



The Wallace High School Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Updated September 2025 - 2026

Year 8

Art & Design	Biology
<p>Observation practice - Exploring a range of graphic media for observation. Understanding line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour and space</p> <p>Textiles - Observations, researching the work of textile artists, developing design ideas, textile practical techniques.</p> <p>3D construction - Observations, researching the work of sculptors, developing design ideas, 3D construction techniques.</p> <p>Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cells 2. Animal Reproduction 3. Coordination and the Senses 4. Plant Reproduction
Chemistry	Computing
<p>Getting Started</p> <p>Chemical changes</p> <p>Acids and Alkalis</p> <p>Separations Techniques</p>	<p>Spreadsheets using Excel</p> <p>Programming with BBC MicroBits</p> <p>Programming using Scratch.</p> <p>Creating a Web Page</p> <p>Minecraft (PBL)</p>
Drama	English
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is Drama? •Roles and Responsibilities •Staging •History of Theatre •Theatres around us •Improvisation •Silent Movies •Gestures •Scriptwriting •Characterization •Shakespeare Festival •Review Writing •PR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •School and Special Times •Developing comprehension and communication skills •Life on the Sea •Novels Boy and Shane •Introduction to poetry •SPG - Back to basics •Personal, creative and descriptive writing •Creating multi modal texts and Review Writing •Introduction to Shakespeare

French	Geography
Meeting, Greeting and Getting to know you In the classroom Where people live The Family and pets Physical attributes and personality descriptions	What is Geography & Geography in the News A Sense of Place (UK & NI) Settlement OS Map Skills Careers - Famous Geographers Weather and Climate Ecosystems

History	Home Economics
What is History? Why study History? Historical Skills The History of WHS Who were the Normans? The events of 1066 Contenders for the Throne Williams Problems The Normans in Ireland PBL Project	Let's Get Started - an introduction to Home Economics What's on Your Plate? The Eatwell Guide Family matters Throughout the year pupils make a range of dishes to demonstrate their ability to prepare food in a safe, hygienic and creative way. Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT. Four core assessment tasks are completed and contribute to formal examinations i.e. end of unit test and practical exam (Winter Session); coursework and practical exam (Summer Session).

Pastoral Period

Employability and Enterprise

In Year 8 students begin the process of career planning and the factors that can affect them including the global market. In particular:

- The skills and qualities that employers are looking for, their past, present and future career ideas
- Setting personal goals, beginning to plan for their future to include careers research

- The type of jobs in both the local and global Economy
- What is Enterprise and how enterprising are they?

Citizenship

In Year 8 students study the topics of identity and diversity including:

- Factors that influence identity
- The ways in which identity can be expressed
- How and why conflict may arise in the community
- How conflict may be managed, and positive community relations promoted

Pupils conclude Year 8 by beginning to examine human rights instruments before studying the topics of equality and social justice in Year 9.

Personal Development including Relationships and Sexuality Education

Year 8 students begin to explore:

- Health as the development of a whole person
- Influences on physical and emotional /mental personal health
- Strategies to manage, the effects of change on body, mind and behaviour
- Preventative strategies in relation to accidents in the home, school and on the road
- The qualities of relationships including friendship & the qualities of a loving respectful relationship
- E-safety including staying safe online and cyber-bullying
- Influences on a young person
- Personal morals, values and beliefs
- Strategies to improve own learning

Mathematics	Music
<p>In Year 8 pupils will study the following components of Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number including: Use of 4 main operations with whole numbers, fractions (only + & -) and decimals, simple percentages, directed number, binary form and numerical patterns • Algebra including: Equations up to unknowns on both sides and use of formulae. • Shape, space and measure including: angles in shapes and around parallel lines, triangle and quadrilateral properties, area and volume of common shapes, coordinates and metric and imperial units. 	<p>Term 1</p> <p>Beat, rhythm, ostinato, call & response minim crotchet quaver syncopation</p> <p>Two notes G/E</p> <p>Tempo</p> <p>Pitch</p> <p>Term 2</p> <p>Samba</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling Data including: Collecting, displaying and grouping data and mean, median and mode from a list. 	<p>Beat , rhythm, ostinato, call & response semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, dotted rhythm, syncopation</p> <p>notes A, G, E, D, C</p> <p>Tempo</p> <p>Dynamics</p> <p>Timbre</p> <p>Duration</p> <p>Term 3</p> <p>Fusion</p> <p>Beat, rhythm, ostinato, call & response, semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver,</p> <p>Notes A, G, E, D, C</p> <p>Tempo</p> <p>Dynamics</p> <p>Timbre,</p> <p>Duration</p> <p>Texture</p>
Physics	Physical Education
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forces - mass, volume and density, balanced and unbalanced forces, magnetism. 2. Energy - types, transformations & sources 3. Space - Our Solar System 4. Light - rays, shadows and reflection 	<p>Movement Skills</p> <p>Gymnastics</p> <p>Basketball</p> <p>Athletics</p> <p>Softball</p>

Religious Studies	Technology & Design
<p>Abrahamic Faiths - an in depth investigation on the shared history of the Abrahamic faiths, analysing and evaluating similarities and differences between them.</p> <p>The Life of Jesus - a unit of study which will examine the key important events throughout the life of Jesus and His ministry.</p> <p>Creation Stories - How did we get here? Pupils will consider a variety of creation stories from across world faiths as well as science. This will include Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and scientific understandings of the creation of our world.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication Task - Health and Safety modelling in groups. 2. Graphics - Basic drawing techniques. (Simple shapes, rendering, isometric) 3. Design - Design of Bug Project 4. Manufacture - workshop skills and safety to produce (a) picture frame (b) soldered circuit and vacuum formed housing for bug project. 5. Theory Health and Safety, Materials and Electronics. 6. ICT - Keynote presentation/log of design and manufacture activities.

Year 9

Art & Design	Biology
<p>Observation practice - Exploring a range of graphic media for observation. Understanding perspective along with line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour and space.</p> <p>Book Illustration - graphic design using iPads</p> <p>Colour Theory - Introduction to colour theory, painting and printmaking</p> <p>Gallery visit assignment</p> <p>Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diet and Digestion • Breathing and Respiration • Plant Biology
Chemistry	Computing
<p>Atomic Structure</p> <p>Elements, Compounds and Mixtures</p> <p>Reactions</p> <p>Patterns of reactivity</p> <p>Careers</p>	<p>Cyber Security</p> <p>AI/Machine Learning</p> <p>Introduction to Programming in Python.</p> <p>MicroBits and Robots</p> <p>Creating a website (PBL)</p>
English	French
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heroes, Myths and Legends • Magic and Mystery - cross genre appreciation • Environment - including interview skills and movie pitches • Introduction to literary analysis – essay writing • Novel - Wonder • Persuasive writing • Functional writing • SPG - Back to basics • Analysing and creating multi modal texts and Film Review 	<p>School, time and Daily routine</p> <p>Home and Local Environment, Transport and travel</p> <p>Food and Drink</p>

Geography	German
A Sense of Place - Europe and the EU Rivers (processes & landforms) and Flooding Careers - the Perfect Geographer Population and Migration Glaciation (processes & landforms) and Avalanches Rocks	Meeting, Greeting and getting to know you My Family My school My house and home Food and drink

History	Home Economics
The Reformation Henry VIII Mary Queen of Scots The Spanish Armada The Plantations in Ireland The English Civil War Oliver Cromwell in Ireland The Restoration The Williamite Wars in Ireland PBL Project	Unit 1 Food and Nutrition Unit 2 Taking Care of Your Food (Food Safety) Unit 3 Growing Up (Babies and Young Children) and Growing Older Pupils prepare a range of dishes in class when studying each Unit e.g. Chilli con carne to demonstrate their ability to prepare food in a safe, hygienic and creative way Pupils have opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills including research, independent learning, working with others, being creative. Four core assessment tasks are completed throughout the year which contribute to formal examinations i.e. Winter session - an end of unit test and a practical examination; Summer session - a practical examination and a coursework task.

Pastoral Period

Employability and Enterprise

Year 9 students develop their understanding of career planning and the impact of the global market. They cover:

- Career Management
- Working in the Local and Global Economy
- The skills for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Citizenship

Students address the following topics:

- How and why inequalities arise in society and how these can be seen
- How and why people may experience inequality and social exclusion
- The roles of intergovernmental, governmental and nongovernmental organisations which aim to promote equality and social justice

Personal Development including Relationships and Sexuality Education

Year 9 students continue to develop and explore:

- Health and the whole person
- Strategies to manage, the effects of change on body, mind and behaviour
- Preventative strategies in relation to accidents in the home, school and on the road & Strategies to promote personal safety
- Effects on the body of legal and illegal substances values and beliefs
- Qualities of relationships including friendship & Qualities of a loving, respectful relationship
- Different ways to develop self esteem
- Skills and strategies to improve own learning
- Explore and express a sense of self
- Personal morals, values and beliefs

Mathematics	Music
<p>In Year 9 pupils will study the following components of Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number including: Multiplication and division of fractions, rounding including significant figures, change between decimals, fractions and percentages, standard form and indices and ratio.• Algebra including: breaking brackets, substitution, equations involving fractions.	<p>Creating a soundtrack TV Themes Students perform a TV theme on classroom instruments. Students re create a tv theme in GarageBand (ICT Key skills task) Students study the effect of music in advertising.</p> <p>Film Music and Casino Royale Students study the origins of film music, the effect of music on a film, and create</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape, space and measure including: further areas of triangles and quadrilaterals, area and circumference of a circle, Pythagoras' Theorem, transformations, scale drawing and angles around polygons. • Handling Data including: Mean, median and mode from a list and frequency table, basic probability, scatter graphs and correlation. 	<p>their own soundtracks for a minute long movie in GarageBand and iMovie</p>
Physics	Physical Education
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Static & Basic Circuit Electricity 2. Light - Refraction, Dispersion & E-M Spectrum 3. Pressure 4. Sound waves 5. Radioactivity 6. Thermal Physics 7. 	<p>Gymnastics Fitness Tennis Athletics Softball</p>
Religious Studies	Spanish
<p>Church History - Year 9 pupils will undertake an in depth study of the history of the Christian Church. Examining key events in the creation of and spreading of the worlds largest faith. We will then study the modern day Christian Church and look at key events within the faith, alongside modern-day persecution.</p> <p>Science and Religion - building upon content covered in Year 8 on creation stories, we will be critically analysing and evaluating whether religion and science are compatible as belief systems. This unit will encompass views from traditional religions such as Christianity, Islam and Hinduism, as well as non-religious, scientific and secular viewpoints.</p>	<p>Spain and the Spanish-speaking world Number, ages and birthdays Where people live The family Physical and character descriptions School life</p>

Technology & Design
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communication Task - Mini Company (Animal Conservation/ Protection).2. Graphics - Development of drawing techniques. (More complex shapes/products, rendering, isometric)3. Design - Design of Mechanical Toy Project.4. Manufacture - workshop skills and safety to produce (a) Mechanical Toy.5. Theory Health and Safety, Materials and Mechanisms.6. ICT - Keynote presentation/log of design and manufacture activities also to include information on purpose of Mini Company. 3 fold leaflet (Company based).

Year 10

Art & Design Observation practice - Exploring a range of media for observation. Continuing to develop understanding of line, shape, form, tone, texture, space and colour Careers in creative industries research Ceramics - Observations, researching the work of artists and designers, developing ideas and practical ceramic techniques. Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.	Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood and Circulation • Microbes and Disease • Genetics and Inheritance
Chemistry Neutralisation GCSE Atomic Structure GCSE Bonding GCSE Solubility	English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuasive writing • Introduction to short stories • Writers' craft/ method analysis/unseen prose criticism/ Drama scene analysis/Pygmalion • Novel - Stone Cold • Careers in English • Shakespeare - close study The Merchant of Venice • War Poetry – structuring a formal comparative poetry essay using an anthology • Novel to film unit *Media units including Non fiction, Multi modal and Film Review.
French Holidays, travel and transport J'adore les fêtes! Leisure - hobbies and pastimes	Geography A Sense of Place - the World Latitude, Longitude and Time Zones Plate Tectonics (earthquakes and volcanoes) Development Indicators Careers in Geography Global Issues: aid, trade and fair trade Globalisation Fragile Ecosystems - tropical rainforests

German	History
Hobbies and Interests My town, Transport Weather and seasons Making arrangements to go out Supermarket and café At the weekend Physical and personality descriptions and relationships Daily routine, household tasks and pocket money	World War One The Holocaust The Suffragettes The Jazz Age The Rise of the Nazis Nationalism in Ireland Revolutions in the USA and France The Partition of Ireland The Beginning of the Troubles PBL Project

Home Economics
<p>Dietary Disorders Sports' Nutrition Savvy Shopper</p> <p>Throughout the year pupils make a range of dishes to demonstrate their ability to prepare food in a safe, hygienic and creative way.</p> <p>Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.</p> <p>Four core assessment tasks are completed and contribute to formal examinations i.e. end of unit test and practical exam (Winter Session); coursework and practical exam (Summer Session).</p>
Pastoral Period
<p>Employability and Enterprise In Year 10 students focus their career plan in conjunction with the GCSE option choice process. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of their skills and qualities • Identifying job families including identification of learning styles • Undertaking focused careers Research and using local market information • Writing a Personal Career Plan with established goals to include the GCSE option choice process • Writing a CV and Personal Statement • Undertaking a Dragon's Den style entrepreneurship exercise <p>Citizenship The final topic in Year 9 acts as a bridge into Year 10 when pupils will examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basic characteristics of democracy • Ways to participate in school and society • The necessity of rules and laws <p>Pupils will also return to the explicit study of human rights when studying:</p>

- The importance of upholding human rights standards in society
- Why different rights must be limited
- Scenarios where rights may have been infringed

Pupils conclude their study of Local and Global Citizenship through investigating an issue from a range of viewpoints.

Personal Development including Relationships and Sexuality Education

Year 10 students continue to develop and explore:

- Health and the whole person
- Effects of change on body, mind and behaviour
- Effects on the body of legal and illegal substances and the risks and consequences of their misuse
- Effects on the body of legal and illegal substances and the risks and consequences of their misuse
- Personal morals, values and beliefs
- Developing Self esteem
- Influences on a young person
- Strategies to improve own learning

Students also focus on:

- Relationship Scenarios & Dealing with conflict
- Qualities of relationships including friendship & Qualities of a loving, respectful relationship
- Implications of sexual maturation

Mathematics	Music
<p>In Year 10 pupils will study the following components of Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number including: further use of negative numbers, percentages, trial and improvement and fractions with all four operations. • Algebra including: algebraic products and factors, simultaneous equations by elimination, changing the subject of a formula, sequences, algebraic fractions, graph drawing and coordinate geometry. 	<p>Creating a soundtrack TV Themes Students perform a TV theme on classroom instruments. Students re create a tv theme in GarageBand (ICT Key skills task) Students study the effect of music in advertising.</p> <p>Film Music and Casino Royale Students study the origins of film music, the effect of music on a film, and create their own soundtracks for a minute long movie in GarageBand and iMovie.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape, space and measure including: trigonometry, travel graphs and volume and density. • Handling Data including: Cumulative Frequency, Stem and leaf diagrams, Box and Whisker diagrams. 	
Physics	Physical Education
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion - Graphs & data logging 2. Mechanical systems - moments, pulleys and gears 3. Current Electricity, $V=IR$ and Power Stations 4. Nuclear Power - Fission & Fusion 5. Cosmology 	Badminton Fitness Basketball Athletics Softball
Religious Studies	Spanish
<p>Social Justice - pupils will be examining the issue of social justice, including a history of Human Rights. Attention will be paid to groups throughout history who have faced great injustices including women and ethnic minorities. Pupils will consider cases from history where religion has been instrumental in aiding the bringing about of social justice.</p> <p>Pupil will begin studying a module for their GCSE short course CCEA GCSE Module 6 - An Introduction to Christian Ethics. Pupils will address a number of key viewpoints from a Theist and Atheist point of view. These will include issues relating to family purpose, roles, marriage and divorce.</p>	My house and my town Free-time, Leisure and Daily routine Holidays Food - shopping and eating out

Technology & Design
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communication Task - KS3 ICT Accreditation based round PIC programme development/Solidworks.2. Graphics - Perspective Drawing. (Complex shapes/products in 1 point and 2 point perspective with some development of 3point), rendering.3. Design - Alarm projects including design of a PIC based system for sensing light/Temperature. Extension of PIC into use of computer control of sensors and outputs.4. Manufacture - workshop and CAD/CAM skills and safety to produce soldered circuit and housing for alarm circuit.5. Theory Health and Safety, Materials, CAD/CAM and Electronics.6. ICT - Keynote presentation and PIC programme development.