



Supporting Your Child's Learning Spring Term - Year 8 (HPA)

At Yardleys, we understand that it can sometimes be difficult to know how best to support your children through their studies. But we also know that the more our students talk about their work, both inside and outside of school, the deeper and more flexible their learning. We need you to help us promote the school values of **curiosity** and **reflection** beyond our classrooms and, in doing so, help your child on their journey to academic success!

Below is a condensed plan of what your child will be studying in their core subjects this term, along with some suggestions of additional home learning activities designed to provide further challenge- things you might watch, listen to or discuss together - in order to support their learning in school.

	Watch (Access ClickView via the 'Homework Hub' section of the VLE)	Listen (Use BBC Sounds and Spotify to access suggested podcasts)	Discuss (Start up a conversation with your child around these topics)
Spring 1			
English Students will be reading the play 'The Merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare. They will be using this as a stimulus to explore the conceptual framework of power. As the term progresses, they will develop their close text analytical writing.	The Merchant of Venice (2004) Shakespeare Today: The Merchant of Venice S01 E01, Context BBC Teach: Shakespeare Themes S01 E01, Comedy	Shakespeare: Love Across the Racial Divide, The Merchant of Venice Shakespeare for All: The Merchant of Venice, Characters The Merchant of Venice: A BBC Radio Shakespeare Production	What is prejudice? What makes someone a victim and what makes someone a villain? How might something that was expected to be funny in the past no longer be funny today? Does feeling powerless excuse bad behaviour?
Maths Students will cover the following topics: negative numbers, expanding brackets, simplifying expressions, enlargement	Expanding Brackets - How to do it https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJA1qz4XovY Enlargement - How to do it https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8NUrhU2e6M Fractals - the Koch Snowflake. https://www.clickview.net/secondary/videos/88267954/fractals-the-koch-snowflake	In Our Time - Negative Numbers https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qykl In Our Time - Imaginary Numbers https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00tt6b2	What are the rules for multiplying and dividing by negative numbers? What does the word 'expand' mean when doing algebra? What do we mean by 'collect like terms'? How do you mathematically enlarge a shape? How do you know when a shape has been enlarged? Describe the meaning of 'mathematically similar'.
Science Students will be studying a unit of work called 'Influences of Life' this will look at what makes a healthy, balanced diet and conclude by looking at the role of antibiotics and vaccines in the prevention of diseases.	Horizon: Sugar Vs Fat, Balanced Diet Ten Bad Things You Didn't Know about Smoking and Tobacco	BBC Sounds: Floods Spreading Disease in Pakistan https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct32wz BBC Sounds: The Truth about Obesity and Covid-19 https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct0pyt	Is obesity causing more people to become ill from other diseases? Are natural disasters increasing the spread of diseases?

Spring 2

English Students will continue to explore the conceptual framework of power by creating their own non-fiction texts about abuse of power.	The World According to Kids E03: Right and Wrong How to Survive a Dictator: North Korea Michale Palin in North Korea S01 E01	'The Moral Maze' How to Stand Up to a Dictator	How powerful is journalism? How do dictators gain power and support? How can we exercise our power in a democracy?
Maths Students will cover the following topics: solving equations, circles	Deriving the area of a circle formula https://youtu.be/1BAI7yqIDMk Area of a trapezium https://www.youtube.com/live/jWX9KNTToIcA	The Beauty of Equations https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b06r50wh Marcus du Sautoy's Five Shapes https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p00cyb08	What is π ? Research what a sector of a circle is and how to find its area and perimeter. How does the area of a trapezium and area of circle formulas turn these shapes into rectangles? (see video) Make a poster that shows these.
Science Students will studying a unit of work on electricity and magnetism.	Making an electromagnet: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na_FpTXLFa8 Tricks That Use Static Electricity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViZNqU-Yt-Y	Ask the experts about electricity: https://www.alliantenergykids.com/allaboutenergy/askeexperts History of compasses and how they work. https://www.twinkl.co.uk/teaching-wiki/compass	Take a magnet and see which metals it will attract to and which ones it won't. Can you explain this? Hang a magnet with a thin piece of string tied in the middle. Which way does it point? What is this an example of?
Whilst there is no formal whole school assessment week, students will have regular opportunities for directed independent practice that will be assessed by their class teacher.			