



Find Your Future

Pride

Respect

Success

Assessment Information

Autumn Term 2025 Year 8 Edition

Key information for
parents/carers and students
about Learning Cycle 1



Year 8

The Learning Cycles

Year 8 - Autumn Term

Learn

Students are taught new content during their lessons. Teachers will regularly check understanding and set specific homework tasks to support learning.

Assess

Students sit standardised assessments in their lessons to check their knowledge of the content studied across the learning cycle, and relevant prior learning.

Improve

Gaps in learning identified from the assessments sat by students will be re-taught by teachers and students will be given the opportunity to undertake specific activities to improve.



Learn

8th Sept – 9th Jan

Assess

12th – 23rd Jan

Improve

2nd – 13th Feb

Year 8 Progress Evening

Save the Date

Thursday 19th
March 2026

Find out how to support your child with assessments



The Core Four

At Penrice, students learn four simple revision strategies that we call **The Core Four**:

Brain Dumps | Mind Maps | Flash Cards | Quizzing

These help students build confidence, remember key knowledge, and become more independent learners.

Brain Dump



Brain Dump

Students recall everything they can without notes, then check and add any missed points in a different colour.

How you can help:

Ask them to talk through their brain dump with you or explain what they added afterwards.

Mind Maps



Mind Maps

Students put the topic in the middle of the page, then build out the key ideas using words, diagrams or colour.

How you can help:

Ask them to describe the five most important parts of their mind map.

Flashcards



Flash Cards

Simple is best. One question on the front, the answer on the back.

How you can help:

Test them for five minutes - little and often is more effective than long sessions.

Quizzing



Quizzing

Students practise key knowledge using cover-and-answer, online quizzes, or by making a 10-question test.

How you can help:

Ask them to complete a short quiz or help them create one.

Want to learn more?

[Click here to access the resources](#)

How to support at home

- Encourage short, regular revision sessions
- Test them with flash cards or quick-fire questions
- Ask them to "teach you" what they've learned
- Celebrate small wins — confidence grows step by step



Find out what is being covered in this cycle



What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Key vocabulary from Crime and Punishment and Structure			
Structural methods used in narrative writing			
Contextual knowledge of WW1 poetry			
How to identify poetic techniques			
How to annotate a poem effectively			
How to structure an analytical paragraph			
Embedding quotations into your analysis			
Exploring layers of meaning in your analysis			
Commenting on the message of the writer and the effect on the reader			

Top tips for revising

1.	Use your knowledge organiser to make flashcards to learn key information, vocabulary and methods. Use these to test yourself and get other people to test you.
2.	Annotate blank poems looking for methods and commenting on effect
3.	Your English book is full of strategies, great ideas and examples – use it! Read through your notes and use them to help make your flashcards, to write your practice pieces and check any misconceptions.
4.	Use your vocabulary lists to revise key vocabulary. Practise using the words in your writing.
5.	Revise little and often (15-20 minutes) will help make the knowledge stick!

What topics do you need to know about?	Sparx Code	RAG		
Column Vectors	U632			
Translation	M139			
Rotation	M910			
Converting between Fractions and Decimals	M958			
Converting between Fractions and Decimals and Percentages	M264 / M553			
Expanding with Single Brackets	M237			
Expanding and Simplifying with Single Brackets	M792			
Expanding Double Brackets	M960			
Drawing and Interpreting Bar Charts	M460 / M738			
Drawing Pie Charts	M574			
Interpreting Pie Charts	M165			
Plotting Scatter Graphs	M769			
Interpreting Scatter Graphs	M596			
Term to Term Rules for Sequences	M241 / M381			
Forming Sequences from Position to Term Rules	M166			
Position to Term Rules for Sequences	M991 / M866			
Special Sequences	M981			
Midpoints	M622			
Plotting Straight Line Graphs	M932			
Finding the Equation Given The Graph	M544			
Interpreting Equations of Straight Line Graphs	M888			

Top tips for revising

1. IDENTIFY key areas by using the RAG ratings – Which topics are you least confident in?
2. Pick ONE topic to improve at a time – Little & Often Revision!
3. IMPROVE your confidence in each topic, by using the “Independent Learning” tab on Sparx.
4. Work through the 3 question levels – Introduce / Strengthen / Deepen.
5. REFLECT on how well you understand each topic you complete, by updating your RAG ratings.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Introduction to Circuits – Click here to access the online resource			
Definition of electrical current, series circuit and parallel circuit.			
Electrical component symbols.			
The drawing of circuit diagrams in series and parallel.			
How current, potential difference and resistance are affected in series and parallel circuits.			
The Human Gas Exchange System – Click here to access the online resource			
Structure and function of human respiratory system.			
Adaptations of the alveoli for gas exchange			
Aerobic respiration and anaerobic respiration.			
How the human body responds to exercise. Click here to be taken to the online resource			
Conservation of mass Click here to be taken to the online resource			
The reactivity series of metals and displacement reactions. Click here to be taken to the online resource			
Definition of atoms, elements, compounds and mixtures. Click here to be taken to the online resource			
Scientific variable definitions, identification and application to practicals. Independent variable, dependent variable and control variables. Click here to be taken to the online resource			

Top tips for revising

1.	Create mind maps using the above links and your own knowledge.
2.	Create flash cards.
3.	Create quizzes to test your memory.
4.	Brain dumps- writing down everything that you remember about a topic.
5.	Exam questions - Use the independent learning section of Sparx Science to choose topics to answer questions on. Alternatively ask your class teacher for some exam style questions.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?		RAG		
Key Phonics for French: Click here to be taken to the revision resource				
Key Phonics for Spanish: Click here to be taken to the revision resource				
Key vocabulary	Past time frames			
	Past activities			
	The weather in the past			
	Key verbs relating to holiday activities			
	Places in town			
	Locations			
	Giving directions			
	Describing a town			
Grammar points	Preterite tense			
	Comparatives			
	Present tense			

Top tips for revising

Make sure you revise the following vocabulary and grammar topics. You can use your Knowledge organiser or look for the vocab lists and grammar videos on This is School. Make sure you use a range of strategies to memorise vocab, including self-testing, look-cover-write-check and flashcards.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Natural Hazards			
Describe the 4 layers of the earth's structure			
Define: tectonic plate / plate boundary			
Explain how convection currents drive tectonic plate movement			
Describe what happens at the 4 plate margins			
Explain why earthquakes and volcanoes happen at plate boundaries			
Label a diagram to show the structure of a volcano			
Compare the characteristics of shield and composite cone volcanoes			
Describe the primary and secondary effects of a volcanic eruption (La Palma)			
Define an earthquake and explain what causes an earthquake			
Compare the effects and responses of an earthquake in a LIC (Haiti) and a HIC (New Zealand)			
Development			
Define development			
State what LIC, HIC and NEE mean			
State at least 3 ways of measuring development (including GNI per capita)			
Describe which measures make up the Human Development Index (HDI)			
Locate on a map the 4 countries which make up the Horn of Africa (HOA)			
Describe the causes and effects of piracy in Somalia			
Explain one human and physical cause of the development gap			
Explain how fairtrade can help to reduce the development gap			

Top tips for revising

1. Look – Cover – Write – Check
2. Make a flashcard with FIVE key facts
3. Use “this means that ...” Whenever you need to explain something
4. Brain Dump – Write down everything you know
5. Ask a parent/carer or sibling to quiz you on your knowledge

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
The Early British Empire – Causes of the growth of the British Empire			
Individuals such as Henry Morgan			
Social and Religious reasons for the Massachusetts colony			
Conflict with Spain and France			
Wealth and Trade			
The Conditions of Enslavement			
The Middle Passage			
Plantations			
The Significance of Individuals and Groups in the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act 1807 and the Abolition of Slavery Act 1833			

Top tips for revising

1.	Use Mind Maps for Big Picture Revision
2.	Use timelines to understand the chain of cause and consequence
3.	Remember, you need a good overall understanding, specific details are additional. For these use flashcards.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
What does Architecture mean?			
What are the 6 angle and viewpoints within photography?			
Describe the style and form of 3 Architects			
How do you hold and use a SLR camera?			
What is the process of Polystyrene printing?			
What equipment do you need when printing?			
Why is printing called the reduction method?			
How do you make a successful print?			

Top tips for revising

1.	Refer to Knowledge Organiser set on Class charts.
2.	Recognise and remember the styles of the artists learnt.
3.	Make a flash cards with 8 key facts – learn them and test yourself!
4.	Write down or tell someone as much as you can about the Art keywords and definitions.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
How to categorise polymers – thermoforming and thermosetting plastics Click here to be taken to the online link			
Identification of specialist equipment			
Health and safety in a workshop Click here to be taken to the online link			
Suitability of materials for tasks – mobile phone holder Click here to be taken to the online link			
Isometric drawing task Click here to be taken to the online link			

Top tips for revising

1.	Do a little bit of revision and repeat it often- small chunks
2.	Use the links provided to gather more research
3.	Use the class chart homework to test your knowledge
4.	Make flash cards to help you revise key facts
5.	Brain dumps – write down or tell someone as much as you about the topic in one minute.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
What is the storyline of Blood Brothers?			
The characters of Blood Brothers			
Status			
Stanislavski and Given Circumstances			
Dramatic Tension			
Climax			
Non-Naturalistic Techniques			
The role of a narrator			

Top tips for revising

1.	Focus on one topic at a time
2.	It is better to revise little and often
3.	Can you make flash cards for each topic
4.	Use your knowledge from your 'Let's do it now' tasks
5.	Write down or tell someone as much as you can about the drama keywords and definitions.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
How to use a bridge knife cut Click here to be taken to the online resource			
How to use a claw knife cut Click here to be taken to the online resource			
How to weight dry ingredients Click here to be taken to the online resource			
How to make halloumi skewers and flat breads – recipe on class charts to practice			

Top tips for revising

1.	Do a little bit of revision and repeat it often- small chunks
2.	Use the links provided to gather more research
3.	Use the class chart homework to test your knowledge
4.	Make flash cards to help you revise key facts
5.	Brain dumps – write down or tell someone as much as you about the topic in one minute.

What to Revise

What do you need to know about?	RAG		
Words related to tempo.			
Words related to dynamics.			
All of the musical elements.			
Words related to rhythm and note durations.			
The layout of the keyboard.			
The layout of the ukulele.			
The background of reggae music.			
Identifying chords using chord diagrams.			
Identifying key African instruments.			
Identifying treble clef, bass clef and other notation.			
Imitation, Call & Response, Unison etc.			

Top tips for revising

1. Make key term flashcards and test yourself on them daily.
2. Remember the rhymes from Year 7 for musical pitch.
3. Listen to examples of African Drumming Music and Reggae to remember the features.
4. Try to draw the musical durations from Year 7 and remember the names of the notes.