

## Fairfield High School Curriculum Overview – Years 8

Subject	Computer Science	Why do we study these units in Year 8?
Taught in rotation with Art & DT	14 – 16 Lessons per rotation	<p>Year 8 in Computer Science builds on the foundations from Year 7 by moving from using digital tools to creating digital products. During the 8-week rotation, students are introduced to the core languages of the web: HTML and CSS. They learn how websites are structured, how content and style are separated, and how to bring ideas to life through coding.</p> <p>Students will then apply these skills to design and build their own website on a topic of their choice, developing creativity alongside technical understanding. By the end of the unit, they will not only have hands-on experience of coding but also a clear appreciation of how the digital world they use every day is created. This unit lays the groundwork for more advanced programming and problem-solving skills in later years.</p>
Setting	Mixed ability teaching in mixed tutor groups	

<p><b>Students are encouraged to be Responsible Global Citizens</b> through /content on... website design projects where they create and share information on topics of personal or global significance, encouraging responsible digital citizenship and ethical use of the web.</p>
<p><b>We ensure all students experience high challenge by</b> differentiated coding tasks in HTML and CSS, opportunities to extend designs with advanced styling, and independent problem-solving challenges for students ready to progress further.</p>
<p><b>Literacy work includes</b> the introduction of technical vocabulary linked to website development, including tags, elements, attributes, and style rules, alongside the language of digital design.</p>
<p><b>Innovation and Creativity opportunities</b> through the freedom to design and personalise websites on themes of their choice, as well as through enrichment workshops with local universities and employers.</p>

**Employability opportunities and skills are developed through independent project work, design thinking, attention to detail in coding, and effective communication of ideas, all of which mirror key workplace skills in the digital sector.**

Unit	Unit title	Knowledge and Understanding/content	Skills	Assessment
1	<b>Introduction and Baseline Assessment</b>	Assess current understanding of digital literacy, HTML, CSS, and web design principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate existing digital skills and familiarity with coding concepts.</li> </ul>	<b>Baseline assessment of knowledge and skills.</b>
2	<b>Exploring Web Pages / Intro to HTML / Headings and Lists</b>	Understand the structure of web pages (HTML elements, tags, headings, lists). Learn how web pages are built using HTML.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create simple web pages using HTML.</li> <li>• Apply headings and list tags correctly.</li> </ul>	<b>Practical exercises: building a basic HTML page.</b>
3	<b>Digital Footprint</b>	Learn what a digital footprint is and how online behaviour impacts personal and professional reputation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate online presence and reflect on safe, responsible digital behaviour.</li> </ul>	<b>Short reflective task or quiz on digital footprint concepts.</b>
4	<b>Mini-Project: HTML Web Page</b>	Apply HTML knowledge to create a structured web page.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine headings, paragraphs, and lists to build a functional web page.</li> </ul>	<b>Practical project submission: complete HTML web page.</b>
5	<b>Styling Text with CSS / Styling Elements with CSS / CSS Classes</b>	Introduction to CSS for styling text and elements. Understand selectors, classes, and basic styling properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply CSS to modify text, colours, fonts, and element styles.</li> <li>• Use classes to apply styles consistently.</li> </ul>	<b>Practical exercises and mini-project applying CSS to HTML page.</b>
6	<b>Intellectual Property</b>	Understand copyright, Creative Commons, and the legal/ethical use of digital content.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate and correctly apply licensing rules when using images and content online.</li> </ul>	<b>Short quiz or reflection task on IP concepts.</b>

7	<b>Using Images / Organising Content with Flexbox / Flexbox Children for More Control</b>	Learn how to insert and manipulate images in web pages. Understand Flexbox for layout control and responsive design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add images to web pages.</li> <li>• Apply Flexbox properties to organise and align content.</li> </ul>	<b>Practical exercises using images and Flexbox layout techniques.</b>
8	<b>Mini-Project: Adding Style to a Web Page / Chapter 1 Project</b>	Consolidate HTML and CSS skills to produce a complete styled web page project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independently plan, design, and implement a styled web page with structured content, images, and CSS styling.</li> </ul>	<b>Final project submission assessed on HTML structure, CSS styling, layout, and functionality.</b>