



Year 8 Learning Overview for Term 3, 2026



Year 8 Speech Winners 2026

1st Place - Sienna Culpepper (left), SG, *The Most Dangerous Migration in History*

2nd Place - Beauden Crome (centre right), JMC, *The Dumb Farmer*

3rd = Place - Blake McIntyre (centre left), RST, *Dance is Life*

3rd = Place - Eddie Heap (right), SG, *Discovering Yourself*

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. We introduce the theme with a message in Monday's Chapel, and throughout the week, students are encouraged to reflect and engage with it. We further discuss the theme on Wednesday at Assembly with students sharing their thoughts, and we will often display examples of great role models.

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.

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. Mark Pearson will be absent during the conferences. 8MPE will conduct their student led conferences in a slightly different format later in the term.

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 4-6, Term 3

Southwell students in Years 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in the 2026 ICAS Competitions. Information and registration details for ICAS were emailed out mid Term Two and during the holidays. For those who register, ICAS competitions are scheduled to take place in Weeks 4-6, Term 3.

Opera

Term 3 is an exciting time for many of our students, as they are involved in the Opera. 'Annie' will be performed in the final weeks 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 that our Year 8's talk to their teachers about how to best balance their commitments, if they need support.



Learning in Year 8

Social Sciences/ Inquiry- Homeroom Teachers

Central PYP Theme: How We Organise Ourselves

Through this theme, students will be exploring Representation, Collaboration, and Decision

Making by looking at how different communities and organisations approach governance. There will be a deep dive into different political and economic systems, looking at how people are able to contribute in their communities and have a voice.

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 around their Inquiry. 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 continue to explore different types of reading materials to hone our comprehension skills. Students will particularly look to analyse different articles and examine and sort them through fact or fiction, and bias.

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 making time to read together. Please do let the Homeroom teacher know if you feel your child needs support with this.

Mathematics - Year 8 Teachers, Mr Rees-Gibbs, Mrs van Heuven

The students will continue to build on their whole and part number strategies and skills. Every day problem-solving allows them to apply their number knowledge through estimating, calculating, and checking solutions. There will be a focus on Measurement and Geometry this coming Term. 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 - Mrs Steffert

This term, Year 8 students will study elements, compounds, and mixtures. They will explore atomic structure, including how historical theories of the atom evolved into our modern model, and learn how the Periodic Table is arranged using chemical symbols. Students will also investigate various techniques for separating mixtures and examine how these processes apply to real-world situations and industry.



Physical Education - Mr Norman and the Classroom teachers

Empty the tank! (Cross Country)

This unit is designed to empower students to achieve personal growth, regardless of their individual fitness abilities, working towards our school's Cross Country.

The Engine Room (Fitness)

This unit encourages students to explore different training methods and discover what it means to “exercise well”. Through a range of engaging training experiences, students will be inspired to find ways of exercising that motivate them and develop intrinsic motivation to challenge themselves.



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.

Christian Education- Reverend Blythe Cody

This term we will be exploring how the church came to be — from the very first followers of Jesus in the book of Acts to the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand today. Together we'll discover how communities of faith organise themselves, and what our own Three Tikanga church can teach us about partnership and belonging.

Technology – Mr Williams

The students will use the engineering design process to solve fun challenges related to social organisation.

Healthy Choices - Mrs Bradding

This term, the Year 8 girls will build on the ways that we present our ideas and food, shaping our own and others' perception. Students will have the opportunity to cook every two weeks for two weeks, 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, expressing ourselves and our ideas clearly and effectively, and building positive peer relationships. We will also make connections to the central PYP theme of ‘How we express ourselves’ by considering how we can present ourselves, our recorded work and the dishes we cook to the best of our ability.

Music – Mrs Albery

In our music program, students are exploring the use of music technology to enhance their creativity and learning. They are learning to record and compose their musical ideas using digital tools and software. We aim for their final product to connect to the class work around social organisation.

Pottery- Mrs Wathen

Students will build on their ceramics skills by exploring more advanced hand-building techniques to create a pottery sculpture inspired by the imaginative characters and playful style of Dr. Seuss. Using slab and coil construction methods, they will develop skills in shaping, joining, and adding texture to clay while creating a unique ceramic artwork. Throughout the project, students will refine their craftsmanship and gain confidence in transforming ideas into three-dimensional forms.

Art – Mrs Wing

Year 8 students will create a mixed media artwork inspired by the imaginative storytelling and distinctive visual style of Dr. Seuss. Students will experiment with a range of materials, techniques, and processes to develop technical skills and communicate their own ideas through art. They will explore how visual elements can be used to tell stories, create imaginative worlds, and express meaning while developing an understanding of the value of different artistic processes and practices.

Languages - Mrs Grant

안녕하세요! Annyeong haseyo! Our focus language for Term 3 is Korean. Throughout the term, students will develop their skills in Hangul, the Korean writing system. Our learning will also connect with the Year 7 Inquiry, exploring how language and understanding different perspectives can help build bridges between people. In the meantime, we begin the term by celebrating Matariki, reflecting on the themes of remembrance, gratitude, and renewal, before celebrating Languages Week in

Te Ao Maaori - Whaea Whetu

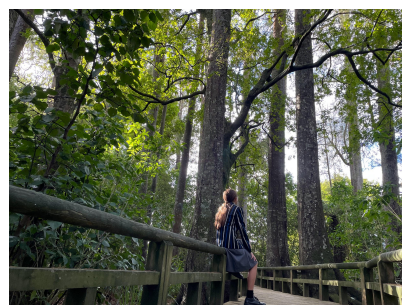
Aakonga will start the term with a focus on Matariki and how it is celebrated in te ao Maaori. We will focus on the structure of the Maaori language and learn how to ask and answer simple, everyday questions about the world around us.

Library – Mrs Walch

Our time in the library is split between supporting the students and the teachers, with developing media literacy skills; book talking new books, and giving students time to browse, issue, and read for pleasure.

We always aim to respond to the needs of individual classes, with specific reference to encouraging reading for pleasure, inquiry, media literacy skills, and library skills.

Near the start of Term 3, we will feature the 2026 New Zealand Book Award finalists.



Josh McCabe (Year 8 Dean)

Mark Pearson

Rebecca Stark

Sarah Gregory

Candy Hart

Pen Holah

Year 8 Teachers