

Year 9 Subject Overviews

Art

In Year 9, Art and Design students investigate three diverse themes which focus on refining and developing the skills gained in Year 7 and Year 8. Students will develop a cultural awareness and understanding through the themes investigated during the year. In the first term students will be exploring Pop Art and looking into how colour and Popular Culture is referenced in the Art world. In term 2 students will be investigating the Day of the Dead. They will be researching the festival and understanding how other cultures influence Artwork. In the final term students will be creating work inspired by Street Art. They will find out how politics and social issues can be addressed visually by different artists.

Design and Technology

In Year 9, Design & Technology students undertake approximate 12-week rotations across three key areas. In Food and Nutrition students learn about food science and dietary needs before undertaking an International food project to research and prepare a 2-course meal for a specific culture. In Resistant Materials students design and manufacture a trophy from a choice of wood, metal & plastic whilst also utilising their laser cutting and 3d printing skills developed in Y7&8. In Textiles students use a range of machinery and techniques to create a working product in the form of a mobile phone holder.

Drama

In Year 9, students cement the skills and techniques that they have developed throughout Year 7 and 8. Students also begin to explore how to use Drama as an interpretive art form that can engage or draw an emotional response from an audience. This work is reinforced through topics such as; Theatre in Education, Let him have it and Jewish Ghettos.

English

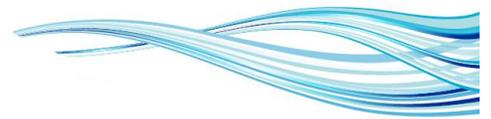
In Year 9, students work on adapted GCSE units of work to ensure a smooth transition to Key Stage Four next year. Units focus on the analysis of language and structure, evaluation of texts, comparison and a more skilful adaptation of their own writing to suit different purposes and audiences. These skills are taught through the reading of both modern and Nineteenth Century fiction, poetry, Shakespeare and a range of non-fiction materials. Students engage in group reading sessions to encourage independent reading skill and improve vocabulary and understanding. Assessments occur each half-term to monitor each student's progress.

Geography

In Year 9, students develop some of the skills they may need if they choose the subject at GCSE such as analysis and evaluation. They study some of the topics they will encounter at GCSE such as extreme weather and natural hazards as well as learning about the causes and impacts of global issues such as climate change and looking at the damage people are doing to the oceans. Pupils will also get the chance to study some new and relevant topics such as issues facing our oceans and how they can be managed. They also look at ecosystems including tropical rainforests and learn how to conduct fieldwork.

History

In Year 9, students explore how individuals and laws can transform the lives of others by investigating the causes and consequences of slavery and the motivations behind the civil rights movement. They then investigate the Holocaust and its lasting impact on society today. After Christmas students then begin to explore how civil rights have affected women in Britain by analysing the impact of the suffragists and suffragettes on the political status quo. Afterwards the students have the opportunity to start learning the first two topics of the GCSE with introductory lessons on Germany from 1890 – 1945 and Conflict and Tension 1918 – 1939. We develop their key skills through an in-depth analysis of how individuals and events have shaped the world today by looking at sources and interpretations.



Maths

In Year 9, students study a range of topics that form the fundamentals of the Edexcel 9-1 GCSE Mathematics examination. Students follow either the Higher Tier or Foundation Tier scheme of work and there is a strong emphasis on developing reasoning and problem-solving skills. Higher Tier Topics studied include: Number, Algebra, Interpreting and Representing Data, Fractions, Ratio and Percentages, Angles and Trigonometry, Graphs, Perimeter, Area and Volume, and Transformations. Foundation Tier topics include: Number, Algebra, Graphs, Tables and Charts, Fractions and Percentages, Equations, Inequalities and Sequences, Angles, Averages and Range, and Perimeter, Area and Volume.

Music

In Year 9, students cement the skills and techniques that they have developed throughout Year 7 and 8. Students also begin to be more expressive with their performance and composition. Generating emotional responses from their peers, audiences and themselves is encouraged. More complex topics such as Jazz Music, Extended Music Theory and Samba Rhythms are studied through composition, performance and listening. Solo and group work is encouraged throughout the year.

PE

In Year 9, students cover a range of different invasion games such as football, rugby, and netball, along with creative activities, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Students also cover health related exercise (HRE), this includes understanding how their bodies respond to exercise. Within all activities students are assessed on their abilities to perform skills in an isolated practice, in a conditioned practice, and in performance. Students are also given opportunities to take on the role as an official or coach where appropriate.

Philosophy and Ethics

In Year 9, students will be preparing for further possible study at GCSE. They will develop analytical and evaluative skills. Many themes overlap with the GCSE including the topics of The Spiritual Quest, Philosophy of Religion, The Problem of Evil and Suffering, Human Rights, prominent public figures and War, Peace & Justice; all of which will provide students with a comprehensive and fascinating programme of study that will not only compliment their overall development & progression, but will also support and prepare students for studying Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE.

Science

In Year 9, the students will be starting the AQA Combined Science Trilogy specification (8464). Students will be covering units from Biology, Chemistry and Physics which will be examined at the end the academic year. The units covered will be; cell biology, atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and properties of matter and energy. We will also develop students' investigative skills by doing required practical's which are now assessed in their external exams in year 11. These practicals are embedded in our scheme of work and are worth 15% of the final GCSE grade.

Spanish

In Year 9 students cover the topics of talking about things you like, films, birthdays, jobs, diet, daily routine and keeping fit, children's rights and fair trade, the environment, buying souvenirs and saying what you are going to do. Grammatically the focus is on regular and irregular verbs in the Present Tense, connectives, regular and irregular verbs in the Preterite Tense, regular and irregular verbs in the Imperfect Tense, the near future, using three time frames, adjective agreements, reflexive verbs, stem-changing verbs, comparatives, the conditional, superlatives, negatives and direct object pronouns. Equal emphasis is based on the four skill areas Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. These are all assessed at the end of each unit.