



Key Stage 3 Curriculum Guide

At Canterbury School, we aim to inspire a unified learning community where everyone can make a difference, fostering a culture of “can do,” challenge, and care.

Our mission is to provide a high-quality British education through a stimulating 21st-century curriculum. Through our exciting and engaging curriculum, students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to become global citizens. At Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9), students follow a broad, balanced curriculum that builds on the skills and knowledge acquired in primary school and prepares them for the examination courses in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). We nurture the whole student, supporting well-being, celebrating individual talents, and creating a safe, caring environment in which all can flourish.

We aim to:

- **Inspire a love of learning and help students reach their full academic potential.**
- **Promote high standards of conduct, integrity, and citizenship.**
- **Develop creativity, confidence, and aesthetic awareness through the arts.**
- **Build sporting skills, teamwork, and cooperation through PE and extra-curricular activities.**

Core Values

- **Unity: Inspiring everyone to make a difference.**
- **Respect: Guiding relationships, manners, and attitudes.**
- **Friendship: Encouraging kindness, empathy, and support.**
- **Responsibility: Fostering ownership and trustworthiness.**

This guide outlines the course content in each subject, how students will be assessed, and their responsibilities; giving parents the tools to support their son/daughter and be actively involved in their learning journey.

Art and Photography at Key Stage 3

Art and Design at KS3 aims to develop students' creativity, visual literacy, and confidence in expressing ideas through a range of media, including photography. Students will learn key practical skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, and digital photography, as well as develop an understanding of artists, designers, and photographers from diverse cultures and historical periods. Art and Photography foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning. They help students explore personal identity and the world around them, supporting emotional wellbeing and developing resilience and perseverance through creative challenges.

How is the Course Assessed?

Assessment is continuous throughout the year and includes:

- Practical projects (e.g. drawing, painting, sculpture, photography)
- Sketchbook work demonstrating idea development, research, and experimentation
- Written analysis of artists' work and self-evaluations
- Peer and self-assessments to encourage reflection and constructive critique

Assessments are both formative (ongoing feedback) and summative (end-of-project evaluations). Major projects are typically assessed each half-term, with regular feedback to guide improvement.

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
• Elements of Art and Principles of Design • Drawing Skills and Observation • Painting Techniques and Colour Theory • Cultural Art Studies • Introduction to Photography	• Mixed Media and Collage Techniques • Portraiture and Proportion • Exploring Surrealism and Imaginative Art • Printmaking Techniques (e.g. mono-print, lino)	• Identity and Personal Symbolism • 3D Sculpture and Installation Art • Abstract Art and Expressionism • Photography Project: Telling a Story • Preparation for GCSE Art & Design pathways

	• Photography: People and Places	
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How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents can support their son/daughter by encouraging regular sketching, photography, and creative exploration at home. Visiting galleries, discussing artists or photographers, and talking about the student's ideas helps deepen engagement. Providing basic art materials and fostering curiosity builds confidence and skills in Art and Photography.

Responsibility of the Student

Students should arrive prepared, complete all work on time, and keep their sketchbooks organized. They're expected to experiment, accept feedback, and respect materials, peers, and the studio space. Positive participation and creative risk-taking are key to success in Art and Photography.

Computer Science at Key Stage 3

The KS3 Computer Science curriculum equips students with the knowledge, skills, and digital literacy needed in a technology-driven world. Students develop computational thinking, learn about computer systems, data representation, and programming, and explore the ethical and societal impact of technology. The course fosters logical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, resilience, and awareness of cybersecurity and responsible digital behaviour. It builds a strong foundation for IGCSE and IB Computer Science through a balance of theory and practical skills.

How is the Course Assessed?

Assessment is continuous and varied, combining both formative and summative methods. Formative assessment includes coding challenges, online quizzes, discussions, and peer reviews, while summative assessment involves end-of-topic projects, termly exams, and an end-of-year exam.

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9	
Term 1: • Introduction to the school network and file management • Virtual Learning Environment (Frog) • Programming with Scratch Term 2: • Programming with Python • Microbit Term 3: • Binary system • -Programming with Scratch • Programming with Python	Term 1: • Coding with Microbit and Scratch Term 2: • Programming with Python Term 3: • Binary system • Networks	Term 1: • Cybersafety • Movie editing Term 2: • Programming with Python Term 3: • Web design with HTML	Term 1-3: Photoshop

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents and carers can support their son/daughter by encouraging regular coding practice on free platforms like Code.org, Replit, Scratch, and W3Schools, promoting safe and responsible online behaviour, and asking them to explain what they are learning to reinforce understanding. They can also help with time management on longer projects, review marked work together to identify strengths and areas for improvement, and, if possible, provide access to a computer or tablet for practice at home.

Responsibility of the Student

To succeed in Computer Science, students should come prepared with the necessary equipment, complete homework on time, participate actively, and ask questions when unsure. They are expected to catch up on missed work, respect teachers and peers, and reflect on feedback to improve. Developing independence, good time management, and a proactive attitude is essential for success in Computer Science and beyond.

English at Key Stage 3

Our aim in Key Stage 3 English is to develop confident, literate students who enjoy reading, writing, and spoken language. We nurture a love of literature while strengthening essential skills in grammar, vocabulary, and communication. Students are encouraged to read widely, write for a variety of audiences and purposes, and take part in discussions, debates, and presentations. Spoken language plays a central role in learning, helping students articulate their ideas and collaborate with others. Our curriculum builds on prior knowledge and offers support or stretch as needed to prepare students for the next stage.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment in English occurs through various methods. Each major unit includes key assessments for Reading, Writing, and Speaking & Listening, these include:

- Reading comprehension and written analysis
- Extended writing tasks
- Speaking and listening assessments (e.g., presentations, debates)
- Peer and self-assessment in preparation stages
- Vocabulary and grammar checks

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
• Kensuke's Kingdom or The Lion Above the Door • Introduction to Poetry • A Midsummer Night's Dream (Drama) • Media Unit	• Trash (Novel) • Growing Pains (Poetry) • Macbeth • Superheroes: Media and Non-Fiction	• Of Mice and Men • Romeo and Juliet • War Poetry • Travel Writing (Media and Non-Fiction)

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents and carers play an important role in helping students make progress in English. Encouraging regular reading at home - whether fiction, non-fiction, newspapers or poetry - can significantly improve vocabulary and comprehension. Talking with your son/daughter about what they are reading or studying in class helps develop their ability to think critically and express ideas clearly. Supporting them with written work by discussing their planning, checking spelling and grammar, or helping them structure their ideas can also be valuable. Creating time and space for reading, writing or homework is helpful, as is taking an interest in any books, plays or topics they are exploring. Above all, showing enthusiasm for reading and communication helps students develop greater confidence, independence, and a love of the subject.

Responsibility of the Student

Students are expected to read widely and frequently, and to take ownership of their progress by engaging fully with classroom learning and home study. They should come to lessons prepared, on time, and ready to learn with a positive mindset. All students are encouraged to meet deadlines, complete work to the best of their ability, and respond constructively to feedback. Respect for others, participation in discussions, and active contribution to lessons are key. Students are expected to bring the necessary equipment, demonstrate resilience, and approach challenges with curiosity and a can-do attitude.

Geography at Key Stage 3

At KS3 the Geography curriculum aims to create global citizens who have an awareness of the interactions across the planet and how the processes interconnect between physical and human spheres in their locality and throughout the world. This will be embedded through key map skills, as well as the ability to interpret different data sources and presentation techniques; whilst fostering the ability to justify opinions throughout different scales and perspectives.

How is the Course Assessed?

Each unit will be assessed through a range of activities, including presentations, multiple-choice questions, and extended written responses that evaluate both factual knowledge and the ability to interpret a variety of resources. Contributions to class discussions and participation in group work will also be considered when determining overall performance levels.

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
• What is geography? • Settlements • Rivers • Resources	• Coasts • Population change • Urbanisation • Weather and Climate • Climate Change	• Ecosystems • Development • Tectonic Hazards • China • Tourism • The European Union

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents and carers can play an important role in supporting students' learning by helping them embed key vocabulary and understand definitions. Talking with your son/daughter about what they are learning can reinforce knowledge and skills. Encourage discussions about their lessons, and help them make connections to real-life situations, fostering a deeper understanding and a sense of relevance in their learning.

Responsibility of the Student

All students are expected to actively engage in every aspect of their learning — both verbal and written — and to approach each task with a willingness to try their best. They should respond to feedback positively and thoughtfully, using it as an opportunity to improve.

Students are expected to arrive on time, come prepared for lessons, and complete all homework to the same high standard they demonstrate in class. If they find any part of their learning challenging, they are encouraged to review the material and ask for help whenever clarification is needed — whether in class or at home.

History at Key Stage 3

At KS3, the History curriculum aims to foster an understanding of how the past shapes the present, encouraging students to think critically about cause and consequence, continuity and change, and different historical interpretations. Students will develop key historical skills such as chronological understanding, use of evidence, constructing arguments, and understanding significance.

How is the Course Assessed?

Students will be assessed using a range of methods, including:

- Timelines
- End of unit tests
- Structured answers
- Source analysis and evaluations
- Posters and presentations

Assessment aims to develop both knowledge and historical skills, with regular feedback provided to support progression.

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
Norman to Medieval Britain 1) Medieval Church 2) Crusades and Castles 3) Black Death 4) Peasant's Revolt	Medieval to Victorian Britain 1) Tudor to Victorian Britain 2) Tudor Monarchs 3) Key events of the 1600's 4) Key Innovators of the 1600's and 1700's	20 th Century World history 1) World war One 2) Treaty of Versailles 3) Rise of Nazi Germany 4) World war two 5) Russian Revolution and Cold War

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents and carers can support historical learning by discussing key topics at home, helping to embed vocabulary and timeline knowledge. Encourage your son/daughter to ask questions about the past, make connections to current events, and engage in activities such as watching documentaries or visiting historical sites.

Responsibility of the Student

Students are expected to actively engage in their history learning through questioning, source investigation, and discussion. They should arrive to lessons prepared, complete homework thoughtfully, and revise regularly. Students are encouraged to ask for help when unsure and to reflect on feedback to improve their work.

Lengua and Literatura Española en Key Stage 3

Nuestros objetivos son desarrollar la comprensión y expresión oral y escrita en lengua castellana, fomentar el gusto por la lectura y la escritura creativa, mejorar el vocabulario, la gramática y la ortografía, e introducir a los alumnos en diferentes géneros literarios y culturales.

¿Cómo se evalúa la asignatura?

Se valorará la participación oral, la comprensión lectora, la calidad de los textos escritos y el progreso en gramática y ortografía. Se realizarán pruebas escritas, exposiciones orales, trabajos y actividades en clase.

Contenidos Year 7	Contenidos Year 8	Contenidos Year 9
Textos literarios y no literarios I Reglas de acentuación y ortográficas Las clases de palabras I La exposición oral Lectura y análisis de libros de lectura del curso	Textos literarios y no literarios II Clases de oraciones I Análisis sintáctico I Las clases de palabras II La exposición oral Lectura y análisis de libros de lectura del curso	Textos literarios y no literarios III Clases de oraciones II Análisis sintáctico II Las clases de palabras II La exposición oral Lectura y análisis de libros de lectura del curso

¿Cómo puede ayudar a su hijo/a?

- **Fomentar la lectura diaria:** Reservar un tiempo para leer en casa y comentar la lectura.
- **Practicar la escritura:** Animar a escribir diarios, cartas o pequeños relatos.
- **Dialogar sobre el lenguaje:** Hablar sobre nuevas palabras y su significado.
- **Revisar tareas:** Acompañar en la corrección de textos para mejorar ortografía y gramática.
- **Estimular la curiosidad:** Visitar bibliotecas o actividades culturales relacionadas con la lengua.

Responsabilidad del alumnado

- **Participación Activa:** escuchar atentamente durante las explicaciones y en las actividades orales y participar en debates expresando sus ideas con respeto y claridad.
- **Lectura Diaria:** leer de forma habitual textos recomendados y otros de su interés para mejorar la comprensión y ampliar su vocabulario.
- **Escritura y Corrección:** realizar con esfuerzo y dedicación las tareas de redacción, aplicando las reglas de gramática y ortografía aprendidas.
- **Organización y Cumplimiento de Tareas:** gestionar su tiempo para cumplir con las actividades y trabajos en los plazos establecidos. Traer los materiales necesarios para cada clase y preparar las tareas en casa.
- **Actitud de Aprendizaje:** mostrar interés y curiosidad por aprender sobre la lengua y la literatura. Pedir ayuda cuando tenga dudas.

Mathematics at Key Stage 3

The aim of the KS3 Mathematics curriculum is to provide students with a solid foundation in key mathematical concepts, skills, and thinking processes. Through engaging and challenging content, students develop fluency in number, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Mathematics is central not only to scientific and technological subjects but also to many aspects of everyday life and logical reasoning.

We aim to foster:

- Strong numerical and algebraic skills
- Logical thinking and problem-solving abilities
- The confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems
- Collaborative skills through group activities and projects
- Precision, perseverance, and analytical thought

Mathematics at KS3 prepares students for the demands of the IGCSE and IB Diploma programmes, encouraging independence and resilience in learning.

How is the Course Assessed?

Assessment in KS3 Mathematics is ongoing and multi-faceted, combining both formative and summative elements.

Formative assessments include:

- Regular homework assignments
- In-class quizzes
- Verbal questioning and class discussions
- Mini whiteboard activities and low-stakes testing

Summative assessments include:

- Topic tests administered approximately three times per term
- End-of-term evaluations based on cumulative learning
- End of year exams

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
Term 1: - Integers - Expressions, formulae, and equations - Place value, ordering, and rounding - Decimals - Angles and construction - Christmas Display Activities Term 2: - Fractions - Shapes and symmetry - Sequences and functions - Percentages - Graphs - Ratios and proportions Term 3: - Probability - Position and transformation - Shape areas and volumes - Interpreting results - Revision	Term 1: - Integers - Expressions, formulae, and equations - Decimals, percentages and rounding - Angles and construction - Collecting data - Christmas Display Activities Term 2: - Fractions - Shapes and symmetry - Sequences and functions - Percentages - Graphs Term 3: - Ratio and proportion - Probability - Position and transformation - Distance, area, and volume - Interpreting and discussing results - Curve stitching activity - Scale and construction (model making) - Revision	Term 1: - Number and calculation - Expressions and formulae - Decimals, percentages, and rounding - Equations and inequalities - Angles - Statistical investigation - Christmas Display Activities Term 2: - Shapes and measurements - Fractions - Sequences and functions - Graphs - Probability Term 3: - Position and transformation - Distance, area, and volume - Volume, surface area, and symmetry - Interpreting and discussing results - Revision

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting progress in mathematics. Here are a few helpful strategies:

- **Encourage daily practice:** Just 10–15 minutes of maths practice (revision, problem-solving, or using educational apps) can greatly reinforce classroom learning.
- **Promote a growth mindset:** Help your son/daughter understand that struggling with a concept is part of learning and encourage perseverance.
- **Use everyday maths:** Involve your son/daughter in real-life maths situations, such as budgeting, measuring, cooking, or interpreting data.
- **Use online resources and tools:** Websites like BBC Bitesize, NRICH, HegartyMaths, and MangaHigh can make learning interactive and enjoyable.
- **Review assessments together:** Go over marked work to identify areas of strength and those that need improvement.
- **Provide a quiet study space and time:** Ensure they have a distraction-free environment for homework and revision.

Responsibility of the Student

In order to succeed in mathematics, students are expected to:

- Come to class fully prepared with the correct equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, calculator, geometry set)
- Complete homework on time and to the best of their ability
- Participate actively in lessons and ask questions when unsure
- Take responsibility for catching up on missed work
- Show respect to teachers and peers, contributing to a positive learning environment
- Reflect on feedback and strive for continuous improvement

Developing independence, time management, and a proactive attitude are key to progress both in mathematics and across the curriculum.

MFL at Key Stage 3

The MFL curriculum at KS3 is designed to spark curiosity and foster a love for language learning. Students will develop the four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, alongside intercultural awareness. Learning French and German enhances cognitive skills, builds confidence in communication, and prepares students for a globalised world. Students will also gain insight into French/German-speaking cultures, promoting empathy, tolerance, and global citizenship. Emphasis is placed on practical communication for everyday contexts and foundational grammar.

How is the Course Assessed?

Students are assessed through a combination of formative and summative methods:

- **Formative Assessment:** Regular vocabulary quizzes, in-class participation, speaking drills, listening comprehension tasks, and peer/self-assessment activities.
- **Summative Assessment:** End-of-unit tests covering listening, speaking, reading, and writing; larger projects such as presentations or cultural comparisons; termly assessments.

Assessment occurs throughout the year, ensuring progress monitoring and targeted support.

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
• Myself • My Family and Pets • School	• Sports • My Routine • What I have for Breakfast • Holidays	• What I like to Wear • Relationships • Social Media • Health and Fitness • My Future

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

- Encourage regular revision of vocabulary using flashcards or apps like Quizlet or Duolingo.
- Practise speaking short phrases at home or role-play everyday scenarios.
- Support completion of homework and discuss topics they're learning in class.

Responsibility of the Student

- Come to lessons prepared with necessary materials and completed homework.
- Participate actively in lessons and speak French/German as much as possible.
- Take responsibility for vocabulary learning and use of revision tools.
- Show respect towards others, embrace mistakes as learning opportunities, and maintain a positive attitude.
- Review classwork regularly to reinforce understanding and ask questions when unsure.

Music at Key Stage 3

KS3 Music is one of the only activities that activates, stimulates and uses the entire brain. Our aim is to produce independent, creative, critically thinking musicians who have a competent knowledge (both theoretical and aesthetic) of various types of music, who increasingly exhibit attributes of musicianship, creativity, self-motivation, self-discipline and self-directed study so that they become intelligent consumers and/or performers of music who have learned how to strive for personal excellence, and who understand the place and value of the arts in the universe. Our aim is to develop students in their knowledge, skills and understanding of the three main musical disciplines (performing, composing and appraising) in all of the topics listed below.

How is the Course Assessed?

Assessments in Music will be in different formats. Each unit will include written/performance assessments, projects and listening skills activities which include the following:

- Musical Elements
- Musical Analysis
- Historical perspective
- Critical Listening
- Composition

Course Content Year 7	Course Content Year 8	Course Content Year 9
• Music Theory-pitch and rhythm • Music vocabulary • Recorder songs • Eras of Classical Music • Composer projects	• Music Theory-Scales, Intervals and Rhythms • Recorder songs • Jazz Age • Composer projects	• Music Theory-Chords and Rhythms • Forms of Music-Composing songs • Broadway Musicals • Composer projects

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

Parents and guardians play an important role in helping students grow and succeed in Music. Here are some ways to offer support at home:

- **Encourage regular practice.** Make sure your son or daughter spends some time reviewing what they've learned in class. All students should record their assignments in their homework diary to stay organised.
- **Provide a focused practice space.** Create a quiet, comfortable area where your son or daughter can practise without distractions and enjoy making music.
- **Show interest and encouragement.** Listen to their performances, talk with them about what they are learning, or help them prepare for upcoming music activities. Your enthusiasm helps build their confidence and motivation.
- **Promote positive learning habits.** Remind them that developing musical skills takes time and consistent effort. Encourage steady, thoughtful practice rather than rushing through tasks — good habits make a lasting difference.

Responsibility of the Student

Students are encouraged to take an active and enthusiastic role in their musical learning. Each lesson is an opportunity to rehearse, perform, and grow as musicians, so students should come prepared with their instrument, exercise book, folder, and a fully equipped pencil case. Reviewing class notes and completing homework will help reinforce learning and build confidence.

In lessons, students are expected to show respect for others, meet deadlines, and approach feedback with a positive attitude — seeing it as a valuable tool for progress and improvement.

Science at Key Stage 3

Science at KS3 nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the world. Students study biology, chemistry, and physics through practical investigations and real-world applications. The curriculum builds scientific literacy, encouraging students to ask questions, gather evidence, and draw conclusions. Through science, students gain problem-solving, analytical, and communication skills, supporting academic growth and preparing them to be informed citizens in a scientific and technological world.

How is the Course Assessed?

Assessment combines:

- **Formative assessments:** A range of activities, class discussions, peer and self-assessments to check progress and understanding.
- **Practical work:** Evaluation of planning, conducting, and reviewing experiments.
- **Project work:** Used to assess research and presentation skills.
- **Summative assessment:** Termly and end-of-year assessments to measure understanding and attainment.

Course Content Y7	Course Content Y8	Course Content Y9
Cells Classifying matter Forces in space Classifying life Explaining properties of matter Energy and Sound Environment and Ecosystems Chemical changes and reactions Electricity	Gases Liquids Respiration and the respiratory system Light and colour Atomic structure and chemical reactions Health Speed, motion and forces Earth and the Solar System Applications of science	Chemical bonding Plant biology Chemical structures and properties Sound and energy Human biology Electricity Chemical reactions Species and their environments Earth and beyond

How Can You Help Your Son/Daughter?

- Discuss science topics in the news.
- Support homework and revision.
- Use educational websites like BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning.
- Practise key terms using flashcards or quizzes.
- Watch documentaries or do home experiments together.
- Visit science museums or attend events when possible.

Responsibility of the Student

- Bring all necessary equipment.
- Complete homework on time and to a high standard.
- Engage in lessons and practicals with curiosity and safety.
- Respect the classroom and others.
- Take charge of learning by reviewing content and asking questions.
- Keep an organised science notebook or folder for revision.

Sociales en Key Stage 3

Nuestros objetivos son que el alumnado comprenda el entorno social, histórico, geográfico y cultural de España, desarrolle habilidades para analizar hechos históricos y fenómenos sociales, fomentar en él el respeto por la diversidad y la responsabilidad ciudadana y promover el interés por el patrimonio cultural y natural.

¿Cómo se evalúa la asignatura?

Se valorará la comprensión de conceptos, la capacidad de análisis y síntesis, la expresión oral y escrita, y la participación. Se realizarán pruebas escritas, proyectos, trabajos en grupo y exposiciones orales.

Contenidos Year 7	Contenidos Year 8	Contenidos Year 9
- El medio físico de España - Unidades de relieve - Ecología y medio ambiente - Las costas, ríos y lagos de España - Clima y vegetación	- El relieve y clima de Canarias - Medios naturales de Canarias - Prehistoria: etapas. - Prehistoria en Canarias - Pueblos prerromanos - Culturas ibera y celta	- Romanización en España - Los visigodos - Imperio carolingio y bizantino - El Islam - Al-Andalus - Feudalismo y Edad Media

¿Cómo puede ayudar a su hijo/a?

- **Conversar sobre el entorno:** Hablar con los niños sobre noticias, lugares y eventos históricos o culturales. Visitar museos y sitios históricos.
- **Fomentar la consulta de mapas y atlas:** Practicar la localización de lugares en casa.
- **Apoyar la realización de trabajos y exposiciones:** Incentivar la búsqueda de información y la expresión oral clara.
- **Estimular el respeto y la responsabilidad social:** Reflexionar sobre la convivencia y la ciudadanía.

Responsabilidad del alumnado

Participar activamente en clase y en las actividades. **Leer y comprender textos** de historia, geografía y cultura. Cumplir con las **tareas y trabajos** en los tiempos establecidos. Organizar sus materiales y preparar exposiciones. Mostrar **interés por conocer y respetar la diversidad social y cultural**