



## ACADEMY GREAT BARR

In Year 8, students build on their learning from Year 7, to develop academic, social and wellbeing skills. Our curriculum allows an opportunity to build Academy/home links and immerse students in a range of subjects and disciplines, taught by specialists.

Students are divided into 8 groups. The highest attaining students are grouped, as are those students who require some additional support. Those requiring the support are taught in a smaller class, in a nurturing, primary based environment. Remaining students are grouped as mixed ability for English, Mathematics, Science, French, History and Geography. All other subjects are taught as a completely mixed ability.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is focused on four key areas as detailed below.

### **WORLD**

English and Reading

History

Geography

French

### **EXPLORATION**

Mathematics

Science

### **WELLBEING**

Active (PE)

PSHEE, RSHE, RS



Art and Media

Computing

Enterprise

Performing Arts

*Seek for that which is good,  
That which is right,  
And that which is true.*

**What do you learn?**

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<b>Seminal World Literature</b> <i>Ethnic minority writers</i> <i>Black History Month (12 years a slave)</i>	<b>Conflict</b> <b>What is conflict?</b> <i>WW1/WW2 poetry and extracts from War Horse,</i> <i>Private Peaceful</i> <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>	<b>The Gothic</b> <b>What are the conventions of Gothic writing? What effects do they create?</b>	<b>Shakespeare's Sonnets</b> <b>How is poetry used to convey emotions?</b>	<b>Writing for different purposes</b> <b>How are a range of linguistic devices used to develop writing?</b> Emails CV Letters Blogs Speeches Articles	<b>Novel</b> Stephen Kelman: <i>Pigeon English</i> Annabel Pitcher <i>My sister lives on the Mantelpiece</i> <i>Of Mice and Men</i> <i>Lord of the Flies</i> <i>Animal Farm</i> <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> <b>How is context significant to a text?</b>



One hour per week is dedicated to use of the Academy Library and make use of the Accelerated Reading programme. For more information please click [here](#).

In addition, all Students in Year 8 also read for at least 20 minutes per day as part of our "Keep Calm and Read" programme which encourages young people to read for pleasure. It is expected that students have their reading book with them in every lesson.

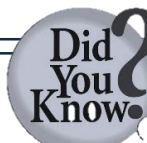
**Key spellings to know:**

Simile	Metaphor	Personification	Connotation	Characterisation
Imagery	Iambic Pentameter	Dramatic Irony	Soliloquy	Monologue
Oxymoron	Carnavalesque	Metadrama	Malapropism	Theatre
Relationships	Shakespearean	Ballad	Blank Verse	Epic
Haiku	Ode	Sonnet	Alliteration	Onomatopoeia
Assonance	Figurative	Structure	Sibilance	Enjambment
Caesura				

**For additional help:**

Try visiting [BBC Bitesize](#).

The longest English word that can be spelled without repeating any letters is 'uncopyrightable'.



**"Creativity of Learning and Learning of Creativity for a love of literature and cultural heritage."**

### What do you learn?

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Numerical Operations and Properties	Tables, Charts and Graphs	Perimeter, Area and Volume	Ratio, Proportion and Scale Drawings
Expressions	Fractions	Direct and Inverse Proportion	Transformations
Decimals	Forming and Solving Equations	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages	Probability
Rounding, Estimation and Powers	Angles	Algebraic Graph	Constructions
Shape Properties	Percentages	Averages and the Range	Real-life Graphs

#### Key spellings to know:

Perimeter	Area	Isosceles	Equilateral	Trapezium
Circumference	Expression	Expand	Factorise	Simplify
Significant	Estimate	Approximation	Mean	Median
Range	Modal	Frequency	Discrete	Continuous
Pictogram	Equation	Identity	Formula	Numerator
Denominator	Reciprocal	Equivalent	Angle	Quadrilateral
Polygon	Regular	Irregular	Pentagon	Hexagon
Heptagon	Octagon	Nonagon	Decagon	Interior
Exterior	Inverse	Substitute	Prism	Cuboid
Volume	Surface Area	Sphere	Pyramid	Frustum

#### For additional help:

Try visiting [BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize).

In a room of just 23 people there's a 50% chance that two people have the same birthday.

Did You Know?

"To create fluent mathematicians with a firm grasp on the fundamentals of mathematics. This will allow all students to develop into resilient problem solvers."

## What do you learn?

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Health and Lifestyle	Separation Techniques	Work, Heating and Cooling
The Periodic Table	Magnets and Electromagnets	Respiration and Photosynthesis
Electricity	Evolution and Inheritance	Earth's Resources and Climate
Digestion	Types of Reaction and Energy	Wave Effects and Properties

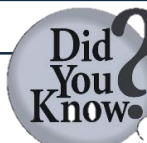
### Key spellings to know:

Stomach	Gene	Current	Transverse	Longitudinal
Pancreas	Genome	Endothermic	Diffusion	Electromagnetic
Villi	DNA	Aerobic	Respiration	Solid
Microvilli	Darwin	Anaerobic	Energy	Liquid
Toxic	Distribution	Control (Variable)	Battery	Gas
Independent (Variable)	Dependent (Variable)	Voltage	Parallel	Exothermic
Axis	Filtration	Mass	Series	Chromatography
Enzyme	Substance	Mixture	Element	Compound
Particles	State	Pressure	Poles	Equilibrium
Element	Interaction	Cell	Gradient	Mixture

### For additional help:

Try visiting [BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize).

Although it is still debated, it is largely recognized that the word 'chemistry' comes from an Egyptian word meaning 'earth'.



"Develop curiosity and imagination and empower students to ask outstanding questions to seek novel solutions."

## What do you learn?

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
<b>Did everyone benefit from the British Empire?</b>  Modernity  Empire  Slavery  Imperialism	<b>Did everyone benefit from the Industrial Revolution?</b>  Modernity  Empire  Imperialism  Industrialisation  Revolution  Transport	<b>Was European nationalism to blame for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Global Conflict?</b>  Empire Conflict/War Imperialism Militarism Nationalism Alliances Diplomacy Genocide	

### Key spellings to know:

Anglo-Saxon  
Peasant  
Norman  
Epidemic  
Protestant

Aristocracy  
Monarchy  
Coronation  
Manor  
Puritan

Earl  
Danelaw  
Feudalism  
Agriculture  
Trinity

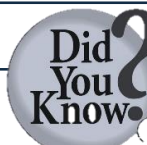
Lord  
Domesday  
Nobility  
Pope  
Heresy

Baron  
Motte and Bailey  
Crusade  
Catholic  
Cromwell

### For additional help:

Try visiting [Activehistory.com](https://www.activehistory.com),  
[BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize) or [Kerboodle](https://www.kerboodle.com)

When anaesthetic was used for the first time in childbirth in 1847, the mother was so amazed and relieved at how painless the birth was that she named her child Anaesthesia.



**“Understand the present society and ourselves by understanding where we come from.”**

### What do you learn?

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<p><b>Africa</b></p> <p>What are the human and physical features that make Africa a unique location?</p> <p>What limits the growth of Africa?</p>	<p><b>Crumbling Coasts</b></p> <p>How do the oceans shape our coastlines?</p> <p>How will rising sea levels impact upon our coast lines?</p>	<p><b>Ecosystems (Rainforests)</b></p> <p>Where are the World's Rainforests?</p> <p>How do I interpret a climate graph?</p> <p>How do animals and plants adapt to the climate conditions?</p>	<p><b>Development</b></p> <p>How can we classify a county's development?</p> <p>Why do countries develop at different rates?</p>	<p><b>Globalisation</b></p> <p>How have MNCs dominated the development of cities?</p> <p>Is Nike a company to be trusted?</p>	<p><b>Natural Resources in Crisis</b></p> <p>Why are we running out of fossil fuels?</p> <p>Is there a solution to our energy problems?</p> <p>What does the future hold for energy production?</p>

#### Key spellings to know:

Accessibility	Central Business District	Dispersed Settlement	Emigrant	Human Geography
Immigrant	Inner City	Land use	Microclimate	Pollution
Nucleated Settlement	Public Transport	Refugees	Settlement	Site
Suburbs	Urban	Urbanisation	Shanty Town	Economic
Environmental	Favela	Concentration	Compass Direction	Contour
Distance	Opportunity	Ordinance Survey	Relief	Scale
Triangulation	Features	Physical	Human	Population

#### For additional help:

Try visiting BBC News and Weather pages to keep up to date with Geography news.

The first city to reach a population of 1 million people was Rome, Italy in 133 B.C. There is a city called Rome on every continent.



"Develop a love of knowledge and appreciation for the world around us in its past, present and future forms."

## What do you learn?

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
<p>Talking about usual holidays and preferred holidays.</p> <p>Talking about items you take on holidays.</p> <p>Talking about dream holidays.</p> <p>Describing your past holidays and past activities.</p> <p>Talking about sports that you like to do including Winter and Summer sports.</p>	<p>Talking about leisure activities and active holidays.</p> <p>Name parts of the body and talk about sports injuries.</p> <p>Talking about where you live.</p> <p>Talking about daily routines.</p> <p>Talking about what you did yesterday.</p> <p>Talking about what you are going to do to help others.</p>	<p>Comparing France to Britain.</p> <p>Describing a country and looking for places to settle and work.</p> <p>Talking about French people.</p> <p>Talking about transport and new technology.</p> <p>Talking about types of television programmes.</p> <p>Talking about musical genres and opinions of music.</p>	<p>Talking about films and reviewing a film.</p> <p>Talking about reading preferences.</p> <p>Describing old and new technology.</p> <p>Talking about using new technology for leisure activities.</p> <p>Identifying potential dangers of social networking.</p> <p>Talking about the pros and cons of new technologies.</p>

### Key spellings to know:

J'aime	J'adore	Je n'aime pas	Je deteste	je suis d'accord
Je pense que	Je trouve que	à mon avis	Et	Aussi
Mais	Parce que	Cependant	Donc	Par Contre
De plus	Dans	Il y a...	Ne... rien	Chez
Chezmoi	Plus... que	Moins... que	Je m'apelle	Ça va?

### For additional help:

Try visiting [Kerboodle](#) or [Duolingo](#).

French is the official language of France and it's also spoken in Monaco, Luxembourg, some parts of Belgium and Switzerland, in the Canadian province of Québec, parts of North and Central Africa, Vietnam, Cambodia, Madagascar and the French Overseas Departments and Territories. It can still be heard in some communities of French origin in the USA, in Maine and Louisiana.



**"Enforce the values across different cultures whilst developing communication skills."**

### What do you learn?

- Use a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition through team and individual games.  
For example: Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Rugby and Tennis.
- Develop technique and improve performance in other competitive sports.  
For example: Athletics and Gymnastics.
- Perform dances using advanced dance techniques within a range of dance styles and forms.
- Take part in outdoor and adventurous activities which present intellectual and physical challenges and be encouraged to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group.
- Analyse their performance compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best.
- Take part in competitive sports and activities outside the Academy through community links or sports clubs.

### Key spellings to know:

Heart-Rate  
Badminton  
Rounders  
Athletics  
Measure

Tactic  
Basketball  
Rugby  
Athlete

Strategy  
Cricket  
Tennis  
Gymnastics

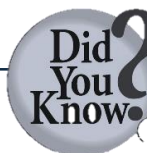
Competition  
Football  
Technique  
Gymnast

Competitor  
Netball  
Performance  
Time

### For additional help:

Speak to the PE Department for additional ways you can be active.

According to the four home countries' Chief Medical Officers everybody should aim to be active daily. For adults, the recommended amount is 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate activity per week, in bouts of 10 minutes or more. The overall amount of activity is more important than the type, intensity or frequency, and one way to achieve this is to do 30 minutes on at least 5 days a week.



"Inspire lifelong enjoyment and participation in physical activity, instilling core values of Tolerance, Teamwork, Perseverance and Respect."

### What do you learn?

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
<p>Friendship</p> <p>Accepting Differences</p> <p>Bullying</p> <p>Religion and Culture</p> <p>Developing and Managing Emotions</p> <p>Loss and Ending Relationships</p>	<p>Religion and Culture</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>Drug Safety</p> <p>Influence</p> <p>Financial Awareness</p> <p>Enterprise</p>	<p>Marriage, Commitment and Families</p> <p>Consent</p> <p>Contraception</p> <p>Growing Up</p> <p>Citizenship +</p> <p>Religion and Culture</p>	<p>Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem</p> <p>Mental Health</p> <p>Looking After Yourself</p> <p>Religion and Culture</p> <p>Eating Well</p> <p>Employability</p> <p>Careers and Employment</p>

#### Key spellings to know:

Relationship	Teams	Friendship	Bullying	Disagreement
Bi-Stander	Christianity	Orthodox	Roman Catholic	Anglican
Non-Conformist	Pentecostal	Islam	Sikhism	Intimate
Expectation	Perspective	Consequence	Emergency	Creationism
Marriage	Consent	Contraception	Gender	Sexual Orientation
Bar Mitzvah	Hygiene	Obesity	Kosha	Halal

#### For additional help:

You can find support and guidance about your PSHE, RSHE and Careers in lots of ways. Speak to your tutor to find out more.

If you are physically tired, the best thing to do is exercise as it will give you more energy than sitting. Studies have found that the blood and oxygen flow through the body will give you more energy and improve your mood. The increase in endorphin levels can contribute to a feeling of well-being.



**“Develop understanding of the world around us to ensure we group up happy, healthy and successful.”**

### What do you learn?

**Art and Media** is taught as a 9 week block, as part of one of four rotation subjects. During these 9 weeks, students will study Art for 4 hours per week to allow for immersive learning.

#### Creating Sketchbooks

- Making and Constructing Individual Textured Sketchbooks
- Drawing and painting to raise awareness of recycling and plastic pollution.
- What does the term 'abstract' mean in Art?
- What key features should be included in an accurate observational drawing?
- What tips would you give to someone using acrylic paints?
- Why is experimentation important in Art?
- Is all trash, rubbish?

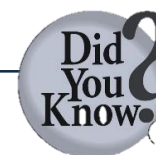
#### Pop Art

- Grid Method – how does a grid help you to accurately change the scale of an image?
- Enlarging an image
- What are the features of the Pop Art style?

#### Key spellings to know:

Effect	Pattern	Line
Material	Surface	Paint
Canvas	Paper	Texture
Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Tint	Shade	Warm
Harmonious	Cool	Proportion
Complementary	Portraiture	

A world record of 8ft 6in for the highest flying toast from a pop-up toaster was set at the Royal College of Art graduate show in 2008.



**“Develop transferable skills such as: Problem Solving, Perseverance, Independence, Research, Creativity and Wider Thinking.”**

## What do you learn?

**Computing** is taught as a 9 week block, as part of one of four rotation subjects. During these 9 weeks, students will study Computing for 4 hours per week to allow for immersive learning.

- File Management and Hardware
- Software
- Data Representation and Image Representation
- Flowcharting
- PRIME
- Iteration (For/While)
- Selection (If/elif/else)
- Lists and Arrays
- Ethics – Self Driving Cars

### Through independent learning:

- Hardware
- Features of Software
- ASCII Code Breaking
- Identifying Errors

### Key spellings to know:

Programme  
Cyber  
Hardware  
Algorithm  
Processor

Language  
Input  
Component  
Sequence  
Accelerometer

Cryptography  
Output  
Internal  
Selection  
Flowchart

Turtle  
Process  
Python  
Condition  
Pseudocode

Security  
Software  
Iteration  
Variable  
Decomposition

### For additional help:

Try visiting [Python](#) or [Bitesize](#).

The first computer mouse ever made was made of wood by Douglas Engelbart.



“Ensure students are computer literate and find solutions to problems which may not exist yet.”

### What do you learn?

**Enterprise** is taught as a 9 week block, as part of one of four rotation subjects. During these 9 weeks, students will study Design Technology with Business for 4 hours per week to allow for immersive learning.

#### Recognise the importance of research in the design process

- Why is research important?

#### Developing successful products

- How will we ensure success?
- What will my design look like and why?
- Why do we use models?
- Why build a prototype?
- Will your product be successful?

#### Merchandising

- Why is finance important?
- How will you get people to buy your product?

#### Key spellings to know:

Transportation  
Packaging  
Field to Fork  
Hydroponics  
Crop Rotation

Food Miles  
Landfill  
Barn-Reared Animals  
Hatcheries  
Fairtrade

Climate Change  
Food Waste  
Organic  
Fish Farms  
Red Tractor

Carbon Footprint  
Composting  
Genetically Modified  
Sustainable Food

Recycling  
Traceability  
Free Range Farming  
Green House Gas

#### For additional help:

Speak to one of the DT  
Department.

In 1971, the iconic Nike logo was designed by a student named Carolyn Davidson for just \$35! However, Carolyn's contribution to Nike did not go unrecognised. Three years after Nike went public (1983), the executives surprised her with a party, where she was given an undisclosed amount of shares of Nike stock. Reports suggest they are worth close to \$1 Million.



**“Develop an environment where innovation and creativity can be used to build skills and knowledge for further education and employment.”**

### What do you learn?

**Performing Arts** is taught as a 9 week block, as part of one of four rotation subjects. During these 9 weeks, students will study Drama and Music for 4 hours per week to allow for immersive learning.

#### **Drama: Our Day Out – Developing a script extract for performance**

- What is the genre of Our Day Out? How can this be communicated in performance?
- What performance skills can be used to communicate artistic intentions within a performance?
- What were Willy Russell's artistic intentions for his play? How did the context of when he was writing the play impact the intentions?

#### **Music: The Impact of Popular Music**

- To what extent does popular music have the ability to insight change and raise awareness of important social, moral and environmental issues?

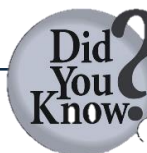
#### **Key spellings to know:**

Tension	Plot	Character	Development	Characterisation
Atmosphere	Devising	Audience	Role on the wall	Proxemics
Stimulus	Climax	Evaluation	Narration	Role Play
Improvisation	Spontaneous	Soundscape	Dynamics	Tempo
Structure	Melody	Instrumentation	Rhythm	Harmony
Elements	Fortissimo	Forte	Piano	Pianissimo
Presto	Moderato	Grave		

#### **For additional help:**

Try getting involved in Extra-Curricular opportunities.

The word "Theatre" comes from the Greek word "theatron", which means "seeing place".



"Develop an understanding and appreciation of live performance; inspire and nurture the imagination and support students in the development of skills that will support them throughout life."