



The Wallace High School Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Updated September 2026 - 2027

Year 8

Art & Design	Biology
Observation practice - Exploring a range of graphic media for observation. Understanding line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour and space on a theme of 'Apples' Colour Theory - Introduction to colour theory, and painting. Research on Paul Klee and personal responses in his style Textiles - Researching the work of textile artists, developing design ideas, textile practical techniques. Botanical Illustration- observational drawing and painting skills development. Land Art- Research on Andy Goldsworthy, design ideas and land art responses. Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.	1. Cells 2. Animal Reproduction 3. Coordination and the Senses 4. Plant Reproduction
Chemistry	Computing
Getting Started Chemical changes Acids and Alkalis Separations Techniques	Introduction to Computing (i.e., housekeeping) Spreadsheets using Excel Programming with BBC MicroBits Introduction to Python Programming Creating a website using Google sites (i.e. Introduction to AI)
Drama	English
•What is Drama? •Roles and Responsibilities •Staging •History of Theatre •Theatres around us •Improvisation •Silent Movies •Gestures •Scriptwriting •Characterization	•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

•Shakespeare Festival •Review Writing •PR	•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
In Year 8 pupils will study the following components of Mathematics: • Number including: Use of 4 main operations with whole numbers, fractions (only + & -) and decimals, simple percentages, directed number, binary form and numerical patterns	Term 1 Beat, rhythm, ostinato, call & response minim crotchet quaver syncopation Two notes G/E

• 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. • Handling Data including Collecting, displaying and grouping data and mean, median and mode from a list.	Tempo Pitch Term 2 Beat, rhythm, ostinato, call & response semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, dotted rhythm, syncopation notes A, G, E, D, C Tempo Dynamics Timbre Duration Term 3 Fusion Beat, rhythm, ostinato, call & response, semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver, Notes A, G, E, D, C Tempo Dynamics Timbre, Duration Texture
--	---

Physics	Physical Education
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	Movement Skills Gymnastics Basketball Athletics Softball
Religious Studies	Technology & Design
Abrahamic Faiths - an in depth investigation on the shared history of the Abrahamic faiths, analysing and evaluating similarities and differences between them. The Life of Jesus - a unit of study which will examine the key important events throughout the life of Jesus and His ministry. Religious Festivals & Ceremonies - A unit of study which considers a variety of world religions, and examines key threads which run across a number of them. Studying the concept of 'light' and 'initiation', as well as pinnacle Celebrations in the Abrahamic Faiths such as Christmas and Easter.	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
Observation practice - Exploring a range of graphic media for observation on a theme of sweets. Understanding perspective along with line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour and space. 3D mixed media construction - Observations, researching the work of sculptors, developing design ideas, 3D construction techniques. Book Illustration - graphic design using iPads Gallery Poster Project- research local and national galleries and art movements. Complete a painted exhibition poster Stop Motion Animation- stop motion project using iPads. Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.	• Diet and Digestion • Breathing and Respiration • Plant Biology
Chemistry	Computing
Atomic Structure Elements, Compounds and Mixtures Reactions Patterns of reactivity Careers	Cyber Security Artificial Intelligence Programming in Python. MicroBits Creating a website using Google Sites (e.g., NextGen AI)
English	French
• 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	School, time and Daily routine Home and Local Environment, Transport and travel Food and Drink

• Functional writing • SPG - Back to basics • Analysing and creating multi modal texts and Film Review	
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
In Year 9 pupils will study the following components of Mathematics: • 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. • 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.	Piano chords and notes Pentatonic scale Ostinato Chords of C major, a minor, F major and G major Syncopation Perform Christmas song on Keyboard, LH and RH from Notation Revise Elements of Music Tempo, Duration, Dynamics, Texture, Timbre and Tonality Term 2/3 Guitar Learn strings E,A, D, G, B, E Learn strum and pick Learn chords from TAB Learn Chords C major, A minor, F major and G major Perform four chords in pairs with Keyboard and Guitar together Learn Bass Guitar Stings E, A, D, G Play a Bass line from Bass Tab In groups perform a piece in C major
Physics	Physical Education
1. Static & Basic Circuit Electricity 2. Light - Refraction, Dispersion & E-M Spectrum 3. Pressure 4. Sound waves 5. Radioactivity 6. Thermal Physics	Gymnastics Fitness Tennis Athletics Softball

Religious Studies	Spanish
Church History - an in depth study of the history of the Christian Church. Examining key events in the creation of and spreading of the world's largest faith during the time of the Roman Empire. This is then built upon to study the modern day Christian Church and look at key events within the faith, alongside modern-day persecution and struggles. Morality - introducing pupils to how people decide what is right and wrong and what influences moral choices. Pupils explore religious teachings, particularly Christian perspectives, alongside non-religious viewpoints and their own developing ideas about ethical behaviour.	Spain and the Spanish-speaking world Number, ages and birthdays Where people live The family Physical and character descriptions
Technology & Design	
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 the purpose of Mini Company. 3 fold leaflet (Company based).	

Year 10

Art & Design	Biology
Observation practice - Exploring a range of media for observation. Continuing to develop understanding of line, shape, form, tone, texture, space and colour on a theme of sea life Ceramics - Observations, researching the work of artists and designers, developing ideas and practical ceramic techniques. Careers in creative industries- research task The human form and portraiture- Observations of hands, research on Leonardo da Vinci. Proportions of the face, observational studies and researching the work of artists, printmaking experiments. Pupils are given opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills e.g. independent learning, working with others, ICT.	• Blood and Circulation • Microbes and Disease • Genetics and Inheritance
Chemistry	English
Neutralisation GCSE Atomic Structure GCSE Bonding GCSE Solubility	•Persuasive writing •Introduction to short stories •Writers' craft/ method analysis/unseen prose criticism/ Drama scene analysis •Novel - Stone Cold •Careers in English •Shakespeare - close study The Merchant of Venice •War Poetry – structuring a formal comparative poetry essay using an anthology •The Importance of Being Earnest *Media units including Non fiction, Multi modal and Film Review.

French	Geography
Holidays, travel and transport J'adore les fêtes! Leisure - hobbies and pastimes	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 in the café At the weekend Physical and personality descriptions and relationships	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
Dietary Disorders Sports' Nutrition Savvy Shopper 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 10 students focus their career plan in conjunction with the GCSE option choice process. In particular:

- 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

Citizenship

The final topic in Year 9 acts as a bridge into Year 10 when pupils will examine:

- The basic characteristics of democracy
- Ways to participate in school and society
- The necessity of rules and laws

Pupils will also return to the explicit study of human rights when studying:

- 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
In Year 10 pupils will study the following components of Mathematics: • 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. • 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.	The Music of Latin America Learn Samba Drumming Perform Soul Bossa Nova on Keyboards Create Samba composition on GarageBand Revise The Elements of Music The Blues Learn to play the Blues chords in a 12 bar pattern, learn to play a walking bass line and explore the Blues scale. Use Call and response in a Blues performance Create a Blues composition in GarageBand Revise the Elements of Music
Physics	Physical Education
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
Pupils 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.	My house and my town Free-time, Leisure and Daily routine Holidays Food - shopping and eating out

Technology & Design
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.