Straits International School Rawang
Curriculum Overview
Year 8 Spring Term 2.2 2025/2026

Spring Term 2.2	What are we learning?	What KUS will we gain?	What will excellence look like?
English Language and Literature	**Drama Study:** *An Inspector Calls* **Act 2:** The Inspector continues his investigation, revealing tensions within the Birling family and highlighting how each character's actions contribute to Eva Smith's suffering, with a growing focus on responsibility and guilt. **Act 3:** The truth comes together as the family confronts the consequences of their actions, leading to moments of self-reflection and a powerful emphasis on social responsibility, before a shocking final twist challenges their assumptions.	Through the study of Acts 2 and 3 of *An Inspector Calls*, Year 8 students develop their understanding of how writers use character, structure, and dialogue to convey themes and social messages. Students build knowledge of the play's context and key themes, including responsibility, guilt, class, and social justice, and explore how these ideas are revealed through the Inspector's investigation and the characters' responses. They develop skills in reading and analysing dramatic texts, explaining how tension and meaning are created, and supporting interpretations with evidence from the play. Students also deepen their understanding of how character development and plot resolution encourage audiences to reflect on moral responsibility and the consequences of individual actions.	Excellence will be evident when students can confidently and thoughtfully analyse *An Inspector Calls*, demonstrating a secure understanding of how character, structure, and dialogue convey key themes such as responsibility, guilt, and social justice. Students will be able to explain how the Inspector's role and the characters' responses develop the play's moral message, using well-chosen evidence to support their ideas. They will communicate their interpretations clearly in both spoken and written work, show insight into the play's context and purpose, and demonstrate an ability to reflect critically on the consequences of individual actions within society.
How will this be assessed?		Reading will be assessed through students' ability to interpret characters, themes, and key moments from Acts 2 and 3 of *An Inspector Calls*. Writing will be assessed through analytical and reflective responses that require students to explain ideas clearly and support them with evidence from the text. Speaking and listening	

		will be assessed through structured discussions and debates, where students articulate viewpoints, respond to others' ideas, and demonstrate understanding of the play's moral and social messages.	
Mathematics	Unit 10: Percentages Unit 8: Shapes and Symmetry	After learning these topics, students will gain the knowledge to calculate percentages, percentage increases and decreases, and solve real-life problems involving discounts, interest, and proportions. They will also understand the properties of quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and 3D shapes, as well as concepts of symmetry and angle relationships. They will develop skills in drawing accurate shapes, identifying lines of symmetry, calculating perimeter, area, and volume, and applying these concepts to solve practical problems. These units help students think logically, reason mathematically, and apply mathematics in everyday situations.	Excellence will look like students confidently solving complex problems, quickly spotting patterns, and explaining their reasoning clearly. They will accurately identify and classify shapes, calculate perimeter, area, and volume with precision, and recognize symmetry in both 2D and 3D forms. Students will apply these concepts creatively to new problems, justify their solutions, and make connections across different areas of mathematics.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through problem-solving tasks, quizzes, and practical exercises that test reasoning, calculations, and application of concepts.	
Combined Science	Lifestyle and health, mixtures and solutions.	Students will develop their understanding of lifestyle and health alongside key concepts in mixtures and solutions. In biology, they will explore what makes a balanced diet, learning about nutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, fibre, and water, and how each supports growth, repair, and energy. Students will examine how poor nutrition can lead to deficiency diseases and long-term health issues. They will also learn how scientists measure the energy stored in food using kilojoules and kilocalories.	Excellence is demonstrated when students can clearly explain how nutrients and lifestyle choices affect health, accurately identify bones, joints, and muscle actions, and apply this knowledge to real-life health scenarios. In chemistry, high-level understanding is shown when students confidently distinguish between pure substances and mixtures, explain separation techniques such as chromatography and desalination, and use scientific vocabulary correctly when describing solubility, concentration, and purity.

		Students will investigate how lifestyle factors, including diet, physical activity, and smoking, affect human health. They will study the human skeleton, identifying major bones and understanding its functions in support, protection, and movement. Learning about joints and antagonistic muscles, students will explain how muscles work in pairs to move bones at joints such as the elbow and knee. In chemistry, students will explore pure substances, mixtures, and solutions. They will learn how to define and test for purity, and how impurities can affect the properties of materials. Students will study desalination, understanding how salt can be removed from water, and evaluate the benefits and challenges of this process. They will also carry out chromatography experiments to separate substances in mixtures and interpret their results. Further learning will focus on solubility, concentration, and saturated solutions, including how temperature affects how much solute can dissolve.	
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through practical investigations, laboratory experiments, data analysis tasks, quizzes, and project work. These activities will evaluate both their scientific knowledge and their ability to apply practical skills such as observation, measurement, safe laboratory practice, and clear scientific explanation.	
History	From Civil War to Commonwealth (Chapter 4)	Through this unit, students will gain knowledge of the key causes, events, and outcomes of the English Civil War, including the power struggle between King Charles I and Parliament, and the impact of religion, money, and authority on political conflict. They will develop understanding of how the country became divided between Roundheads and	Excellence will be demonstrated when students can clearly explain why the English Civil War began, showing understanding of the political, religious, and economic causes. They will confidently describe the roles of key groups and individuals such as the Roundheads, Cavaliers, Charles I, and Oliver Cromwell. High-achieving students will be able to evaluate the

		Cavaliers, and how military changes such as the New Model Army helped shift the balance of power. Students will also explore the significance of Charles I's execution and the rise of Oliver Cromwell, learning how England briefly became a republic under the Commonwealth. Skills developed include analysing cause and consequence, using historical evidence, explaining different viewpoints, and describing change over time using accurate historical terms.	importance of the New Model Army and explain how the execution of the king changed England's government. They will use historical vocabulary accurately, support their ideas with evidence, and make strong links between causes, events, and consequences.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through source-based questions, short and extended written responses, quizzes, and class discussions or presentations. They will be expected to explain key events and individuals, analyse different viewpoints, and show understanding of cause, consequence, and change over time using evidence.	
Geography	Global inequalities and development	Students will explore global inequalities and development, developing an understanding of how and why quality of life varies across different countries and regions. They will compare living conditions, examining access to healthcare, education, clean water, housing, and employment, and consider both the similarities and differences people experience worldwide. Students will learn how development can be measured using key indicators such as life expectancy, income, literacy rates, and other social, economic, and environmental measures. They will use maps, data, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyse patterns of inequality at local, national, and global scales, and consider how physical geography, including climate, natural resources, and natural hazards, can influence a country's development opportunities.	Excellence is demonstrated when students can confidently interpret development data, explain patterns of inequality at different scales, and use geographical vocabulary accurately. High-level understanding is also shown when students can link physical and human factors to development levels, analyse the causes and consequences of inequality, and evaluate different development strategies using balanced arguments and evidence.

		The unit investigates the historical and present-day causes of inequality, including colonisation, trade relationships, conflict, and globalisation. Students will explore how migration and gender inequality affect opportunities and quality of life, and how climate change impacts are experienced unequally around the world, giving rise to discussions of climate justice. They will also evaluate a range of development strategies, including top-down approaches led by governments and international organisations, as well as grassroots initiatives driven by local communities, considering the effectiveness of these strategies in improving living standards and reducing global inequalities.	
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through data interpretation tasks, map and GIS analysis, written explanations, case study work, quizzes, and project-based activities that evaluate both their geographical knowledge and their ability to analyse, compare, and evaluate information.	
Enterprise	Legal obligations on enterprise, ethical considerations	We will learn about the laws businesses must follow and the ethical responsibilities they have. We will understand why following the law and acting ethically is important for businesses and society. We will develop skills in identifying legal and ethical issues, explaining their impact, and evaluating business decisions.	Excellence will look like being able to clearly explain legal rules and ethical issues, give examples, and make well-reasoned judgements about business actions.
How will this be assessed?		This will be assessed through classwork, case studies, and exam-style questions where you identify, explain, and evaluate legal and ethical issues in business.	
ICT	Chapter 1: Computational Thinking: Programming Languages	Students develop knowledge of how data, libraries, and selection structures contribute to efficient software development and physical computing.	Developing well-structured, efficient, and error-free programs that effectively utilize data, libraries, and

		This includes understanding core data types such as integers, strings, and booleans, using variable assignment, applying input and output methods, and performing string manipulation. They build the skill to write structured, logical, and efficient code that integrates libraries, manages data effectively, and interacts with hardware. Through this, they gain an understanding of the importance of modularity, reusability, and problem-solving when creating software and physical computing solutions.	selection structures while integrating software with hardware for real-world applications.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be given a scenario in which they will design a pseudocode solution and develop the program using both text-based and block-based programming.	
Art & Design	**Exploring the Human Body Through Character Design.**	This term, students explore the human body and anatomy in a fun and creative way. Inspired by comic and character artists such as Jack Kirby and Jim Lee, they learn how artists use pose, proportion, and costume to create characters. Students use drawing and photography, including taking photos of friends in costume, to develop confident figure drawings and expressive character designs. Students will gain knowledge of how artists represent the human body using pose, proportion, and costume. They will develop skills in drawing the figure, simplifying anatomy, designing characters, and using photography as a visual reference. Students will learn how line, shape, and colour help	Excellence is demonstrated through confident and expressive figure drawings that show clear understanding of pose and proportion. High-quality work will show creative character ideas, effective use of photography as reference, and clear progression from sketches to a finished outcome. Students will be able to explain how artists such as Jack Kirby and Jim Lee influenced their work.

		communicate movement, personality, and expression.	
How will this be assessed?		Assessment will be ongoing and diagnostic, focusing on students' development of skills and ideas rather than a single final outcome. Teachers use sketchbook work, drawing exercises, and photography tasks to identify strengths and gaps in understanding, particularly in proportion, pose, and use of reference. Verbal feedback, modelling, and visual examples are used regularly to help students improve during lessons. Peer and self-assessment activities support reflection, while final character outcomes show how students have applied feedback and developed their work over time.	
Drama	Developing Character and Performance Skills.	Students develop their understanding of character and performance, learning how to use voice, movement, and physicality more deliberately. They explore how characters are created and how meaning can be communicated to an audience through drama. Students gain knowledge of drama techniques such as thought-tracking, hot seating, and physical theatre. They develop skills in characterisation, projection, timing, and working with intention. Students also learn how to evaluate performances using basic drama terminology.	Excellence is demonstrated through believable characters, controlled use of voice and movement, and strong ensemble work. Successful students show increasing confidence, creativity, and awareness of audience.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment is ongoing through group performances, rehearsal work, and discussion. Teachers provide verbal feedback focused on performance skills, character development, and teamwork.	
Music	Practical studies focusing on chord reading, ensemble performance, and basic arranging skills.	Students will learn how to read and interpret simple chord progressions, including block chords, and understand common musical symbols and signs found in scores. They will develop ensemble performance skills, maintain a steady tempo, and begin to make creative decisions by adding simple arrangements to existing music.	Excellence is shown when students can perform more advanced rhythmic patterns confidently within an ensemble. Students will demonstrate leadership during ensemble rehearsals and adapt or simplify music parts appropriately to support the overall performance.
How will this be assessed?		Practical ensemble performance assessment.	

Mandarin	**Intermediate**: 1. Making phone calls. 2. Fruits & Vegetables **Advanced:** 风俗与传统 (Customs and Traditions)	**Intermediate:** Students will develop key linguistic skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. They will learn how to initiate, maintain, and conclude phone conversations using appropriate phrases, and expand their vocabulary related to fruits, vegetables, and shopping. Grammar focus includes modal verbs, measuring words, and sentence structures for making requests, offering choices, and expressing preferences. Cultural insights into phone etiquette and food markets in Chinese-speaking regions will also be explored. **Advanced:** Students develop knowledge of a wide range of cultural customs and traditions from Chinese and other cultures, including Chinese New Year rituals, coming-of-age ceremonies, funeral and wedding practices, and everyday cultural life. They learn topic-specific vocabulary and expressions that enable them to describe cultural practices, ceremonies, beliefs, and values accurately, and become familiar with the different spoken and written text types commonly used when discussing cultural topics in Mandarin. Through this, they build an understanding of the similarities and differences between their own culture and others, recognising that traditions change over time and vary across regions, and how language choices and tone are shaped by purpose and audience when explaining or reflecting on cultural practices. Alongside this, students develop their reading and listening skills by extracting key ideas, details, and viewpoints from texts and audio materials, and interpreting both factual and reflective sources. Their speaking skills grow as they describe and explain traditions	**Intermediate:** Excellence will be demonstrated through confident, fluent conversations with clear pronunciation and accurate tone usage. Students will write detailed messages and dialogues incorporating complex sentence structures. They will comprehend and respond to spoken dialogues with speed and accuracy. In discussions, they will apply cultural knowledge to express opinions and preferences naturally. Writing tasks will showcase a variety of vocabulary and grammatical accuracy. **Advanced:** Students confidently describe and explain a range of customs and traditions from their own and other cultures, using accurate and topic-specific vocabulary in spoken and written Mandarin. High-achieving students will show a clear understanding of the cultural significance behind these practices, make meaningful comparisons between cultures, and express thoughtful personal reflections on how traditions shape identity and community values. At an outstanding level, students will communicate ideas fluently and coherently across reading, listening, speaking and writing tasks, responding with insight, clarity, and cultural awareness.

		clearly using appropriate vocabulary and express personal responses in a structured way, while their writing skills enable them to produce coherent, well-organised pieces that describe, explain, and reflect on customs and traditions with relevant supporting examples.	
How will this be assessed?		Will be assessed through vocabulary application tasks, listening comprehension activities, guided and semi-structured speaking tasks, differentiated reading comprehension exercises, sentence expansion, paragraph construction, and scaffolded writing tasks adapted for First Language, Second Language, and Foreign Language learners. Teacher observation, assessment rubrics, progress checklists, and low-stakes formative assessments will be used to monitor students' progress and support language development across different proficiency levels.	
Malay Language	**Ukuran dan Bahan** (Measurement, Descriptions, and Materials)	Students will learn vocabulary to describe size, quantity, and materials used in everyday objects. They will practise using simple adjectives and short sentence structures to talk about familiar items in real-life contexts such as the classroom and shopping situations. Throughout the unit, students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through guided activities, visuals, repetition, and structured practice.	Students can confidently use key vocabulary, speak in simple but correct sentences, understand key information from short listening and reading tasks, and write short descriptive sentences with support.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through classroom activities and group work to monitor participation and understanding, regular vocabulary checks to ensure retention, ongoing teacher observation to evaluate engagement and application of skills, and a final assessment covering listening, speaking, and writing according to proficiency groups.	
Physical Education	Advanced invasion games tactics Doubles play in net games	Students develop knowledge of the principles of training using FITT, the roles and positions within games, and the basic muscle groups used during activity. They build understanding of how tactics influence game outcomes and how training improves performance. These are applied through	Excellence will look like students applying tactics independently and adapting them effectively during games, maintaining a high level of performance throughout matches, and demonstrating confident leadership in small groups through clear

	Athletics technique improvement Swimming endurance & stroke refinement Introduction to training methods	more consistent technique, effective decision-making in competitive situations, and the ability to give clear and constructive peer feedback.	communication, organisation and positive support for others.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment includes tactical performance in games, the execution of skills under pressure, short written or reflection tasks, and a mid-year fitns comparison to measure progress.	