

Curriculum Map 2026-2027 Year 8							
Year 8 (please note the order of topics may vary when classes have more than one teacher)							
Half term	Unit title with hyperlink to scheme of work	Unit summary	Skills & content covered	Skills & content revisited	Links to GCSE skills and content	Summary of formative marking, feedback and student response	Summative assessment schedule, including assessment criteria
Autumn 1	Electricity & Magnetism	Physics: current electricity, static electricity, magnetism and the concept of field in which forces act between opposite charges or poles.	CONTENT: Current electricity as the flow of charged particles (current in circuits (series and parallel), potential difference and resistance in circuits (including insulators and conductors)). Static electricity as the separation of charged particles (including the idea of electrical fields and the non-contact forces acting within them). Magnetism (poles, attraction & repulsion and the magnetic fields between them where non-contact forces acting within them, the earth's magnetism, compasses and navigation, electromagnetism). SKILLS: Deriving equations and calculations. Investigation - making electromagnets.	KS2: Electricity & Circuits; KS2: magnets & forces; Year 7: working scientifically	P2 - Electricity; P7 Magnetism & Electromagnetism	working scientifically write up	end of topic test
	Motion & Pressure	Physics: Forces & motion (how to describe motion, pressure, moments and machines). Biology: The skeletal & muscular system (as example of levers and pivots)	CONTENT: Describing motion (speed, distance and time, graphs, relative motion). Pressure in fluids (air pressure, atmospheric pressure, pressure in liquids). Pressure in solids (calculate using a formula). Moments (simple machines which require smaller force to move objects; levers and pivots). The skeletal and muscular systems (the structure and functions of the human skeleton, biomechanics of the muscular and skeletal systems, the function of muscles, including antagonistic muscles). SKILLS: deriving equations and calculations. Working scientifically investigation (TBC)	KS2: Forces; Year 7: Forces, working scientifically	P5 - Forces	working scientifically write up	end of topic test
Autumn 2	Chemical Reactions	Chemistry: Reactions of atoms and molecules to make new substances	CONTENT: chemical reactions as the rearrangement of atoms. Representing chemical reactions using formulae and equations. Combustion, thermal decomposition, oxidation and displacement reactions. SKILLS: Investigation - energy in fuels focussing on drawing conclusions from a bar chart.	KS2: properties and changes in materials; Year 7: working scientifically; Year 8: periodic table.	C2 - Bonding, structure and properties of matter; C4 - chemical changes	working scientifically "energy in fuels" write up.	end of topic test
Spring 1	Climate Change	Chemistry: A literacy based topic on the causes, effects and solutions for climate change	CONTENT: The carbon cycle. The composition of the atmosphere. The production of carbon dioxide by human activity and the impact on climate. SKILLS: reading and assimilating scientific information and scientific writing skills.	Year 7: Energy & Solar System. Year 8: Chemical reactions	C9 - Chemistry of the atmosphere; B7 - ecology	marking in booklet	end of topic essay assessment
Spring 2	Waves	Physics: How energy can be transferred for one place to another with no movement of particles	CONTENT: Students explore how waves transfer energy, learn to describe and measure their properties, and apply these ideas to sound, light and electromagnetic waves. SKILLS: Students conduct investigations into light waves and sound waves.	KS2: light and sound	P6 - Waves	marking throughout topic	end of topic test
Summer 1	Inheritance	Biology: Genetics and Evolution (how genetic information is inherited and leads to variation, which in turn leads to evolution)	CONTENT: inheritance as the process by which genetic information is transmitted from one generation to the next. The structure of the genetic material and its discovery by scientists. The role of variation in the process of evolution by natural selection. The importance of maintaining biodiversity. SKILLS: Research skills in the 'preserving endangered species' project	KS2: inheritance; Year 7: Cells	B7 - Ecology	Project	end of topic test
	Acids & Alkalis	Chemistry: Acids and Alkalis - their properties and reactions	CONTENT: Properties of acids and alkalis and every day examples. Chemical properties of metal oxides and non-metal oxides which make them acidic or alkaline. Neutralisation reactions. The pH scale and indicators. Reactions of acids and metals (producing a salt and hydrogen) and acids and alkalis (producing a salt and water). SKILLS: Investigation - indigestion tablets	Year 8: Chemical reactions, working scientifically	P4 - Chemical Changes	Working scientifically write up	end of topic test
Summer 2	Plants and Ecosystems	Biology: Ecosystems, photosynthesis and evolution	CONTENT: The processes of aerobic and anaerobic respiration and photosynthesis. Structure of plants including the adaptations of leaves to photosynthesis. Reproduction in plants including fertilisation, pollination and seed dispersal. Relationships in an ecosystem, interdependence and food webs. How organisms are affected by their environment; plastic pollution. SKILLS: Investigation - field work; sampling techniques. and working scientifically - 'paper helicopters' focussing on	KS2; Living things and their habitats, KS2 Evolution and Inheritance: Year 7, cells, Year 8 Human Reproduction	B6 - Inheritance, variation and evolution; B7 - Ecology	working scientifically write up	end of topic test