



Year 8 – Curriculum Information

- St Crispin's follows a broad and balanced curriculum as laid out in the National Curriculum. In Year 8 students are assessed through 'steps' based on Reformed GCSE criteria, which are sub divided.
- During the course of the year we will send out three reports to parents/carers, one report per term. These reports will contain the current attainment and end of year targets for each subject. Scores are also given for attitude to learning, motivation and organisation, behaviour for learning and quality of classwork and homework.
- A student's lessons are organised over a fortnight with a different week A and week B timetable. There are five one hour lessons per day (25 per week).
- The table below shows the subjects students will study and the number of periods available for each subject.

Subject	Periods/Hours per fortnight
English#	6
Maths#	7
Science#	7
French or Spanish#	6
German*	3
Design and Technology#	2
Geography	4
History	4
Religious Studies	2
Art	3
Music	2
Drama	3
Physical Education#	4

- All lessons are taught in mixed ability groups based on tutor groups, except for subjects marked with #. These subjects are set by ability.
- *Students in the top set in French and Spanish will be offered German as well. Instead of 6 periods of French/Spanish a fortnight, students will have three periods of French/Spanish and three periods of German.
- Identified students are offered the opportunity to have additional support with literacy and numeracy in The Bridge. These students may be withdrawn from English, Maths, French, History, Geography and Religious Studies to be given support, mostly in small groups and occasionally on a one-to-one basis. When a student is judged to be ready to do so, they are integrated back into mainstream lessons.
- During registration, students will hold conversations with their tutor regarding their attendance, wellbeing and behaviour. We have also included a PSHCE programme that will focus on several key areas such as work related learning, health (mental, sexual, stress, anxiety, drugs and alcohol), life skills (finance, study and organisation skills) and British values.
- All students study Religious Studies in Year 8, following the Berkshire Agreed Syllabus.
- Computing is taught through Science and Maths, in the context of those subjects.
- From September 2017, St Crispin's School opened a specialist resource to provide support and structure for young people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. The Oaks is not a special school nor is it an isolated resource but rather acts as a conduit to facilitate students' access to mainstream education. The resource is for five students in each year group, and is designed to remove barriers from learning and to reduce sensory overload and anxiety.
- In Modern Foreign Languages, students will study either French or Spanish. Both languages will be taught to develop students' understanding and confidence in "how to learn" a new language. Students will study either Spanish or French depending on which side of the year they are on. In Year 8 those students in the top sets of the year will also study German in addition to French or Spanish.
- A wide variety of enrichment and extra-curricular activities is on offer to all students. Across the year, many educational visits are organised, including three trips days. Lunchtime and after school activities provide students with additional opportunities to develop their skills and understanding of the world around them.

Future Changes

- Although some way off for Year 8 students, it is important to make you aware of the recent changes to GCSE and Technical Awards. Year 8 will be taking their exams in Year 11 in 2023.
- If you have an older son or daughter, you will be familiar with the old grading for GCSEs (A* to G) and the threshold that students need to gain (5 A* to C including English and Maths) to progress to Sixth Form or colleges of further education.
- By 2020, **all** GCSEs will be reformed and will be significantly different from the previous courses. The new GCSEs will have:
 - a new grading of 9-1: 9 being the highest grade, 1 being the lowest.
 - fewer tiered subjects - previously students could take a foundation or higher exam paper. In most subjects there will now be only one tier.
 - fewer controlled assessments to be completed in the classroom - most courses will be graded on exams only.

- no opportunity for early entry - students will take exams at the end of Year 11 only – there will be no modules to take in Year 10.
 - a different exam structure - the exams will be longer and each exam will test more content.
 - no opportunity for re-sitting exams before the end of Year 11.
- From 2016 the way of measuring a student's or school's achievement was changed. The percentage of students gaining 5 A* to C, including English and Maths will no longer be used and will instead be replaced by four new measures. These are the Ebacc, Attainment 8, Progress 8 and the percentage of students gaining a pass in English and Maths.
 - Ebacc – awarded to students who gain a pass in English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and a Humanities course.
 - Attainment 8 – measures attainment in three areas – English and Maths, three Ebacc subjects and three other courses.
 - Progress 8 – compares a student's Attainment 8 with what they were expected to achieve.
- Further details about these new measures can be found on the school website.