



Term 1 2024 **Year 8 Learning Overview**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We look forward to working with you and your child, to make 2024 memorable. You can contact your child's Homeroom Teacher with any queries or concerns.

Year 8 Teaching Team Contact details:

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Upcoming events and useful things to note about Year 8:

The Week Ahead

This will be emailed to Parents and Caregivers every Friday from the School Administrator. It is important that you are receiving this and that you read it carefully, as it has useful information about what is coming up in the week ahead.

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will take place in Week 3 on the 5th, 7th and 8th of February (with the 6th being Waitangi Day). Boarder's conferences are on Friday, 9 February. Please book online as soon as possible to get your preferred slot. The link has been emailed to you from the School Administrator. Learning conferences are a great opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher, and for the teacher to learn more about your child. A short questionnaire will be sent home with your child in Week 2. Please bring this to your conference.

Specialist classes

Your child will be made aware of their timetable and may need your help initially to get them into a routine. They need to have their P.E. gear and library books at school on certain days. For Science lessons, covered shoes need to be worn in the Lab. It is important for our students to work towards being organised and self-managing.

Uniform and Behaviour (On and Offline)

Please refer to the [handbook](#) for correct uniform details. We have discussed the expectations and [Code of Conduct](#) with our Year 8 students. In our Home Rooms we will be working together to create an Online Safety Agreement, agreeing on specific boundaries that will help maximise in-class learning time. Students have been informed that if they do bring a phone to school it must stay in their bag from when they first arrive at school until the last bell of the day.

School hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. All children must wear their hats during break times. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school each day this Term or leaves it hanging on their hook at school. Please make sure all items of school uniform are clearly named. This is very important.

Sport

Trials and practices start in week 2. Year 7 & 8 sports trials are scheduled for Tuesday 30th January, Wednesday 31st January and Thursday Feb 1st. Once the sports programme is underway sports gear will be required at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, in addition to the days your child has PE. If the weather is inclement, coaches will supervise teams in their classrooms until normal collection times.

Sport practice days and times

Tuesdays 2.30—3.20pm

Thursdays 3.30—4.20pm

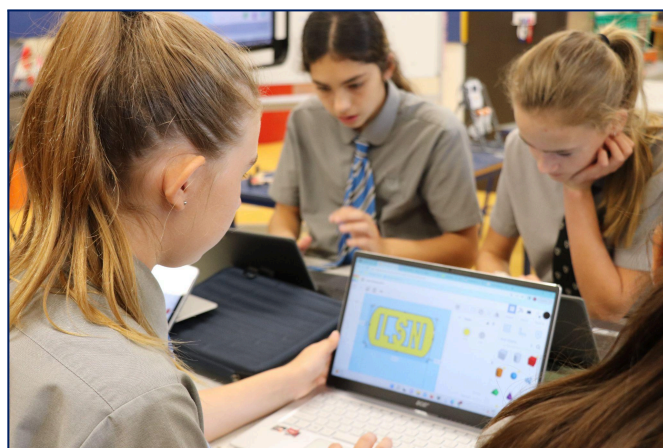
NB: there is no after-school sports training in Week 3 (Thursday 8th February) due to Learning Conferences.

Communication with your child

If you are needing to communicate with your child during the school day, we ask you to call or email the office and the message will be forwarded to the Homeroom teachers.

Students do not have access to their phones during the day.

We also remind you that students need to sign out at the office if they are leaving the school grounds during school time. They are required to be wearing full school uniform.



Homework

The homework guidelines for Year 8 are as follows:

Homework as a general guide, should be able to be completed within 45 minutes. We would like all students to read daily for at least 20 mins, complete class related tasks and any specialist/ Maths Buddy tasks set. If, for any reason your child can not / has not completed the tasks assigned, they need to communicate with their teacher. Students will be issued with a homework diary and this is a great way to communicate with the homeroom teacher should you need to. The diary includes a space for personal reflection around the [School's Weekly Themes](#).

Stationery

Each student has been issued with a stationery pack to start the year. As teachers, we have also found that it is helpful if students bring in a small and inexpensive pair of headphones to keep in the classroom to assist with audiobooks and text to voice apps on the computers. All stationery needs to be named.

Brain Food

Provision is made for students to have a "brain food break" at around 10am daily. Please have them include a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables in their lunchbox, if they wish to partake. Boarders are able to take extra fruit from the boarding house before school for this reason. A reminder to avoid all nuts and nut products in any foods coming to school.

School Hours

Children will be supervised in the classroom from 8.00am onwards and the school day finishes at 3.20pm. Any children that are not collected by 3.30pm will be supervised at After School Care in the Library.

Camp 2024

Firstly, thank you once again for all the kind offers of help. We will have a small team of parents joining us on camp. To those parent helpers, please mark Friday February 9th, 5.30pm on your calendars, as there will be a Camp Parent Helper Meeting that afternoon. It will be in 8KMA, above the library.

All other parents, please read the information in [this link](#) carefully, as it covers everything you need to know regarding Year 8 Camp preparations. It also explains what to do should you have any questions.



Learning in Year 8

Our Inquiry Topic for Terms 1 and 2 is Making Sense of Our World

Our theme/focus will be on 'Building Aotearoa's Tomorrow.'

Over the course of Term 1, Year 8 classes will be involved in building an understanding of what civilisations need in order to exist harmoniously, what challenges they may face and the impact different things have on them. All students will then work



towards completing critical thinking challenges before creating their own civilisation. What an exciting prospect!

Reading – Year 8 Teachers

The initial stages of the Reading programme will involve the teachers getting to know the students in their class as readers and becoming familiar with their reading habits, behaviours and ability. We will have a focus in Term One of making connections between and within texts and reading for meaning. We will work towards students using evidence from the text to support written responses about chosen texts. All classes will have a novel read to them and this will generate great discussion.

Writing – Year 8 Teachers

The writers in our classes will learn to develop their ideas using the Writing Process (brainstorming and planning, drafting, editing, revising, and at times publishing). They will be taught explicit 'Writing Tools' that they can select from to enhance their writing. Each teacher will work on helping students develop their independence in writing and they will be encouraged to set and reflect on personal writing goals.



Mathematics – Year 8 Teachers / Mr Rees-Gibbs

Term 1 will involve setting up routines and expectations. Our Mathematics classes are grouped according to learning needs within classes and across the Team. Our focus will be on:

Number The learning will relate to using strategies to solve whole and part number problems.

Algebra Investigating number patterns as well as finding and applying rules in number problems.

Library – Mrs Walch

Our wonderful librarians aim to respond to the needs of individual classes, with specific reference to encouraging a love of literature, inquiry skills, library skills and critical thinking. Each library session will include some time for children to choose their books and also a short teaching session. Term 1 will also introduce/recap key library skills.

Science- Mrs Bradding

Our students will begin the year by studying heat energy and the way it is converted from other types of energy and how it flows between objects. This knowledge will then be used to investigate insulation and the various methods of maintaining heat energy in living and nonliving things. This will be connected to learning about Year Eight camp and alpine safety.

Technology – Mr Williams

Students will begin the year researching and designing (using Tinkercad) a 2D laser cut tag that represents themselves. We will then move onto individual and collaborative fun Technology Challenges, where the students will follow the design process.

Healthy Choices - Mrs Savage

This term the Year 8 boys will be gaining life skills in our Healthy Choices classes. They will be cooking every second week and the boys are encouraged to send in photos if they choose to prepare food at home. On alternate weeks we will be looking at different breathing techniques,

dealing with tough days, and relationships with peers. These themes follow on from the Year 7 Healthy Choices programme.

Physical Education

Stand by me

Students will be challenged in a variety of teamwork tasks, focusing on teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, and cooperation while personally reflecting on "What part can I play in this?"

What in the world

Students will explore a variety of national and international cultural games, focusing on transferring their skill sets including tactical understanding into unknown games.

Christian Education - Chaplain

The Year 8 programme for Term 1 will centre around a series of lessons that will prepare the students for the festival of Easter. This will be achieved through interaction with Biblical story and activities which will aid student understanding of this event in the modern context.

Music – Mrs Albery

Students will experience the practical use of the musical element harmony. This will be achieved by learning to play chords on the guitar. During this unit of work students will learn the difference between practising, rehearsing and performance.

Drama - Mrs Walker

Students will work collaboratively to create a range of dramatic ideas and learn to represent their ideas theatrically using the conventions of Drama. They will learn about the principles of stage lighting and have opportunities to design and operate their own lighting plots. This term, all Year 8 students will have the opportunity to audition for the 2024 Southwell Opera "Mary Poppins".

Te Ao Maaori- Whaea Whetu

For the first half of the year, tamariki will explore various concepts of te ao Maaori (Maaori world view) and our place in the world through language activities, waiata and myths and legends. Year 8 students will learn about how some of our local towns and landmarks got their name and the importance of the Kingitanga to the people of the Waikato region.

Art – Mrs Wing

Year 8 students will be working towards creating an animal inspired mixed media artwork, which demonstrates a variety of techniques, processes and ideas that are used and valued in art. With a focused learning goal to develop their artistic skill base using a range of techniques, materials, tools and technologies.

This term ART EXTENSION is happening and is being offered to the Year 8's.

If your child would like to be part of art extension please ask them to come into the art room to sign up with Mrs Wing. Spaces are limited.

Art extension will be on a Wednesday afternoon 3:20 - 4:30 pm



Pottery – Mrs Wathen

Students will further explore and expand techniques in clay with pinch, slab and hand building. Students will create sealife reflecting the theme 'All God's Creatures'.

“NAU TE ROUROU, NAKU TE ROUROU, KA ORA TE MANUHIRI” “WITH YOUR FOOD BASKET AND MY FOOD BASKET, EVERYONE WILL THRIVE”.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year,

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The Year 8 Teachers

