



REPTON
PREP

CURRICULUM
BOOKLET



Art

The Art Department at Repton Prep believes that everyone has a talent in some artistic discipline and that through our education, their talent will be discovered. Our department is colourful and welcoming and a high standard of work is achieved by all age groups. Pupils have the opportunity to explore media, such as painting, three-dimensional relief and sculpture work, filmmaking, installation, performance, sound, Photography and Textiles through mixed-media experiments and research. Most recently, our facilities have been enhanced by a purpose-built textiles and sewing area complete with Cricut.

At the end of Year 7, those pupils with a particularly strong interest and ability in this subject are invited to enter the scholarship programme. We have a strong record of achieving Scholarships and Exhibitions to Senior Schools and the work produced by our scholars is regularly on display around the school.

Each pupil has 60 minutes of Art every week in Years 3 to 6 and 80 minutes for half of each term in Years 7 and 8. Boarders are also able to work in the art room during some evenings in the week and on some Sundays.

We are confident that our creative facilities are likely to be the envy of many Prep and Senior schools. Whilst it is important for children to learn through formal and structured art lessons, our pupils also have plenty of time to work on their own ideas. Above all, our aim is for the children to enjoy their artistic pursuits.



Classics

Classics

At Repton Prep, we place great importance on the study of Classics. In Years 7 and 8, all pupils follow a blended course of Latin language and Classical Civilisation, with the ratio of each subject depending on their teaching group. Classical Greek can also be offered as an after-school activity to pupils who express a keen desire to learn it. In addition, Year 6 now benefit from an introductory Classics course focused on word derivation and classical history, in order to provide solid foundations upon which to build in Years 7 and 8.

Latin

Our curriculum covers the basic elements of Latin language including cases and tenses, as well as a vocabulary of around 200 words, so that pupils should all reach a standard of Latin by the end of Year 8 that would enable further study to GCSE.

Latin is the mother of modern languages such as Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian. Even in our own language, English, around 75% of our vocabulary is derived from Latin and Greek. It has been said that the study of Latin reaches the parts of the brain that other subjects on their own do not reach: it combines the logic of Mathematics, English, and Romance Languages.

Classical Civilisation

Our aim in this aspect of the course is to introduce pupils to the world of Ancient Greece and Rome. We hope to nurture in them an interest in the vast influence the classical world has on us today, in language, history, philosophy, art, architecture, technology, religion and democracy.

Topics include Greek myths such as Jason and the Argonauts, Theseus and the Minotaur, as well as the Trojan War and the Wanderings of Odysseus; also, Roman legends and various aspects of life in Ancient Rome.

Drama

The Drama department at Repton Prep offers all pupils the opportunity to express their creative and imaginative ideas both physically and verbally. Our fantastic theatre provides an exciting environment in which pupils can develop their creativity, communication, and confidence.

Drama is taught to all pupils from Nursery to Year 8 by specialist teachers. Younger pupils develop their speaking and listening skills through both whole-class and smaller group collaborations, using a range of visual and text-based stimuli. Pupils learn how to develop their physical skills to portray character and emotion, whilst also developing confidence in showcasing their performance work to their peers. Technical elements such as sound, lighting and costume are also explored as pupils begin to understand how engaging theatre is created.

When pupils reach Year 8, those who show significant ability in Drama maybe offered the opportunity to work towards a Scholarship entrance to their chosen senior school. These pupils are offered additional teaching to help prepare for these assessments.

Many productions take place throughout the school year, including Christmas shows and summer concerts from both Pre-Prep and Prep students – working closely with the Music department to create collaborative pieces. Students in Years 5 and 6 will audition for and take part in one Drama Showcase in the Summer term and Year 7 and 8 pupils will perform in one major production in the Lent term, auditioning for both acting and technical roles.

LAMDA

LAMDA lessons take place at Repton Prep on a rotation throughout the week with pupils working individually with our LAMDA teacher towards examinations outside of Drama lessons. These lessons are charged.

Examinations are offered for Prep pupils in Speaking Verse and Prose, Acting and Musical Theatre.



Design *and* Technology

Design and Technology is taught to all year groups from Year 3 to Year 8 and everyone enjoys at least 60 minutes per week. Pupils in their final two years benefit from 80 minutes each week for half a term working back-to-back with Art. The subject is also taught to groups of pupils in Year 2 as part of their activities carousel.

The Design and Technology department is a comprehensively equipped multi-task work environment with traditional wood-working equipment, plastics processing, electronics, computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) using both a Laser Cam and router/cutting machine, dye-sublimation processes and a small ICT suite adjoining the main work area. We also have a 3D printer in the workshop and facilities for robotics via Lego First League and other similar resources.

When pupils reach Year 8, those with a significant creative and technical ability may be selected to work towards a D&T Scholarship entrance to their senior school. They will then concentrate on D&T for the whole term, instead of alternating with Art, to achieve the extended level of work required.

Pupils selected to do a D&T Scholarship to their Senior School are offered additional teaching and learning in their activity time to support their project work. There is also supervised access to the D&T facilities during lunch breaks should pupils so wish. This has greatly contributed to the high success rate of our pupils in winning Scholarship and Exhibition awards to their chosen senior schools.

As an extra-curricular extension to D&T, there is a Greenpower Electric Car Racing activity for selected pupils in Years 7 and 8. Cars are designed and constructed to take part in the national Greenpower F24 Electric Car Races for Schools programme.

English

Our primary aim in English is to inspire and enthuse all pupils through sharing and studying a range of texts, from fiction texts, non-fiction texts, poems and plays – to writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences – to speaking and listening as individuals, in groups and in role. In addition, we seek to create and shape our curriculum so that it is enjoyable and relevant in the modern world.

Literacy underpins learning throughout the school and whilst we encourage our pupils to be creative and unique, our attention is sharply focused on written accuracy: namely 'the basics' of spelling, punctuation, and grammar. This is clearly modelled in 'real' texts, and we encourage all children to read frequently and widely.

We are fortunate to have a wealth of resources within the department and an impressive library within Foremarke Hall itself, which is run daily by Mrs Colver, our librarian. In addition, we have several age specific libraries across the site. Our librarian supports the department by ensuring that we have up to date texts, book lists and displays to pique our pupils' interests. Similarly, she produces 'The Word' which is a short, weekly, in-house publication which is based on key events and themes throughout the year, offering and recommending texts of interest. Book club runs on a rota system during break and lunchtimes, and pupil librarians are appointed each year.

In each year group, teachers choose texts that they are passionate about and which they feel will suit their groups and sets. Pupils therefore encounter a range of texts over the course of their academic careers here at Repton Prep.

We celebrate 'National Poetry Day' and 'World Book Day' annually and encourage pupils to enter writing competitions. Visiting authors and theatre companies are booked to come into school to give talks, workshops and performances, and when possible, we take pupils on trips to support their learning.

All pupils are invited to work towards reading challenges, which are outlined in the back of their planners. In the older years, we promote reading aloud through a rewards system. We actively encourage our parents to listen to children of all ages and reading abilities read aloud each week and through these partnerships with home we can ensure progress and success for each child.

We work closely with other departments, especially: Drama, Learning Enhancement (LE), English as an Additional Language (EAL) and the English Department at Repton School.



English *as an* Additional Language

It is the aim of the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department that pupils whose first language is not English will be given extra tuition so that they will become increasingly fluent in speaking, reading and writing English. They will be given the necessary support to help them to develop the academic skills required by their other subjects and to integrate fully into school life.

At the beginning of the academic year, all overseas pupils will be assessed in order to ascertain how much, if any, extra English tuition is needed. Dependent on their level of English, students may join EAL lessons during timetabled English and/or French lessons. Pupils can also access support from the EAL department for help in all their curriculum subjects.



Geography

In Geography lessons we aim to inspire and enthuse our students to understand and explore the world around them, both in a local context but also in their roles as global citizens. We encourage them to use a range of geographical enquiry skills, including fieldwork, to develop their knowledge and understanding of places, patterns, processes, environmental change and sustainable development.

The Geography curriculum at Repton Prep has been carefully designed and covers a wide range of topics including: Extreme Environments, Population, Settlement, Tectonics, Ordnance Survey Map Skills, Development Studies, Rivers, Coasts, Weather, Tourism and Sustainability.

Fieldwork is an important area of Geography at Repton Prep. We make use of the beautiful grounds to carry out fieldwork investigations such as microclimate surveys, weathering investigations and studying the local stream. The grounds also serve as the ideal place to perfect map skills and practise orienteering.

We run two residential trips each year. Year 6 have a trip to the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire which includes activities such as orienteering, a day at Flamborough Head studying coastal erosion and rock-pooling and a day on the North York Moors looking at rivers. In Year 8 all pupils go to Anglesey and Snowdonia to conduct a river survey in the Pass of Llanberis and to take part in high adrenaline sports, if they wish, such as coasteering – a good way to learn about the power of the sea firsthand.



History

History at Repton Prep is taught to all pupils as a distinct subject throughout the school. In our teaching we aim to equip learners with both a profound interest in the past and the critical skills needed to think as historians. The curriculum provides pupils with a broad sweep of British history but also many opportunities to explore fascinating cultures and civilizations from across the world. Units of study are delivered with reference to the National Curriculum as well as the latest guidance from the Historical Association. Planning follows a careful progression map of historical skills so that pupils leave Repton well-grounded in source analysis and interpretation, as well as the ability to write clearly and coherently.

History lessons follow a chronological structure beginning in Year 3 and Year 4 with a study of the Stone Age and Ancient Civilizations. Themed days, school trips and external visitors all help to bring the subject alive for the younger pupils who consider topics as diverse and engaging as the mummification of Pharaohs and the diets of famous Gladiators.

Older pupils cover a broad range of topics designed to give them a thorough foundation in British history from the arrival of the Anglo Saxons to the death of Queen Victoria. Pupils march alongside William of Normandy as he conquers England; toil with the workers of the Industrial Revolution and campaign with the Suffragettes as they fight for their right to vote. Beyond this, however, pupils consider the contributions and achievements of contemporaneous cultures that have also shaped the world we live in today. Pupils in Year 5 for instance explore the many similarities and differences between daily life in Tudor England and the African Kingdom of Benin. Likewise, pupils in Year 6 study the experiences of 'Samurai William', a real-life Stuart explorer who found himself marooned on the shores of Feudal Japan.

For each unit of study, tailored reading lists of historical fiction and non-fiction books are produced so that pupils can deepen their knowledge and interest outside of lessons. A number of trips to sites of historical interest are planned and external speakers are invited to help inspire and link lesson learning. Our most able pupils are also provided with numerous opportunities to challenge themselves in national history competitions including annual entry into the prestigious Townsend Warner History Prize.

Computing

It is the aim of the Computing department to encourage confident and competent users of ICT who learn when and how to use technology. Repton Prep benefits from a campus-wide ICT network maintained by a full-time computer technician.

Through a variety of experiences, we aim for each pupil to develop skills in communicating ideas through words, pictures, and sounds; entering, storing and classifying information; accessing and obtaining information and discovering skills useful to their own studies.

Two main computer suites lie at the heart of the network and it is here that Computing skills are taught as a part of the timetables for all Year 3 – Year 8 pupils. The school has two purpose-built ICT suites as well as six bookable laptop sets that teachers can use in their lessons, ensuring that ICT is always available to support learning where it is required. Many subject areas make use of ICT to enhance teaching and learning and all classrooms are equipped with interactive screens to aid learning. In Years 7 and 8, pupils have access to ICT facilities to complete their homework each night.

The use of ICT and computing is fully integrated across the school. By Year 8, pupils are comfortable applying skills to all areas of the curriculum. It may be video analysis of their own sports performance, creating films for Geography topics or using programming skills to design, code and evaluate systems. At Repton Prep we have a long-established structure enabling children to work with computer systems with confidence and competence.



Mathematics

Our principal aim in teaching Mathematics is that all pupils will be encouraged to enjoy the subject and study it with confidence and a sense of achievement. Our pupils achieve high standards in numeracy and a range of other mathematical skills and learn to apply these skills with confidence and understanding when solving problems.

We feel it is important to develop an appreciation of the relevance of Mathematics in other areas of the curriculum and everyday life and to be able to think precisely, logically and creatively. Furthermore, it is our aim to encourage the ability to work both independently and within a group, as well as to work in an environment where it is acceptable to make mistakes and to be encouraged to use these mistakes to rethink and re-explore ideas and solutions.

The Mathematics syllabus delivered from Year 1 follows the White Rose Scheme of Learning for Mathematics Mastery. In all years, pupils are supported and extended in their learning to reach their potential, irrespective of the set in which they work. In all year groups we aim to provide a variety of activities to allow pupils to gain mastery of key numeracy concepts.

Pupils in Years 5 to 8 receive their lessons from specialist staff. Setting currently exists in Years 3-8 for Mathematics, although pupils in Year 3 are not placed into sets immediately in the Michaelmas Term. Mathematics in Pre-Prep is taught to mixed-ability groups.

More able pupils participate in a number of National Mathematics challenges. Pupils in Year 3 and 4 get their first experience with this via the First Maths Challenge competition. Top sets in Years 5 and 6 take part in the UK Primary Mathematics Challenge in November and any qualifiers sit the finals paper of the PMC in February. The more able pupils in Years 6, 7 & 8 participate in the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge in April and any qualifiers sit the UK Junior Mathematics Olympiad paper at the end of the academic year. A couple of Year 8 pupils join two pupils from Repton's Year 9 to participate in the UK Mathematics Team Challenge.

Modern Foreign Languages

The introduction of a foreign language to children of a young age enables them to experience something of the joy of another culture and language at a time when they are most receptive and responsive.

French

French is taught by a dedicated team of enthusiastic and highly qualified specialists who create a very positive learning environment from Year 1 to Year 8. We work hard to achieve continuity throughout the school.

In the earlier years (Years 1 and 2) there is specific emphasis upon speaking French using games, songs, stories and rhymes. Pupil learning is closely linked to understanding the language and culture of France and the French Speaking World via interactive software. This serves to boost enjoyment and encourages the pupils to correctly imitate the sounds of the language.

As the pupils move into Years 3, 4 and 5 the emphasis remains very much on oral and aural skills. In Years 4 and 5 pupils are introduced to the 'AIM' total immersion course and at the end of each year the children put on a drama production, in French, using the language and skills they have acquired throughout the year. Simple grammatical concepts are introduced through the language of the plays which makes learning French fun, rewarding and accessible to all.

In Years 6 – 8 pupils begin a more formal course in French which is the first step towards a GCSE style of learning. Increasing attention is paid to the written form and at the end of each year, equal weighting in assessment is given to speaking, listening, reading and writing.

It is expected that teaching methodology will vary in order to be effective for each of the children. This will mean catering for visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles as well as creating a positive, challenging and rewarding environment. The languages department is very well resourced, and all pupils benefit from modern and innovative online resources and have the opportunity to work in a way which best suits their style of learning.

Spanish

Spanish is introduced in Year 7 as a two-year course followed by all pupils. It is very much an introduction to the language and skills which are required at GCSE and is loosely based around the 'Viva' course which is then continued at a higher level at Repton Senior School.

The course is modern and interactive and provides an excellent grounding in a second foreign language. Spanish is taught by subject specialists with a passion for the language and the culture of the Spanish speaking world; it provides an excellent introduction to a truly global language.



Music

The Music Department at Repton Prep aims to encourage all pupils to actively participate in musical activities and to listen to music with interest, enthusiasm and an analytical ear. We promote confidence and enjoyment in performance.

Music is a unique form of communication and is able to influence the way in which we feel, think and behave. As an integral part of culture, past and present, music assists pupils in understanding themselves and the way in which they relate to others. The teaching of Music develops pupils' listening and appraising skills and their appreciation of music worldwide. Active involvement in music-making broadens social skills: Playing in an ensemble or singing in a choir helps to develop confidence and the all-important ability to listen. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, catering for all abilities and needs.

Pre-Prep

Specialist class Music lessons begin in Nursery and are enjoyed throughout the Pre-Prep. Children also have the opportunity to start learning an instrument and advice can be given with regards to personal suitability at this age.

Pupils have the opportunity to perform to both their peers and parents at Music and Singing Assemblies and Pre-Prep Morning Concerts as well as the Recorder Club for Year 2. There is a Christmas Production which involves all pupils from Reception upwards. The Nursery perform their own special Christmas Nativity to their parents, which takes place in the Pre-Prep Hall.

Prep

Each form in Years 3-8 receives one class Music lesson per week; musical development is based upon performance, theory/composition plus listening and appraising. Year 3 has a focus on strings and Year 4 has a focus on brass.

Years 5 and 6 begin to explore the history of music, and start developing their understanding and application of composition and theory, whilst retaining and striving to develop a strong level of singing and instrumental performance.

Years 7 and 8 receive the benefit of two staff members with each class, enabling those for whom music is especially important or for those performing at a higher level to work and meet the needs of their own ability.

Additional ABRSM theory classes are organised by the Director of Music.

Many pupils learn to play a musical instrument at school and they are able to choose from a wide variety of instruments. Pupils have the opportunity to trial a specific musical instrument or vocal lessons with a visiting music teacher. Numerous choirs and ensembles rehearse on a weekly basis and are presented with internal and external performance opportunities in the form of concerts, services and other performances taking place throughout the school year. There are ensembles to cater for all abilities and the Prepton Players allows pupils the opportunity to gain ensemble experience.

There are choral opportunities for all.



PSHE

The PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum at Repton Prep aims to prepare the children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of modern life, so that they can progress to their next schools at 13 with the knowledge and ideals to allow them to take advantage of every opportunity presented to them.

PSHE is a highly valued subject at Repton Prep and is included as a timetabled subject for EYFS - Year 8. Pupils in Years 3 - 8 receive 60 minutes each week which is taught by specialist staff

Children are encouraged to talk freely, with the knowledge that their views and opinions will be listened to and valued. Children express how they enjoy this special time to share their thoughts in a safe and secure environment.

Aims of the curriculum at Repton Prep:

- To teach pupils to live healthily and safely and to reflect on their experiences.
- To develop the well-being and confidence of our pupils. To encourage self-belief.
- To enable pupils to take responsibility for their learning and future choices.
- To encourage the pupils to be responsible and caring members of the school and their local communities.
- To prepare pupils for the moral, social and cultural dilemmas they face as they approach adulthood.
- To develop each pupil's understanding of relationships and help them to responsibly manage a wider range of relationships as they grow up.
- To promote in each individual a respect for others and for the differences between people and cultures.

Religious Studies

The teaching of Religious Studies at Repton Prep is in accordance with the Christian principles upon which the school was founded. Pupils are however encouraged to also understand and respect the beliefs, values and traditions of other religions in preparation for life as citizens in a pluralistic society.

Pupils in Year 5 cover a broad range of topics ranging from, major Old Testament characters to, aspects of the life and teaching of Jesus as outlined in the Gospels. In Year 6 there is a focus on Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

In Years 7 and 8, pupils begin to identify and explore issues within and between faiths and human experience. They look beyond the stories to the beginnings of religious ethics, enabling them to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues. Whilst learning about how the Jewish religion is followed today, pupils in Year 7 also study some of the ancient texts which have a direct bearing on the practices of Judaism. Year 7 consider the Creation narratives, the founders of the Jewish faith, the Ten Commandments and some of the prophets.

During the course of Year 8, there is a continued emphasis in developing skills such analysis, expression, reflection, evaluation and application through the use of distinctive language, listening and empathy. Pupils study a range of topics relating to the Christian faith and develop an understanding of the importance they have both in the life of the Church and in the lives of individuals.

Science

We believe that pupils should explore science through hands-on practical activities. Science is taught as a standalone subject in classes from Year 3 upwards but from Year 5, pupils are encouraged to undertake their own experimental work in fully equipped laboratories with experienced specialist teachers supported by a qualified laboratory technician. We are keen to encourage their curiosity, independent thought and to take risks with their learning.

We aim to complete the Key Stage 3 Science Curriculum by the end of Year 8 and our scheme of work includes built-in extension activities for the most able pupils.

Pupils at Repton Prep benefit from regular extra-curricular trips to support their Science education. Year 5 visit 'Think Tank' in Birmingham, we run a weekend trip to the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire for Year 6 pupils and Year 7 visit the National Space Centre.

Younger pupils in the school have the opportunity to attend our Science Club, where we endeavour to inspire a love of Science in a fun and safe environment allowing them to try out exciting experiments.

Older pupils can get involved in our Chemistry Club. They have plenty of opportunities to experience Chemistry at its best with specialist teacher input and lots of practical work.

We produce competent young scientists equipped with the skills and enthusiasm to tackle Science at their senior school.





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