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Year 8 Learning Overview for Term 3, 2025

SCHOOL



Year 8 Speech Winners 2025 1st Place - Maia Robinson (center), KMA, Why Our Generation is Doomed (or is it)? 2nd Place - Abir Mahajan (left), CH, The Power of Dreaming 3rd Place - Lillyana Andrews- Wright (right), MPE, The Life of Being Short

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 3 in Year 8. We hope that you and your family were able to spend some quality time together and recharge your energy levels, in readiness for our upcoming action-packed term.

Listed below are our weekly themes for this term. They allow us to focus on developing our character and our competencies. A message about the theme is shared in Chapel each Monday, then throughout the week, we discuss and reflect on these in our classrooms. On Friday, at the Whole School Assembly, we acknowledge students who are seen to be consistently showing these qualities. The themes for this coming Term are:

Week 1 Being a Team Player Week 2 Being Courteous Week 3 Being Encouraging Week 4 Being Optimistic Week 5 Being Purposeful

Week 6 Being Grateful Week 7 Being Tolerant Week 8 Being Reliable Week 9 Thinking Positively

School Calendar

Click HERE for the Term 3 School Calendar. Please note this is updated regularly.

The Week Ahead

'The Week Ahead' will pop into your inbox every Friday. Please read it carefully, as it contains important information about what is happening in the upcoming week.

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Homeroom Learning Conferences - Week 3, Term 3

The purpose of these Conferences is for your child to share their learning and goals with you. You may also wish to discuss your child's report at this time. Further details regarding booking a learning conference will be emailed to you prior.

Please note:

- There will be no after-school sports practices during Conference Week.
- We ask that students also attend their conference, held in their homeroom.
- Conferences are 10 minutes in duration. If you would like to spend some time with your child's teacher without your child present, please mention this to the teacher at the beginning of the interview.
- Friday bookings are for Boarding families only.

Maths and Specialist Learning Conferences - Week 6, Term 3

These conferences take place in the Great Hall. These meetings are brief, a 5 minute opportunity to touch base regarding your child's learning in the various subjects. If you feel you will need more than 5 minutes, please contact your child's teacher by email to arrange an alternative/additional time.

ICAS Competitions, Weeks 5-7, Term 3

Southwell students in Years 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in the 2025 ICAS Competitions. Information and registration details for ICAS were emailed out mid Term Two, but here is another link should you need it: <u>ICAS 2025</u>. For those of you who still want to register your child, please note that the closing date for registrations is Monday, 28 July.

House Chapel Service - Evensong

All Houses will attend Chapel on Sunday, July 20th, at the end of Week One. Note the following times for each House:

4:00 PM: Canterbury, Lincoln, and Durham

5:15 PM: Winchester, Salisbury, and York

Please mark this date on your calendars, as this service is a special chance to gather, share, and participate together. If the time scheduled for your child's House does not work, you are welcome to attend the alternative service time.

Opera

Term 3 is an exciting time for many of our students, as they are involved in the Opera. 'Shrek' will be performed in the final week of Term 3. This is a phenomenal opportunity, requiring great commitment and dedication. History tells us that students who eat well, sleep well and exercise well over the Opera season are the ones who thrive on and off stage. We also recommend to our Year 8s that they talk to their teachers about how to best balance their commitments, if they need support.



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Learning in Year 8

Social Sciences/ Inquiry- Homeroom Teachers Central PYP Theme: Where We Are in Place and Time.

Through this theme, students will learn that storytelling is a way of preserving and sharing culture, beliefs and heritage. By creating, preserving, and sharing stories from the past, present, and future of Southwell School, students will consider how these narratives can shape their sense of place and belonging. We will explore reasons for storytelling, the ways stories reflect and shape the viewpoints of others and how stories connect and link us to people, through place and time.

Writing - Homeroom Teachers

Throughout Term 3, our writing will integrate with our Inquiry Project. Students will learn about different text structures, then select their preferred ones to create content for a 'Project Page,' based on the theme of their choice. Our writing will be deeply rooted in **personal opinions and perspectives**, as these are vital to powerful storytelling—they shape how a story is told, understood, and experienced. All students will be guided through the 'Writing Process': firstly, to brainstorm and plan their ideas, before drafting their writing. After which, they will be encouraged, or supported, to proofread and edit for accuracy to ensure their writing has flow and meets the purpose.

Reading - Homeroom Teachers

We will use the idea of 'Storytelling' to delve into a range of genres: short stories, poetry, narratives, articles, fairy tales, fables and myths, to name a few. Students will be encouraged to predict, summarise, explain the meaning, retell and infer through discussion and written responses. Asking questions as they read will be encouraged, to deepen their understanding.

Reading daily should by now be a regular part of your child's homework routine. If that is not the case for your child, we ask that you encourage this by; ensuring they have reading material available, discussing with your child what they are reading, or perhaps make time to read together. Please do let the Homeroom teacher know if you feel your child needs support with this.



Mathematics - Year 8 Teachers and Mr Rees-Gibbs

The students will continue to build on their whole and part number strategies and skills. Everyday problem solving allows them to apply their number knowledge through estimating, calculating and checking solutions. There will be a focus on Geometry this coming Term, with some overlapping Measurement learning. Mathbuddy is the online platform you can expect your child to be working on for homework. This allows students to revise the learning that is happening in class. Helping them to establish and maintain homework routines is important.

Science - Miss Voss

Students will be exploring the Science of Light this term. They will investigate how light behaves with different materials, the properties of light such as reflection and refraction and build familiarity with appropriate terms. Linking to the transdisciplinary theme of Story Telling, students will aim to tell a fairy tale of their choice using a simple form of shadow puppetry.

Physical Education - Mr Norman and the Classroom teachers

Bigger Faster Stronger (Cross Country and Fitness) - This unit is designed to empower students to achieve personal growth, regardless of their individual fitness abilities, by working towards our school cross-country and general fitness goals using a range of different training methods.



Athletics - The aim of the unit is for students to participate in a variety of field and track events. Through video, peer and teacher feedback, students are able to implement this knowledge to improve their performance.

More Like an Athlete (Dance) - This unit aims to increase students' confidence and self-esteem through creative and expressive movements, utilising dance to tell a story. They will work cooperatively in groups.

Christian Education- Reverend Canon Neale Troon

The second semester of lessons, beginning this Term, centers around "The Big Questions of Life " units and an individual's / groups experiences of God's work in their lives. Lessons will continue to include "Daily Prayer" and further development of student involvement with the Christian Contemplation Curriculum.

Technology – Mr Williams

Students explore myths, legends, and cultural narratives from Aotearoa and the world, then reimagine a character from one of these stories as a hands-on robot. Using recycled materials and basic electronics, they will build a "storybot"—a fun, wobbly DC-motor-powered character that physically retells or symbolises part of a story. Each bot becomes a playful expression of identity, cultural memory, and engineering.

Healthy Choices - Miss McMaster

This term, the Year 8 girls will build on themes introduced in the Year 7 Healthy Choices programme. Students will have the opportunity to cook every second week, while in alternate weeks, our focus will be on enhancing well-being. These sessions will include examining food choices, managing challenging days, learning how to be more mindful in daily interactions, and building positive peer relationships. We will also make connections to the

central PYP theme of 'Where We Are in Place and Time' by considering how family recipes and traditions tell a story and help to preserve and share culture, beliefs and heritage.

Music – Mrs Albery

This term, year 8 students will dive into the world of film music to understand how sounds and melodies can powerfully tell a story. They'll then apply these storytelling techniques to their own compositions, using BandLab to bring their musical ideas to life.

Pottery- Mrs Wathen

Students will explore more advanced pottery techniques necessary to create artworks based on exploring our kiwiana heritage. Students will explore slab and coil to hand build their vintage tractor. Re-introduction to the wheel will take place early in the term.

Art – Mrs Wing

Year 8 students will be creating a mixed media artwork inspired by storytelling, New Zealand culture, and the everyday objects we connect with as Kiwiana. They'll explore a range of techniques, materials, and tools to build their skills and express personal ideas, while learning how different processes are used and valued in art.

Languages - Mrs Grant

축하해요! (Chukhahaeyo!) Celebrate! As reporters, students will explore the rich stories and traditions of Southwell's Korean families. Working alongside Year 6, they will use artefacts to create interviews and write narratives. These stories will collaborate into a family album that celebrates language, identity, and shared heritage, showing how languages connect us. Korean vocabulary and practise sentence structures will be learnt to express ideas about identity and culture. In Week 5, during Languages Week, students will share and celebrate the diverse cultures of Southwell.

Te Ao Maaori - Whaea Whetu

Aakonga will be exposed to various local stories with a Maaori theme, including historical newspaper articles, oral stories, and myths and legends in both te reo Maaori and English. We will also learn about the learner attributes in te reo and what each word means in a real word context.

Library – Mrs Walch

In the Library we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, encourage critical thinking and reinforce inquiry skills. Students will be supported in their personal reading journey and will be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice.

Reading For Pleasure is a key life skill and has three important components

- 1. Committing to choosing a good book;
- 2. Committing to regular reading;
- 3. Committing to persevering through 'boring' bits!



United As Southwell www.southwell.school.nz There will also be regular discussion and learning around misinformation and disinformation, inspired by the *A Bit Sus* programme devised by Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's Homeroom Teacher. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kerrie Martin (Year 8 Dean) Mark Pearson Rebecca Stark Donna Rudduck Candy Hart Pen Holah

Year 8 Teachers