

FORM 8 CURRICULUM

Michaelmas 2025



ST PHILIP'S SCHOOL

SUBJECT	TOPICS	RESOURCES /TEXTS
English	Over the course of this term, boys will hone key reading and writing skills through the study of our class text: <i>The Great Gatsby</i>. In addition to the skills below, boys will develop their understanding of the modern tragedy genre, supported by their growing understanding of the contextual background: 1920s America. Reading skills • developing inference skills • identifying and explaining key quotations • identifying themes and symbols in a text • describing connotations and the effect of language • identifying tone and atmosphere • understanding characterisation in a text • identifying and explaining language techniques Writing skills • writing for a practical purpose • planning effectively • using language to suit the purpose and audience • writing to describe and entertain • drafting and editing writing A range of writing types will be covered, including: • Creative	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F.Scott Fitzgerald Accelerated reader Unseen poetry

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	• Descriptive • Essay • Monologue • Diary entry • Non-fiction and persuasive • Context factfile • Interview script Contact: c.curness-blane@stpschool.co.uk	
Mathematics	Mathematics lessons will generally involve some revision of topics covered over the last few years, and practice of Common Entrance papers and scholarship questions. Level 3 (Additional paper) • Introduction to Pythagoras' theorem • Re-arranging formulae - Level 3 practice • Drawing straight line graphs using gradient and intercept • Re-arranging equations where necessary • Solving simultaneous equations. Using elimination method • Solving simultaneous equations using substitution method • More advanced equations containing more than one fraction • Solving equations by the trial and improvement method • Standard index form.	Resources: www.MyMaths.co.uk St. Philip's Maths booklets Past Common Entrance papers Maths Genie GCSE worksheets

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	Level 2 • Equations. • Simplifying algebraic expressions • Substitution. Factorising. Forming equations • Transformations. Reflecting, rotating, translating and enlarging • Sequences. nth term. Sequences such as $T_n = 3n - 1$ • Straight line graphs • Circles: areas and circumference of circles concentrating on problem solving • Areas and volumes: areas of rectangular and triangular shapes, volumes of cuboids and prisms. • Angle calculations: polygons - regular and irregular - including quadrilaterals • Conversion line: using a line to convert from one unit to another Contact: m.walters@stpschool.co.uk	
Science	Variation, classification and inheritance • The 5 kingdoms. • Arthropod groups. • Vertebrate groups. • Continuous and discontinuous variables.	This year, will be using the following text book - Science They can log in to their eBook

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	Forces and Motion • Calculating speed. • Relative speed of moving objects. • The unit of force. • Weight = mass x gravitational field strength (g) • Where do forces come from? • The effects of forces. • The effects of friction and air resistance. • Balanced and unbalanced forces. • Force diagrams. Pressure • the quantitative relationship between force, area and pressure • the unit of pressure is N/cm² or N/m² • how to use the relationship for simple quantitative work • recognise applications of pressure, e.g. skis, snowboards, sharp objects Density • the relationship between density, mass and volume and how to use this for simple quantitative work • the unit of density is kg/m³ or g/cm³	here using the school email and password. Curriculum Topic booklet: Variation, classification and inheritance Topic booklet: Forces and Motion Topic Booklet: More Forces Century Tech
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	• how to measure the density of regularly-shaped solids and of irregularly-shaped solids (using the displacement of water to find a volume), and of liquids • air has mass and that it is possible to measure its density Contact: r.manning@stpschool.co.uk	
French	• Re-cap of Form 7 topics Topics: • Self and Others • Free time Revision of verbs' tenses Contact: m.tomlin@stpschool.co.uk	Exercise books Topic booklets
History	General history skills <i>Essay</i> • Organization of arguments • The importance of balance • Also: plans, introductions, conclusions <i>Evidence</i> • Source provenance and comparison • Use of sources to support opinions. • The importance of balance	<i>History for Common Entrance 13+</i> (Galore Park, 2021) Collier, M. & Rees, R. ISEB Revision Guide St Philip's info-sheets and presentations

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	The Tudors • Origins of the Tudor dynasty in the War of the Roses, and Richard III's defeat. • Henry VIII ○ Cardinal Wolsey ○ Henry's Great Matter ○ Reformation Parliament ○ Dissolution of the monasteries ○ Pilgrimage of Grace • Mary I and the Catholic resurgence • Elizabeth I and the religious settlement • Elizabethan government Topics in bold are CE examination topics Contact: j.gardiner@stpschool.co.uk	
Geography	Population & settlement • Understand how and why population density varies on national and global scales • Understand how and why a country's population can change due to birth/death rates and net migration • Global population explosion: appreciate the immediate and long-term effects • Migration: push and pull factors	CE Geography textbook (Galore Park)

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	• Settlement: know the natural features that historically made a good site for building • Settlement hierarchy: understand the differences between settlements of different sizes • Urban management & sustainability: appreciate how towns and cities can be made attractive and healthy for their population whilst protecting the environment • Half-term: boys will work on their urban sustainability projects (Olympic Park fieldtrip the week before) Transport & industry • Advantages and disadvantages of different methods of transport for people and goods • Transport routes, networks and containerisation • Jobs in primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary industries • Reasons for the locations of different industries • How and why industries may grow or decline • Difference between high, middle and low-income countries • How a country's level of development is linked to the type of industries that employ its people Contact: p.whittock@stpschool.co.uk	
Classics	Latin:	- Latin Practice Exercises: Level 1, 2,3 RC Bass.

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	• Revision of Level 1 and 2 topics • Comparative and superlative adjectives • Irregular comparison of adjectives • The irregular verb 'possum' • The demonstrative adjective/pronoun is ea id. • The reflexive pronoun Contact: j.gardiner@stpschool.co.uk	-
RS	Theology & Religion • The Sacraments – Holy Mass and Confirmation • Christology – the early life of Jesus and the importance of Jewish Culture and life on His upbringing • New Testament – religious characters and their influence on daily life and society, the synagogue and temple in Jerusalem. Much of the first part of term will be spent preparing for Confirmation by looking at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and our lives, Grace, becoming full members of the church, the nature of the Sacrament, the rite and signs and symbols. This links to the Roman Catholic religion section of the CE paper. Contact: c.bidie@stpschool.co.uk	<i>Theology and Philosophy for Common Entrance 13+</i> (Hodder, 2018) Susan Grenfell ISEB Revision Guide St Philip's info-sheets and presentations

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