



Lancing College

Preparatory School at Hove

Curriculum Information

2017-18

Year 8

INTRODUCTION

A warm welcome to the new academic year at Lancing Prep Hove. As always, the start of a new academic year promises exciting times ahead. This guide is designed to give parents an overview of the academic curriculum and how it is delivered at LPH. While what goes on in lessons is but one of many facets of life here, it is evidently an important one. This guide will allow parents and pupils to see what is covered throughout the academic year in the examined subjects, though it is by no means exhaustive. We always aim to take advantage of opportunities as they arise, and so this guide offers a broad overview rather than a detailed prescriptive weekly plan.

The VLE is another place where parents can look with their children to support curriculum-based learning, and of course teachers will always happily help should it be needed. Your child's log-in will be recorded in their prep diary, and is worth noting down.

ENGLISH

Throughout the Year 8 English curriculum we aim to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding to ensure they reach their individual potential. Building on enjoyment through a range of traditional and contemporary literature positively prepares for Common Entrance and Scholarship. Analytical skills are further deepened, ensuring confidence with the ability to compare and contrast prose and poetry. Past papers will be a constant focus when advancing towards the exams.

Reading

Alongside reading through weekly extracts from fiction and non-fiction a termly studied text is examined, extracting themes such as conflict, heroes, villains and lessons learned. A wide range of poetry will be covered and compared for structure and inference.

Spelling

Revision techniques are encouraged during the academic year to fill in gaps from individuals. Recapping on accuracy with phonemes and graphemes is carried out as and when required.

Grammar

Stretching grammar will be studied each week to enhance analytical skills. Such as:

- Metaphors, Similes and Personification
- Onomatopoeia
- Pathetic Fallacy
- Colloquialism

Writing

Pupils will complete a range of written tasks under timed conditions including:

- Creative Writing
- Poetry
- Persuasive and Informative Writing

Speaking & Listening

Skills are developed through sharing work and texts. Play scripts will be used to develop intonation and expression.

Visits & Events will be developed through Themed Workshops.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is the key to understanding and exploring the world. We aim to create a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject whilst encouraging every pupil to reach their full potential.

Alongside the topics below the pupils have opportunities to practise exam technique and to complete practice papers.

Autumn Term

Common Entrance classes:

Ratio and proportion, bearings, sets, constructions of shapes and use of formulae, and preparation for November trial exams. Regular practice of mental arithmetic skills.

Scholarship class:

Review of algebra and simultaneous equations, trial and improvement, Pythagoras' theorem and further work on ratio and proportion. Problem solving and investigation work. Preparation for November mock exams.

Spring Term

Common Entrance classes:

Calculator work, review of algebra and graphing equations, solving sequences and the n^{th} term, practice problem solving. Revision for March mock exams.

Scholarship class:

Consolidation of work covered and revision. Past paper practice in preparation for February exams. Post exam LEAP program.

Summer Term

Common Entrance classes:

Consolidation and targeted topic revision. Past paper practice in preparation for June exams. Post exam LEAP program.

Visits & events: Our more able mathematicians have the opportunity to take part in the UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Junior Challenge and the Senior Team Challenge. More details can be found at www.ukmt.org.uk

Equipment essentials: Casio calculator FX85GT-PLUS in black

Useful note: Maths catch-up sessions are available during specific lunch times. These sessions may be used to complete prep, find out about any work missed due to absences or to ask for help with a particular mathematical concept.

All pupils have access to MyMaths which is an interactive website that allows pupils to revise concepts and practise their mathematics.

SCIENCE

In Year 8 we continue with the separate sciences of Biology, Physics and Chemistry and they are taught by specialist subject teachers. The Year 8 Science curriculum develops methods of enquiry and investigation to stimulate creative thought and builds on previous learning when preparing for Common Entrance and Scholarship exams. Past exam papers will form an important part of progression, focusing on understanding exam style questioning and exam skills.

Autumn Term

Common Entrance and Scholarship classes: Particulate nature of matter and chemical reactions. Force and motion, force and rotation and force and pressure. Photosynthesis and Plant reproduction, Interactions and Interdependences.

Spring Term

Scholarship class:

Magnets and Electromagnets, Variation, Classification and Inheritance. Revision of Chemistry, Physics and Biology using past exam papers to also strengthen their exam techniques and timing.

Common entrance classes:

Magnets and Electromagnets, Variation, Classification and Inheritance. Revision of Chemistry, Physics and Biology using past exam papers to also strengthen their exam techniques and timing. Post exam LEAP program.

Summer Term

Common Entrance classes:

Revision and consolidation of final topics in preparation for the exams. Post exam LEAP Programme.

Useful note:

Pupils in Year 8 are able to come to the lab during lunch breaks to work on their Science revision and to ask for help. They can use the revision guide given to them at the start of Year 7 and they will find a wealth of revision material located in the Science pages of the VLE.

FRENCH

In Year 8, there is a strong emphasis on revisiting grammar and consolidating learnt vocabulary in preparation for CAS and CE exams. Pupils need to be equally competent in the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Autumn Term

CAS

Revision of: Present, past and near future tenses; key topic areas, including holidays, self, family, jobs, personal description and hobbies; grammatical structures such as the imperfect, future, direct and indirect object pronoun.

Writing letters to a French pen-pal; reading a French book.

CE

Revision of: Present, past and near future tenses; key topic areas include holidays, self, family, jobs, personal description and hobbies.

Preparation of speaking presentation on self, family and holidays.

Writing letters to a French pen-pal.

Spring Term

CAS

Revision of: House, home and chores and life and work at school; simple health problems and pocket money; all tenses learnt to date.

Learning the conditional tense; practising how to tackle the writing exam using a range of structures, idiom and vocabulary; focus on past papers; writing letters to French pen-pal; reading a French book.

CE

Role-play practice; short presentation on house, home, daily routine & chores and life & work at school; revision of simple health problems and pocket money; writing letters to French pen-pal; revision of near future tense and modal verbs; past papers.

Summer Term

CE

Final revision using past papers for listening, reading and writing; practising role-plays and speaking presentations.

Visits & events

Languages Day (Spring Term); French theatre workshop; French Drama Club (weekly); French speaking competition (Spring Term); French catch-up sessions run weekly at lunchtimes.

HISTORY

Throughout the topics studied pupils will be using a variety of skills. Looking at historical evidence and interpretations of history, being able to critically analyse their uses and limitations. They will be giving solid grounding in the academic skills of cogent communication, organisation of ideas and clarity of argument. They will gain a wider sense of chronology and how the past is organised in cause and effects.

Autumn Term topic

England in the 15th Century - Henry IV and War of the Roses. Medieval Life, including Medieval towns, manors, crime and punishments, religion, and women.

Spring Term topic

England in the 15th Century (continued)

Exam Prep and Revision. Previous topics studied in Year 7: 1066 and the Norman Conquest; Matilda and Stephen; Crusades and King John; Edward I and Edward II and their relations with Scotland and Wales; Black Death; Peasant's Revolt; and the Hundred Years' War.

Summer Term topic

Exam Prep and Revision - Revision of chronology, essay techniques, document techniques.

Post Exam projects - Individual research or biographical projects and independently produced historical films.

GEOGRAPHY

In Year 8 the focus for Geography is very much on exam preparation. The opportunity to hone those skills and revise the knowledge that we have learned about in Year 7. We deepen our understanding of the theories we have learned about by incorporating case studies and learning about 'real-life' geography from around the world.

Autumn Term

Fieldwork Investigation – The coursework element of the Geography CE. Write up completed in class and homework time.

Case studies – An in depth look at various geographical events from around the world that tie in to the topics studied last year.

Spring Term

Revision and exam preparation – Revision tailored to meet the needs of individual pupils and extra revision resources provided for working on at home.

Summer Term

Revision and exam preparation – Final exam preparations and last minute practice papers and questions.

Individual projects – After exams pupils have various options regarding individual research projects.

REP

The aims and objectives of this department are to provide a broad course in the major world religions, as well as introducing the wider areas of Theology and Philosophy alongside present moral issues, by exploring the consequences of religion and beliefs through the development of discussions of personal attitudes.

Autumn Term

New Testament - The birth of Jesus, Temptation of Jesus, Call of the Disciples, Peter's Declaration, the Transfiguration, The sentence, Crucifixion and Burial, and the Resurrection.

Spring Term

Contemporary issues - Science and Religion, Stewardship and the Environment, Capital Punishment, Abortion and Religion, Euthanasia, Religion and Politics, Just War Theory and Key Christian Figures.

Summer Term

Revision and Exam Preparation - The Old Testament; Exam skills: composing an argument; quoting key texts.

LATIN

The study of Latin is a valuable because it is the root of many modern European languages including French, Spanish and Italian. A grasp of Latin encourages a wider English vocabulary as about half of English vocabulary comes from Latin. Latin helps students to understand the structure of English by thinking about where words come from and how sentences are structured.

In Year 8, we will continue to study the specific requirements of the Common entrance and Scholarship exams using Book 2 of Galore Park's Latin Prep course and the ISEB revision guide. Vocabulary and grammar exercises will be set regularly as prep and we will increasingly focus on preparation through past papers.

Autumn Term

Common Entrance classes: Pluperfect tense, comparative adjectives. Revision and preparation for November mock exams.

Scholarship class: Pluperfect tense, passive, subjunctive, ablative absolute and other grammar constructions. Preparation for November mock exams.

Spring Term

Common Entrance classes: Irregular verbs, pronouns and subordinate clauses. Revision for March mock exams.

Scholarship class: Consolidation of all grammar and vocab. Past paper practice in preparation for February exams.

Summer Term

Common Entrance classes: Consolidation and targeted topic revision. Past paper practice for June exams. Post exam LEAP program.

Scholarship class: Continued LEAP programme with a choice of Classical Civilisation topics including Ancient Theatre and Mythology.

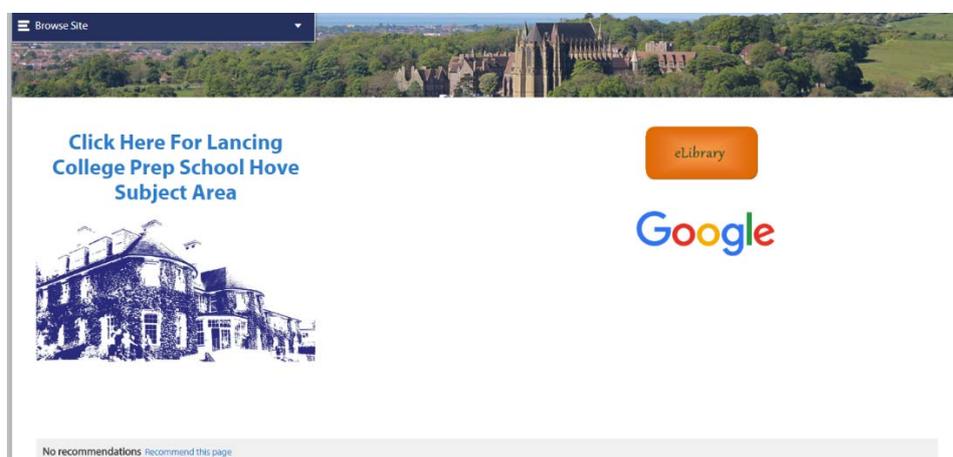
Common entrance classes will study mythology for the Classical Civilisation component of the exam throughout the year. This will include the adventures of Ancient Greek heroes such as Perseus, Theseus, Heracles and Jason.

The VLE

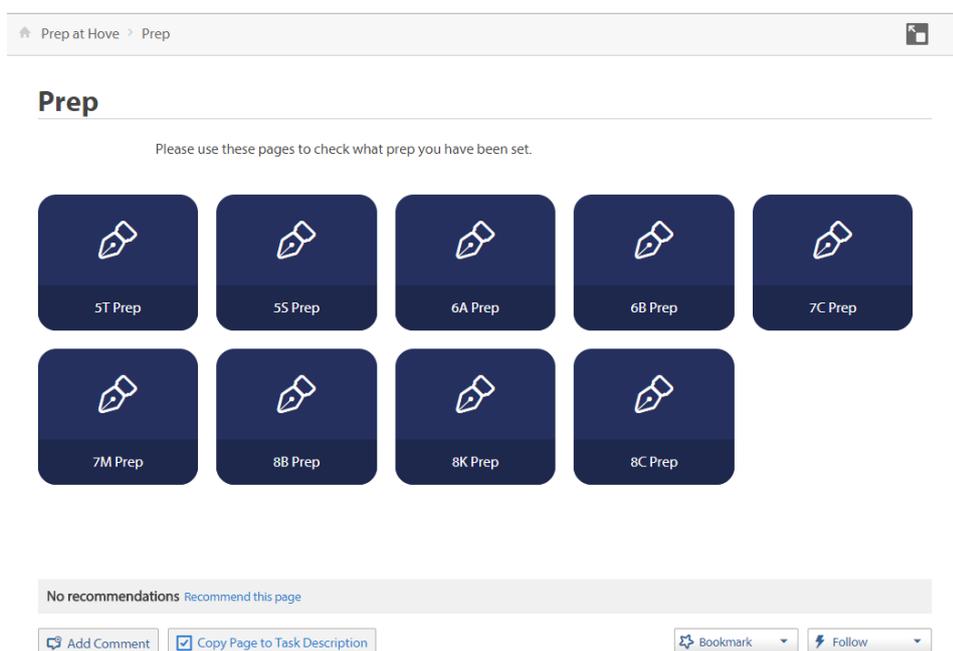
The school's virtual learning environment is accessible at vle.lancing.org.uk. Each subject has its own area, as well as there being a separate link to prep which is updated weekly. The content varies across the school, typically being more widely used by the older pupils who are working more independently at home, but includes copies of materials used in class, notes and examples of recent work.

The aim of the VLE is to support pupils' independent learning. It is your child's learning tool, so if they want something adding to it, please encourage them to ask their teacher!

VLE HOME SCREEN:



VLE SAMPLE PAGE 'PREP':



PREP

We are aware that adding to the demands of the school day will only be beneficial if it is well-balanced, so the homework timetable allocates an age-appropriate amount of time to the tasks set.

There are likely to be two formats of prep which will be set across the different subjects. The first, more conventional task is to consolidate core skills and learning – asking the children to go over something they have been taught in class and to practise at home. This style of homework should enable children to experience success independently, and help cement skills or knowledge into the memory bank. A more recent homework trend is in children being encouraged to explore something before it has been taught, so that they come to the lesson with some idea of what is to come. This is frequently referred to as ‘flipping the classroom’ – and is a great way to encourage children to think for themselves and to be truly inquisitive learners.

We know that our children have busy lives outside of school and we know that these activities offer learning that extends far beyond the classroom. To this end, we have a standard policy whereby all prep tasks will be set 48 hours before they are due to be handed in, and all ‘due in’ dates will be recorded in the prep diary. If your child has a conflict of interests that makes it difficult to hand prep in on time, encourage them to talk to the relevant teacher.

There are a few tips which are useful to bear in mind when your child settles to their homework:

1. Provide a quiet space, away from distractions (including siblings).
2. Establish a routine, with tasks completed on the day of setting whenever possible.
3. Encourage your child to take ownership, involving them in establishing a routine that works for the family.
4. If a task is taking too long, tell your child to stop. There is a guideline amount of time per task, and your child shouldn't regularly exceed it.
5. Support, engage and praise, but don't do their prep. It is for your child, not you.