SassyMac KS3 Overview

At SassyMac, our KS3 classes are designed for mixed-age groups (Years 7–9). This means that while all students work toward the same broad learning goals, tasks are carefully differentiated so that everyone is challenged at the right level.
We revisit key concepts from earlier years to secure understanding, while also stretching higher-level learners with extension questions and deeper reasoning.

Each lesson follows a three-tier structure:

1. **Core content** that all students can access.
2. **Scaffolding** for those who need more guidance.
3. **Challenge tasks** for those ready to extend their thinking.

This ensures every learner can progress confidently — whether they're consolidating Year 7 skills or preparing for GCSE study in Year 9.

We deliver the full KS3 curriculum over a two-year rolling programme, ensuring all students experience every topic through differentiated lessons that build progressively from core knowledge to GCSE-level skills.

Year	Focus	Approach
Cycle A (Year 1)	Core knowledge and foundations	Cover essential KS3 concepts across subjects, with a focus on consolidation, fluency, and building subject confidence. Year 7s focus on secure understanding; Year 9s apply and extend.
Cycle B (Year 2)	Application, analysis, and GCSE bridging	Cover remaining KS3 strands, introduce GCSE-style skills (analytical writing, data interpretation, scientific enquiry), and ensure full National Curriculum coverage by the end of the cycle.

English

Term	Cycle A (Year 1)	Cycle B (Year 2)
Autumn	**Reading for Meaning – Modern & Classic Fiction** • Explore narrative structure, exposition, conflict and resolution. • Analyse character motivation, setting symbolism, and theme. • Introduce authorial choices: language, imagery, sentence craft, structural shifts. • Develop inference through "How do you know?" evidence work. **Creative Writing – Narrative & Descriptive Technique** • Use sensory detail, figurative language, and varied syntax. • Plan, draft, edit; craft openings and endings. • Vocabulary development: precision, tone, and register. **Grammar & Mechanics:** sentence variety, punctuation for effect, paragraph cohesion	**Literary Heritage – Extended Text Study** • Historical & social context; author's intent and allegory. • Analyse moral and political symbolism. • Compare character arcs and thematic contrasts. • Analytical writing: PEEL/PEE structure, embedding quotations, thesis statements. **Non-Fiction Writing – Argument & Viewpoint** • Persuasive and rhetorical devices (ethos, pathos, logos). • Speeches, letters, opinion articles, and newspaper commentaries. • Emphasis on formal tone, cohesion, and counter-argument.
Spring 1	**Poetry & Imagery – Voice, Sound, and Mood** • Study a range of poems across eras (Blake, Duffy, Agard). • Analyse rhythm, rhyme, tone, and figurative language.	**Media & Language Study** • Explore language bias and representation across adverts, blogs, and online news. • Deconstruct persuasive technique, design, and audience manipulation.

	• Compare poets' perspectives and cultural contexts. • Write original poems using imagery and controlled structure. **Grammar & Writing Workshops** • Clauses (main, subordinate, relative), cohesion, paragraphing, punctuation hierarchy. • Sentence-combining and precision editing.	• Write analytical responses to media texts. **Transactional Writing – Purpose and Audience** • Reviews, reports, formal and informal letters, magazine articles. • Structure writing for clarity, concision, and tone. • Refine paragraph fluency, cohesion, and varied openers.
Summer 1	**Drama & Performance** • Stage directions, dialogue, performance choices. • Explore dramatic tension, character motivation, and audience impact. • Script adaptation and short scene writing. **Spoken Language & Debate** • Formal presentation and discussion. • Structured debate using rhetorical devices. • Assessment: Spoken Language Endorsement style task.	**Short Stories & Unseen Texts** • Analyse 20th & 21st-century short fiction. • Practise unseen reading responses under timed conditions. • Evaluate language, structure, and writer's intent. **GCSE Bridging – Paper 1 & 2 Skills** • Critical reading, synthesis, comparison, evaluation. • Extended analytical writing, narrative and viewpoint composition. • Introduce GCSE assessment objectives (AO1–AO6).

Maths

Term	Cycle A (Year 1)	Cycle B (Year 2)
Autumn 1	**Number Foundations** • Place value, integers, decimals, negative numbers on number line. • Factors, multiples, primes, HCF / LCM; powers & roots. • Order of operations (BIDMAS). **Algebra 1 – Introduction to Expressions** • Simplify expressions, collect like terms. • Substitution into expressions and formulae. • Form & solve 1-step and 2-step equations. • Use bar models and balance method. • Represent algebraic patterns in sequences.	**Fractions, Decimals & Percentages (FDP)** • Equivalent forms; convert between fractions, decimals, percentages. • Fractions of amounts; mixed numbers ↔ improper fractions. • Percentage change, profit/loss, reverse percentages. • Ratio & proportion links to FDP reasoning. **Algebra 2 – Developing Expressions** • Expand & factorise single brackets, use identities. • Generate & continue linear sequences; nth term. • Plot and interpret straight-line graphs, gradients, intercepts. • Solve inequalities on number lines.
Spring 1	**Geometry 1 – Shape & Measure** • Classify polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals. • Calculate angles at a point, on a line, in polygons. • Perimeter & area of rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, compound shapes. • Units of measure, conversions (mm–cm–m–km). **Statistics 1 – Handling Data** • Collect & represent data: tallies, bar charts,	**Geometry 2 – Properties & Constructions** • Circles: radius, diameter, circumference, π formulae. • Pythagoras' Theorem – find sides and hypotenuse. • Intro to trigonometry (sin, cos, tan) in right triangles. • Transformations – translation, reflection, rotation, enlargement. • Scale drawings and accurate constructions with compass & protractor. **Statistics 2 – Probability & Data Comparison** • Frequency tables, grouped data, cumulative frequency (intro).

	pictograms, pie charts. • Calculate mean, median, mode, range. • Interpret graphs and spot trends.	• Probability scales, sample space diagrams, experimental vs theoretical probability. • Two-way tables and Venn diagrams.
Summer 1	**Ratio & Proportion** • Simplifying and comparing ratios. • Using ratios to scale quantities, maps, and recipes. • Direct proportion – speed = distance ÷ time; scaling relationships. • Unit conversions – mass, capacity, time, currency. **Problem-Solving & Reasoning** • Multi-strand investigations; logical reasoning across topics. • Preparing for assessment through mixed-topic practice. • Arithmetic fluency consolidation.	**Proportion & Measures in Depth** • Compound measures – speed, density, pressure. • Direct & inverse proportion; graphical representations. • Standard form, indices, estimation, rounding to significant figures. **GCSE Bridging & Consolidation** • Algebraic manipulation – expand double brackets, factorise quadratics, rearrange formulae. • Coordinate geometry – equations of lines, gradients, midpoints. • Mixed-topic problem solving and reasoning under timed conditions.

N.B - Lesson sequencing may be adapted or rearranged when necessary to ensure the best learning experience for all students.