainforest. The impact and causes of deforestation and what can be done about this.

In computing, there will be a gaming addiction task. There will also be a topic on online safety, activities will involve using the following website ([idea.org.uk](http://idea.org.uk) – develop digital skills online).

In POR, Year 8 will be looking at an introduction to philosophy. Students will be investigating the work of different philosophers and schools of philosophy.

In technology, food lessons will have an opportunity to identify different cuisines, and *the product in a tin* project for the textiles.

The art department are carrying on with the theme of *pattern* for the rest of the year.

As a part of the Holt's ongoing commitment to global education, we will continue with the global morning planned that will take place later this term. There will be more information in due course. The biggest global topic in the news without a doubt is the current Covid-19 crisis, and the activities will focus on the positive outcomes of the pandemic e.g. communities working together, but will also allow students the opportunity to think critically about the statistics shared by the media.

As you can see, there is an exciting half term ahead. Please do share the above topic outline with your daughter so they can look forward to their learning in the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

*Ms A. Herron*

Ms Herron  
Head of Year 8  
[Year8Team@holt.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Year8Team@holt.wokingham.sch.uk)