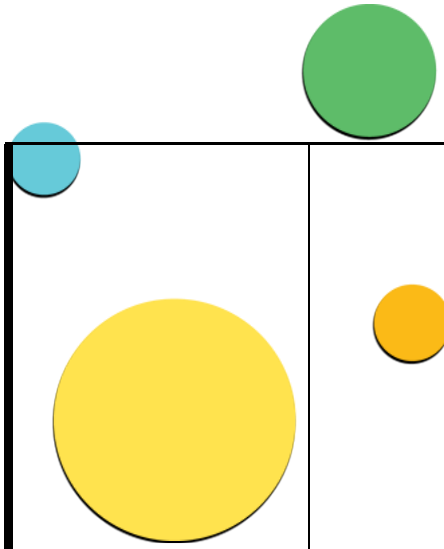
Straits International School Rawang
Curriculum Overview
Year 8 Autumn Term 1 2025/2026

Autumn Term 1	What are we learning?	What KUS will we gain?	What will excellence look like?
English Language and Literature	Novel Study: *Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle focusing on the conventions of detective fiction, the Victorian context, and Conan Doyle's use of suspense and characterisation.	Students will explore how Holmes' deductive methods are presented, how mysteries are structured, and how language is used to create tension. Reading lessons involve close analysis of clues, characters, and narrative perspective. Writing activities include analytical essays on how Conan Doyle presents Holmes or builds suspense, as well as creative detective stories that use key features of the genre. Speaking and listening tasks involve group discussions, role-play, and presentations where students collaborate to solve a mystery.	**Excellence** is demonstrated by students who can interpret the text with insight, recognising deeper meanings and authorial techniques. High-achieving students will select quotations precisely to support their ideas, write clear and well-structured analytical responses, and contribute confidently to discussions by connecting the stories to their historical and social context.
How will this be assessed?		Students are assessed through a range of reading, writing, and speaking/listening tasks. Reading comprehension activities test inference, deduction, and the ability to identify how suspense is built. A written analytical essay measures students' ability. Creative writing tasks assess students' ability to apply the conventions of detective fiction in their own mystery story, focusing on descriptive detail, plot construction, and vocabulary. Speaking and listening assessments include group discussions, dramatic role-plays of key scenes, or collaborative presentations where students solve a mystery, which test clarity of communication, teamwork, and use of evidence.	
Mathematics	Factors, multiples and primes	To write positive integers as product and use them to find the LCM and HCF. To use	Recognising natural numbers, integers, and rational numbers. Identify square numbers and their

	Expressions, Formulae and Equations, Place Value and rounding	four operations with negative numbers and understand the order of BIDMAS when solving calculations. Finding squares, cubes, and corresponding roots. Write numbers using index notations. Use correct order of operations in algebraic when constructing, substituting, expanding, factorising expressions and understanding inequalities. Multiplying and dividing by 0.1, and 0.01, round numbers to a given significant figure. Compare, order, multiply and divide decimals.	corresponding square roots. Reasoning using the knowledge of powers, roots when solving. Change the subject of formulae. Use different methods to make decimal calculations easier.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed on their ability to reason mathematically, manipulate algebraic expressions, and apply number properties confidently. Skills tested include factorisation, order of operations, algebraic manipulation, handling decimals, and interpreting number types and relationships.	
Combined Science	Forces	Students will gain knowledge of how forces affect the motion and shape of objects, how pressure varies in different materials, and how to interpret and construct distance-time and velocity-time graphs. They will develop key skills in using formulas to calculate force, pressure, and speed, analysing data from practical experiments, and explaining scientific phenomena using evidence. By the end of the unit, students will be able to predict motion outcomes, apply equations accurately, and link theoretical ideas to	Excellence means using precise scientific language, accurate calculations, and clear graphs to support explanations. A high-quality response not only recalls Hooke's Law but also applies it to experimental data, showing proportionality and recognising limits of the law. Strong students can apply knowledge to new contexts and present their work clearly and logically.

		everyday examples such as parachutes, hydraulics, and springs.	
How will this be assessed?		Students will be tested on their ability to calculate forces, pressure, and speed using appropriate formulas, and to interpret motion graphs accurately. Assessments will focus on explaining how forces affect motion, applying Hooke's Law with experimental data, and evaluating the role of friction and air resistance. Practical tasks will measure accuracy in data collection and graph plotting, while written assessments will test clarity of explanation and the ability to apply concepts to real-life examples.	
History	Queen Elizabeth & life in Tudor times.	Students will gain a strong knowledge of Elizabeth I's reign, including the challenges she faced as a young queen in 1558, her decision to execute Mary, Queen of Scots, and the beginnings of the English empire. Alongside this, they will learn about everyday life in Tudor England, from schools and social hierarchy to fashion, food, and crime and punishment. They will develop key historical skills such as analysing sources for reliability, making inferences, and explaining cause, consequence, and significance. By the end of the unit, students will be able to explain why Elizabeth made difficult decisions, describe the key features of Tudor society, and compare these with modern life, showing a secure grasp of both factual detail and historical thinking.	The ability to explain and justify Elizabeth's decisions with detailed evidence, to compare Tudor life across social groups with insight, and to present ideas clearly and persuasively. Excellence will also show in creativity for example, recreating Tudor experiences or presenting arguments in character while still grounding work in accurate historical knowledge.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through a blend of practical and written tasks. Role-play debates and mock trials will assess their ability to use evidence and construct arguments, while creative tasks such as	

		diary entries or Tudor “MasterChef” menus will test their understanding of daily life and society. Short quizzes and retrieval tasks will check factual knowledge, while extended written explanations will measure how well students can use evidence to explain cause, consequence, and significance. This combination ensures students are assessed on both their historical knowledge and their ability to think and communicate like historians.	
Geography	River	Students will gain knowledge of the key river processes such as erosion, transportation, and deposition and how these processes form features such as meanders, waterfalls, and deltas. They will develop skills in interpreting river maps and diagrams, analysing case studies of floods, and applying geographical vocabulary with precision. By the end of the unit, students will be able to explain how rivers change along their course, describe landforms with accuracy, and evaluate strategies for managing river flooding.	Excellence means producing detailed explanations supported with accurate use of terminology, clear diagrams, and well-chosen examples. High-quality work does more than describe features; it explains the processes behind them and makes links between rivers, people, and environments. Strong students will also demonstrate fieldwork skills, presenting data clearly and drawing reasoned conclusions from evidence.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed on their ability to explain river processes, describe and analyse landforms, and apply knowledge to real-world flooding events. Assessments will focus on accuracy in using geographical terms, interpreting maps and diagrams, and evaluating flood management solutions. Practical activities and written tasks will test both knowledge and skills, including the ability to use evidence to support conclusions.	
Enterprise	Business opportunities, responsibilities and risk	Students will gain knowledge of how businesses identify opportunities, take calculated risks, and understand their responsibilities to customers, employees, and the environment. They will explore the link between risk and reward, and how ethical and legal responsibilities impact	Excellence in Business Opportunities, Responsibilities, and Risk will be shown by students who can clearly identify and evaluate potential business opportunities, considering market needs and trends. They will demonstrate a strong understanding of ethical, legal, and social responsibilities, and how these impact business decisions. Excellent students will assess risks

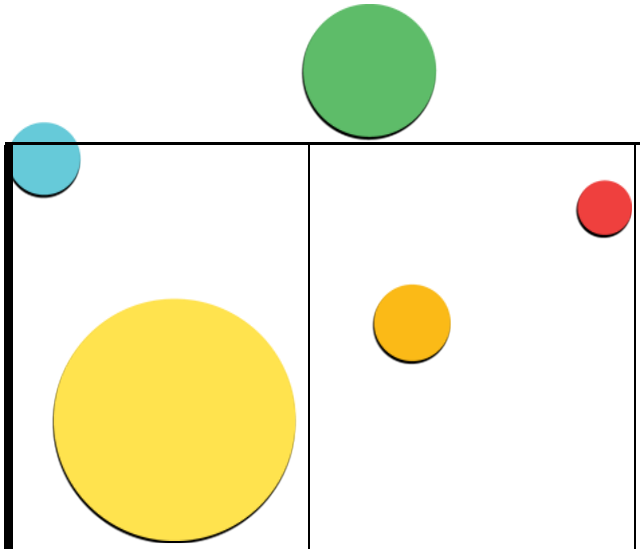
		business decisions. Students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills by analysing real-life business scenarios. They will also enhance their communication and teamwork abilities through group discussions and tasks. This unit builds a deeper understanding of how businesses operate in society and prepares students to think responsibly and creatively about enterprise and entrepreneurship.	logically, propose strategies to manage them, and justify their choices with sound reasoning. They will show maturity in weighing profit against responsibility and sustainability.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment will be based on a mix of classwork, group projects, presentations, and written reflections. Students will be evaluated on their understanding of key concepts, creativity in developing business ideas, ability to assess risk and responsibility, and effectiveness in teamwork and communication. Peer and self-assessment may be used to encourage reflection and improvement.	
ICT	Modelling, Data & Database	**Knowledge**: Students will gain an understanding of modeling concepts, data types, and database structures, including tables, fields, records, and relationships between data entities. **Understanding**: Students will learn how models are used to represent real-world scenarios and how databases store and organize data efficiently. They will understand the application of databases in solving problems and supporting decision-making.	Excellence is measured by the student's ability to create optimized data models, design well-structured databases, use advanced querying techniques to solve complex problems, and ensure data accuracy and consistency throughout.

		Skills: Students will develop skills in designing and building data models, creating databases, and effectively using queries to manipulate and retrieve information. They will also practice methods of data validation and data analysis.	
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed on their ability to design logical data models, structure databases effectively, and use queries to retrieve and analyze data. Key skills tested include data organization, validation, relationship mapping, and solving real-world problems using database tools.	
Art & Design	Identity and Expression: Exploring Modern and Contemporary Artists This term, students will explore how artists communicate identity and meaning through colour, symbolism, abstraction, and mixed media. They will experiment with a wide range of techniques —	Students will develop skills in symbolism in portraiture, expressive use of colour, abstraction, pattern, digital collage, mixed media layering, and annotation. Key artists include Frida Kahlo, David Hockney, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Bridget Riley, Pablo Picasso, and Banksy. Students will understand how artists use portraiture, symbolism, and abstraction to express identity. They will learn how to combine different media to communicate ideas and how to present and refine their work in a structured sketchbook.	Excellence in this unit means students confidently explore a range of materials and techniques to communicate personal ideas. Their sketchbooks will show thoughtful research, experimentation, and clear annotation. Final outcomes will be ambitious, original, and demonstrate a strong connection to the artist influences studied. Students will take creative risks, show independence, and reflect critically on their progress.

	including expressive drawing, painting, collage, and digital composition — to develop their own personal responses to the theme of identity.		
How will this be assessed?		Students will receive ongoing teacher feedback during lessons and written feedback in sketchbooks. Weekly sketchbook checks will monitor progress in artist research, experimentation, and reflection. Students will complete four formal formative assessments this term.	
Drama	Introduction to The Key Elements	Students demonstrate their ability to perform using voice, body, and musical elements. The key skills include- vocal clarity, projection, and basic singing technique (pitch, rhythm, expression).	Excellence will be shown when students are able to use the key skills and perform a short musical number from a well-known show.
		Assessment focuses on vocal delivery, characterization, and how well they use movement to enhance performance. The emphasis is on interpreting musical material and understanding how music, lyrics, and staging work together to tell a story.	
Music	Blues music History of Blues Blues scales Famous blues musicians 12 bar blues	Students are gaining knowledge of the history of Blues music, the stylistic features that define the genre, and key figures who shaped its development. They are developing an understanding of the 12-bar blues form, the relationship between chord progressions and improvisation, and how the blues scale is used in performance. They are	Excellence is shown through a confident performance of the 12-bar blues progression, both individually and in ensemble contexts. It is demonstrated by accurate and creative use of the blues scale in improvisation and the ability to recognise and describe key features of Blues music in listening or written work. Excellence is also evident in the student's ability to make links between the historical background of the genre and its musical features.

		strengthening their skills in performing blues chord sequences, improvising short melodic ideas, and recognising features of the genre in listening and theory tasks.	
How will this be assessed?		Assessment is carried out through both practical and theoretical tasks. Students are assessed on their ability to perform the 12-bar blues progression fluently, to use the blues scale in improvisation, and to participate effectively in group performance. They are also assessed through short written tasks or quizzes on the history of Blues music, famous musicians, and the characteristics of the genre.	
Mandarin	Advance: 休闲活动 **Intermediate:** Relatives & Hobbies	Advance 在这单元，学生会认识不同的休闲活动，透过阅读不同的文章去了解其他人对人生的体验，并对各种课题展开讨论。 **Intermediate:** Students will gain vocabulary related to family members on both paternal and maternal sides, and different types of hobbies. They will learn to use frequency expressions (e.g., “常常”, “有时候”) to talk about how often they meet relatives or engage in hobbies. Grammar focus includes question forms, classifiers, and sentence structures to describe relationships and activities. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be developed through interviews, surveys, and short paragraphs.	Advance 学生将阅读一些有关休闲活动的文章如：《学国画的老外越来越多》、《闲话休闲》、《体验人生：我在英国做义工》、《暑期工，经验“险”中求》等，从而探讨文中的相关的知识点以及提高学生的写作技巧。 **Intermediate:** Excellence will be shown through clear, detailed oral and written descriptions of family members and hobbies. Students will use a variety of sentence patterns, accurate word order, and appropriate grammar. They will confidently ask and answer questions about relationships and interests, incorporating frequency expressions and personal opinions. High-performing students will also compare common hobbies in their class and show cultural awareness in how hobbies and family life may differ in Chinese-speaking contexts.
How will this be assessed?		This unit will be assessed through a variety of formats that evaluate students’ listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The goal is to ensure students not only acquire language knowledge but can also apply it flexibly to express their understanding and opinions.	

Bahasa Melayu	Unit 7: Minuman dan Makan di Luar	In this unit, students will learn to understand and use vocabulary related to food, drinks, and dining out, enabling them to engage in conversations and write about these topics confidently. They will also be introduced to the usage of Kata Terbitan Akhiran such as '…an', 'isme', 'i', and 'kan' to enhance their understanding of word formation in Bahasa Melayu. Additionally, students will practice writing a news article using simple sentences, applying their newfound vocabulary and grammar skills. These lessons will help them communicate more effectively about everyday topics and improve their writing abilities.	• Use vocabulary related to food, drinks, and dining out accurately in conversations and writing. • Understand and apply Kata Terbitan Akhiran such as '…an', 'isme', 'i', and 'kan' in sentences. • Write a clear and concise news article using simple sentences. • Discuss and describe food and dining experiences confidently. • Demonstrate improved writing skills by incorporating appropriate vocabulary and grammar structures.
How will this be assessed?		This unit will be assessed through both oral and written components. In the oral assessment, students will be evaluated on their ability to participate in a role-play, demonstrating appropriate greetings and self-introductions using complete sentences. The written assessment will focus on identifying and correctly using common and proper nouns. Assessment criteria will include accuracy, clarity, sentence structure, and the correct application of grammar in context, allowing teachers to gauge students' understanding and practical use of language in real-life situations.	
Physical Education	Y8S: Badminton Y8R: Athletics	**Badminton**: Students will develop a solid understanding of key badminton skills, including serving, lob, drop, and lift shots. They will learn how to execute these techniques with precision, improving their overall gameplay and strategy on the	**Badminton**: • **Serving**: Consistently accurate serves with precise placement, using a variety of serves (high, low, flick) to keep opponents off balance. • **Lob**: Ability to execute high and deep lobs that push opponents to the back of the court, setting up offensive opportunities.

		court. By mastering these skills, students will enhance their agility, hand-eye coordination, and ability to anticipate their opponent's moves. **Athletics**: Students will gain knowledge and practical experience in various athletic disciplines, including running, jumping, and throwing events. They will learn the fundamentals of each event, focusing on proper technique, form, and the importance of physical conditioning. Through these activities, students will improve their speed, strength, endurance, and coordination, which are essential for overall athletic performance.	• **Drop**: Demonstrating control and finesse with drop shots that land close to the net, forcing the opponent to move forward quickly. • **Lift**: Effective lifts that transition from defense to offense, placing the shuttlecock in challenging positions for the opponent. • **Net:** Able to execute tight net shots, hairpin drops, and aggressive net kills, effectively maintaining pressure on their opponents and dominating the net area. **Athletics:** • **Running**: Demonstrating exceptional speed, endurance, and efficient technique, with strong starts, smooth transitions, and powerful finishes. • **Jumping**: Mastery of techniques, showing strong take-off power, good body control in the air, and precise landings. • **Throwing**: Displaying superior strength and technique in events like shot put, discus, or javelin, with consistently long and accurate throws.
How will this be assessed?		Badminton: Students skills of serving, lobbing, lifting dropping and netting will be assessed in a match situation Athletics: Students will be assessed on running (short or long distance), long jump and throwing (javelin)	