

Year 8 Curriculum Overview [2026-2027]

Science

Half term	Knowledge & Understanding			Literacy Skills Opportunities for developing literacy skills	Employability Skills [if any]	Assessment Opportunities
	Composites	Components [KEY concepts & subject specific vocab]	Formal Retrieval [if any]			
HT1	8 Periodic table	• Elements • Metals and non-metals • Groups and periods • Group 1 • Group 7 • Group 0	MCQ, Formative Assessment	• Keyword and definition • Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	Personal skills • Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Audiologist • Optometrist • Seismologist	MCQ – periodic table 10 marks Formative Assessment - Elements, metals and metals and oxygen 14 marks Summative Assessment - Periodic Table 30 marks

HT2	8 Structure and function of body systems	• Levels of organisation • Gas exchange • Breathing • Skelton • Joints and movement • Muscles and movement	MCQ, Formative assessment & Summative Assessment	• Keyword and definition • Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	Personal skills • Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Dietitian • Nutritionist • Personal trainer • Medical careers	MCQ – lungs 10 marks Formative Assessment - Organs and gas exchange 11 marks Summative Assessment - Structure and Function of Body Systems 30 marks + 20 marks reteach content from Periodic Table.
HT3	8 Sound	• Waves • Sound • Loudness and pitch • Detecting sound • Echoes and ultrasound • Light • Reflection • Refraction • The eye and the camera • Colour	MCQ, Formative Assessment	• Keyword and definition • Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	Personal skills • Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Audiologist • Ultrasound • Electrician • Photographer • Artist	MCQ – Sound 10 marks Formative Assessment Summative Assessment - Sound 30 marks
HT4	8 Earth	• The earth and its atmosphere • Sedimentary rocks	MCQ, Formative	• Keyword and definition	Personal skills	MCQ – Earth 15 Marks

		• Igneous and metamorphic rocks • The rock cycle • The carbon cycle • Global heating • Climate change • Recycling •	assessment & Summative Assessment	• Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	• Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Archaeologist • Historian • Climate scientist • Geologist	Formative Assessment - the Earth, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks – 6 marks Summative Assessment - Term 2 assessment: The Earth 30 marks + 15/20 marks reteach content from Sound
HT4	8 Health and lifestyle	• Food Groups/ Nutrients • Food tests • Healthy diet • Digestive system • Bacteria and enzymes in digestion • Drugs • Alcohol • Smoking	MCQ, Formative Assessment	• Keyword and definition • Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	Personal skills • Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Dietitian • Food Manufacturer • Doctor • Support worker	MCQ – energy in foods 10 marks Formative Assessment - Enzymes and testing for glucose 10 marks Summative Assessment - Health and Lifestyle 30 marks
HT5	8 Electricity and magnetism	• Charge • Circuits and current • Resistance	MCQ, Formative Assessment	• Keyword and definition	Personal skills	MCQ – circuits 11 marks

		• Components • Series and parallel circuits • Magnets and magnetic field • Electromagnets • Using electromagnets		• Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	• Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Electrician • MRI specialist • Scrapyard worker • National grid engineer	Formative Assessment - Circuits and static 7 marks Summative Assessment - Electricity and Magnetism 30 marks
HT6	8 Ecosystem and adaptations	• Food chains • Food webs • Disruption to food chains and webs • Ecosystem • Competition • Adapting to change	MCQ, Formative Assessment, End of year exam	• Keyword and definition • Subject language [Speak like a Scientist] • Inclusive questioning • Writing a method • Write like a Scientist • Literacy Article • Key vocabulary sheet	Personal skills • Thinking and problem solving • Working together and communicating • Attention to health and safety Scientific Careers • Ecologist • Zoologist • Safari host	MCQ – food chains 14 marks Formative Assessment - Food webs and predator-prey 9 marks Summative Assessment - Ecosystems and Adaptations 30 marks End of year exam Assessing units 8.1-8.6, 54 marks
Catholicity across the	Body systems- Body debate on the ethics of organ donations – Human dignity					

science curriculum	Earth- Guiseppe Moscati Literacy articles around volcanoes and helping people- Common good Health and lifestyle- Literacy article on Guiseppe Moscati- Diabetes/insulin link. - Ecosystems- Biodiversity and fairtrade- Food sustainability project- Common home/subsidiarity/preferential opportunity for the poor
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