

Sept 2018



Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed



Year 8 Curriculum Information



Pleckgate High School
Pleckgate Road
Blackburn, Lancashire
BB18QA
Headteacher: Mr Mark Cocker

Call **01254 249134**
Email info@pleckgate.com
Visit pleckgate.com



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Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Pleckgate High School, a thriving multi-cultural community that places the best interests of young people at the heart of everything we do. All students are challenged and supported to Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed.

We are a large secondary school situated on the northern outskirts of Blackburn with Darwen, comprising 1100 students and 170 staff with state of the art facilities that benefit both the school and local community.

At Pleckgate everyone is committed to providing the best educational experiences and opportunities for our students. At the heart of the school's work is a commitment to high quality teaching and learning and achievement for all: for our students to be safe, happy and successful developing as individuals into caring, responsible citizens who participate fully in school life and are proud of their achievements. Every student at Pleckgate is encouraged to have ambitious goals and everybody is responsible for creating a culture of high expectations and academic excellence.

We are proud of our achievements – our examination success, our extra-curricular programme, our charity work and our community involvement. We are committed to the pursuit of outstanding teaching and learning alongside the highest possible academic, personal and moral standards. This commitment is built upon a shared belief in hard work, self-reflection and a culture of respect and support for others.

This booklet has been produced to provide you with information about your child's learning at Pleckgate High School. This booklet is intended to share with parents the main aims of the curriculum and learning opportunities at school. I hope that you will find it useful and informative. I would welcome feedback and suggestions as to how it may be developed in future years.

Mark Cocker



Headteacher





The School Day Routine

Monday – Friday

7.30am	Breakfast Club
8.20am	Arrive at school and go to your Tutor room
8.30am	Registration and Tutor time/Assembly
8.50am	Period 1
9.50am	Period 2
10.50am	BREAK
11.10am	Period 3
12.10pm	Period 4
1.10pm	LUNCH
2.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	END OF SCHOOL



Aims of the Year 8 curriculum

Confidence building

Whether it be our extensive charity work, numerous educational visits or our partnerships with other local schools and colleges, you can be assured that your child will receive a well-rounded education that extends well beyond the classroom.

Specific development of numeracy and literacy

There is a strong focus for Year 8 students on reading skills through the accelerated reader programme. The huge success of our mathematics department has established a culture of high expectations and excellent pupil attainment and progress.

High Expectations

We expect Year 8 students at Pleckgate to work consistently hard and insist that they produce classwork and homework of the highest possible quality.

Wellbeing

PSHE is delivered to students through form tutor time and further supplemented by three super learning days during the school year which provide opportunities for students to develop an awareness of and respect for themselves and others.





Subjects Studied

Subject	Lessons per fortnight	Number of Groups
Mathematics	8 x 1 hour lessons	8
English	8 x 1 hour lessons	8
Science	7 x 1 hour lesson	8
Art	2 x 1 hour lesson	10
Performing Arts	2 x 1 hour lesson	10
Religious Studies	2 x 1 hour lessons	8
History	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
PE	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
Geography	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
Technology	2 x 1 hour lessons	10
MFL	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
Computing	2 x 1 hour lessons	8



Target Setting

Target setting for students is based on knowledge about expected rates of progress and data for each individual child. Teachers monitor progress carefully against these targets and plan lessons accordingly to ensure sufficient progress for all students regardless of their starting points in school.

Written and verbal feedback should usually include comments about what a student has done well and what they need to consider in order to make good progress. Parents are informed of progress against their child's targets in our termly school reports. It is important to remember that children will progress at different rates and a huge range of factors influence this rate of progress.

Subject teachers review student targets regularly. If a student is making excellent progress, the target will be revised upwards. When pupils do not meet their target in a number of subjects we need to explore the reasons why. There are a range of support strategies that we will employ to try to ensure individual pupils make good progress, and it is in these circumstances that the partnership between parents and school is most important.

At Pleckgate High School we work hard with all students and set challenging targets that will motivate etc. In 2018 the proportion of students achieving the threshold 4+ in English and mathematics last academic year was above last year's national average (71% vs 62% national average) and 66% for disadvantaged students, this shows that students at Pleckgate make excellent progress.

Every student at Pleckgate is encouraged to have ambitious goals and we remain committed to the pursuit of outstanding teaching and learning alongside the highest possible academic standards.



Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Overview 2018/19 Year 8						
Subject	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	Novel (Teacher Choice) Focus on Paper 1 skills: Identifying information Understanding the writer's purpose and effects of language.	Gothic/Horror Unit Creative Writing	Non – Fiction War and Conflict War Poetry	Places and Perspective Travel Writing	Current Affairs Non-Fiction Unit Writing to present a viewpoint.	Creating a Newspaper Spoken Language
Maths	Number systems Circle Problems Expand and Factorise algebra	Scatter Graphs Area and Surface Area Logic and Venn Diagrams	FDP Ratio and Proportion	Further Algebra Algebra Graphs	Probability Volume of Shapes Pythagoras and Trig	Similarity Congruence Number Systems 2
Science	Adaptation Chemical Changes Earth's Atmosphere		Organising an Ecosystem Molecules and Matter Energy Resources		Biodiversity Forces and Motion Earth's Resources	
History	Slavery	Suffragettes	Causes of the French and Russian Revolution	English Civil War	World War 1	Industrial Revolution
Geography	Restless Earth	Impossible Places	Thailand	China	India	Brazil



Performing Arts	DRAMA: Melodrama & Popular Culture	DRAMA: Physical Theatre	DRAMA: Physical Theatre	MUSIC: Medieval music	MUSIC: Impressionism	MUSIC: Reggae
RE	Suffering and Solutions Adam and Eve, the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold path, Zakah, V and Chakna and Langar.		Animal Rights Animal Testing, Christianity, Islam, Jewish teachings, Buddhist Teachings, Vegetarianism and Animal Rights Groups.		Divergent Understandings of Beliefs Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Sunni Shia split, Ashura, Sufism, Scientology, Zen Buddhism, Kabbalah and Humanism.	
PE	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion Games)	Accurate Replication (Gymnastics) Identifying and Problem Solving	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion, Net and Wall Games) Exercising Safely and Effectively	Exploring and Communication (Dance)	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion, Striking and Fielding) Performing at Maximum Levels (Athletics)	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion Games)
Art	Tonal Portraits		Tonal Portraits Carolee S Clarke – Pattern Animal Paintings		Tonal Portraits Carole S Clarke – Pattern Animal Paintings End of year assessment	
Technology	Product Design 1.Design Brief 2.Writing a specification 3. Different Groups of Plastics 4. Use of 2D Design 5. Mood Light Project: Use of Electrical Systems 6. Computer aided manufacturing 7. Vacuum forming		Food Technology 1.Seasonality of Fruit and Healthy Eating 2.Micro Organisms and Food 3.Writing time plans 4. Railway Baps 5. Pizza 6. Shortcrust Pastry 7. Savoury Flan 8. Fruit Pie 9. Bolognaise and Lasagne 10. Frying, Simmering and Boiling			



Modern Foreign Languages	Topics Social media Music Film/TV Reading Grammar Verb conjugation Adjectives Introduction to the perfect tens	Topics Holidays in France Paris Activities Grammar Using the perfect tense Giving opinions in the past tense	Topics Food Mealtimes Eating out Shopping Grammar Quantities Using the past tense	Topics Clothes Shopping for clothes Complaints/returning items Grammar Adjectival endings Past tense negatives	Topics Towns Places of interest Grammar Opinions Past tense Negatives	Topics Directions Grammar questioning understanding signs
Computing / ICT	Adobe Flash	Web-authoring using Serif WebPlus	Python programming project	Flowol	Business and enterprise unit	



Extra-Curricular Activities

Your child spends more time at school than anywhere else except home. Schools can have a major effect on children's health. Schools can teach children about health, and promote healthy behaviours.

Physical education classes give children a chance to get exercise. At Pleckgate we take this further through our bespoke Youth Sports Trust programme and our extensive extra-curricular offers.

PE Extra-Curricular Activities

Lunch 1.10pm – 1.45pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Hall	N/A	N/A	Cricket Nets	Cricket Nets	KS4 Badminton Boys and Girls (CAS/SC/BPI)
Activity Studio	N/A	Girls Badminton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fitness Suite	N/A	All Welcome	N/A	Girls	All Welcome
Field	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Rounders



PE Extra-Curricular Activities

After School 3.10pm – 4.10pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Hall	Rounders	Girls Football	Netball Yr 8, 9 (CAS)	Rounders	Girls Football (BRFC)
Activity Studio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fitness Suite	All Welcome	Closed Staff Only from 3.10pm or 4.45pm	Staff from 4.10pm	N/A	N/A
Astro, Fields	Cricket	Boys Football	Athletics Wildcats Girls Football	Cricket	Girls Football

Youth Sports Trust

Pleckgate High School is working closely with the Youth Sports Trust to develop the wellbeing of our students. As a school we are heavily involved with the trusts 'My Personal Best' programme. This allows students to develop not only physically through physical education, but also socially and emotionally. The aim of the programme is to develop life skills such as confidence, teamwork, communication, motivation, self-management and resilience to name a few.

Our school's belief is that developing the life skills and increasing the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of our students, results in increased achievement and attainment. Our overall involvement with the Youth Sports Trust has great benefits for our students' health and wellbeing and we are excited to be working closely with them.



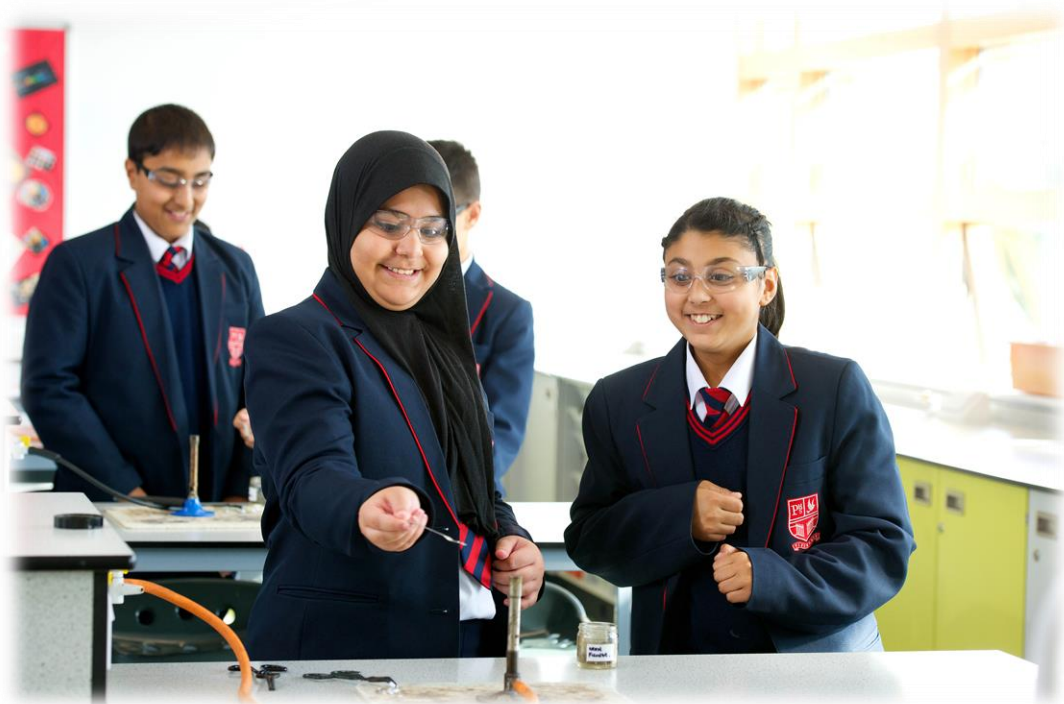
Super Learning Days

At Pleckgate High School, all year 8 students will take part in Super Learning Days. These are whole days when students are taken off their traditional timetable and given deep learning opportunities.

Aims of Enrichment and Super Learning Days at Pleckgate High School

The aim of Enrichment and SLDs are to provide opportunities for students to develop in line with the values of Pleckgate High School: Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed. In practice this means:

- There are opportunities for students to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others throughout our SRE day. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help pupils to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables students to be aware of the personal choices they can make and prepares them to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and enjoying confidence in one's own ability.
- We provide chances for students to explore and question their own thoughts and feelings. This is enhanced further through our PREVENT days which are in line with the 2015 revised Prevent non-statutory policy. As a school we work in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority who deliver sessions not only to pupils but to staff.
- We give students the opportunity to engage with employers and further education providers to ensure future generations will benefit from quality, meaningful interactions that help them understand the links between courses, skills and the pathways they open up.





Homework

It is important that, as parents, you encourage your child to complete any homework set in school. Homework teaches your child to work independently whilst allowing them to review and practice work that has been covered in class. It helps your child develop positive study skills that will serve him or her well throughout life

At Pleckgate we recommend that year 8 students are given up to 30 minutes of homework per subject, per week.

Homework Timetable for year 8

Subject	Year Group(s)	Homework Information
Maths	Y7/8	Twice per week
English	Y7/8	Twice per week
Science	Y7/8	Once per week
History	Y7/8	Once per week
RE	Y7/8	Once per week
Geography	Y7/8	Once per week
Technology	Y7/8	Once per fortnight (dependent upon practical work)
Performing Arts	Y7/8	once per fortnight (dependent upon practical work)
Art	Y7/8	Two projects per half term
MFL	Y7/8	Once per week



Support for parents

At Pleckgate High School we understand how important it is to ensure that Parents and Carers can be provided with all the information they need to help their children with their learning and development. To improve our understanding of this, we are currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership to help us to develop an outstanding and sustainable programme for parental engagement.

We run a range of support programmes for parents throughout the school year, including additional maths support sessions to help parents to get to grips with key skills within the maths curriculum in order to support their child's learning. Other events such as coffee mornings and parent feedback sessions also take place throughout the year and we would welcome and encourage parents to be involved in these events

Feedback

We hope that you have found this booklet informative.

We are always open to new suggestions so if you do have any further ideas for information to be included within the booklet please don't hesitate to get in touch by e-mailing the school via info@pleckgate.com





Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Secondary School OF THE Year 2016 & 2017



**Lancashire Telegraph Schools' Award
for two consecutive years**

“Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed”

www.pleckgate.com | info@pleckgate.com | 01254 249134

Find us at: Pleckgate Road, Blackburn, BB1 8QA