

Year 9 Curriculum

Below gives an overview of each subject in Year 9.

Art

In preparation for GCSE next year, Year 9 pupils are being taught along parallel lines to exam objectives for this qualification, and are being assessed to four new criteria that will prepare them better for next year and give them an honest insight into the demands of GCSE over a two year period.

Generating ideas, making, evaluation and knowledge underpin the learning of this coming year. Pupils will explore three separate themes and go on and develop work in a variety of mediums determined by themselves, referenced back to other artists work and explored through experimentation and further research. Final outcomes will be determined from self-evaluation and refinement of independent learning undertaken by pupils.

Design and Technology

In Year 9, pupils will study their two chosen material areas in greater depth. They will be required to combine practical and technological skills with creative thinking to design and make products that meet human needs. The focus is upon consolidating KS3 skills and developing into more independent learners and problem solvers.

Safety considerations are emphasised constantly.

Drama

The Drama course in Year 9 covers a range of skills which will equip pupils to create drama which is both imaginative and of interest to an audience. Pupils are given a range of opportunities to improve their performance skills and are encouraged to work collaboratively with their peers. Drama also aims to enhance self-esteem and confidence.

English

In Year 9, the focus is upon consolidating skills in preparation for the new curriculum at KS4. Pupils study extracts from 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st century gothic fiction and non fiction, to build their confidence in analysing the type of unseen extracts they will encounter in GCSE examinations. A Shakespeare play is studied in depth, along with pre 1914 and contemporary poetry. By the end of the year the majority of pupils are expected to be able to write fluently, legibly and accurately within the constraints of a specific time, in addition to developing their attainment and confidence in spoken language. Note taking, annotating, and independent study are important skills which are developed as they prepare for the next Key Stage.

Modern Foreign Languages

In Year 9, pupils have two lessons of French a week in which they study grammatical rules and how these underpin language learning. We start off with the 'past' (perfect) tense. This

gives students excellent groundwork in the basics required for GCSE, with some of the work we will cover being of a 'C' grade standard already. They also study a number of topics including; body, illness and injury; healthy lifestyle; clothes and fashion; media and French films. The pupils will also complete some assessments in the same style as the GCSE in order to prepare them for the move up to KS4 next year.

All groups also have one lesson a week of Spanish. The pupils focus on a variety of relevant topics to introduce them to their second foreign language. Hopefully this will give them an insight into the language and culture of Spain which might inspire them to pick one or even both languages for GCSE.

Geography

In this final year of Key Stage 3 we aim to build on acquired knowledge and skills so that pupils can make an informed choice when deciding their Key Stage 4 GCSE options. Pupils improve their geographical skills by selecting, interpreting and presenting information using maps, text and ICT. They learn about more complex global issues through studying units on:

- Development and trade
- Tourism as an Industry
- Antarctica & Climate Change
- Globalisation

History

The aim of the History course in Year 9 is to give pupils a good knowledge of British and world events over the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. An essential element of the course is learning to assess and evaluate different types of evidence. The study units are:

- The First World War
- The 20th Century World
- Native Peoples of North America

Over the above units pupils are encouraged to develop their skills of investigation and evaluation, especially in terms of assessing differing opinions.

ICT

During Year 9 pupils work on extending and consolidating their ICT knowledge and skills by incorporating them into real life examples and projects. Pupils work on scenarios where they bring together different skills using different applications in the same way they might in a place of work. This not only helps to broaden the pupils understanding of how ICT is used in the workplace, but also helps prepare pupils for the GCSE courses which they will begin in year 10. It is anticipated that most pupils will be working at National Curriculum levels 5, 6 and 7.

Mathematics

In Year 9 pupils continue their Key Stage 3 programme of study with units of work on Number, Algebra, Statistics and Geometry – equally weighted across the year.

Opportunities will be taken to prepare pupils for Key Stage 4 and in particular the Quality of Written Comment (QWC) aspect of GCSE Maths whereby pupils are marked according to the clarity of their explanation and use of technical vocabulary.

As well as eventual GCSE success, we aim to give pupils an insight into the intrigue and delight that mathematics offers as well as its applications in the Real World whilst encouraging and developing a questioning and explorative approach to the subject.

Music

The Music course aims to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of music. Listening, appraising, performance and composition skills are developed throughout all parts of the course.

In Year 9, the following areas are covered:

- Pop song composition project
- Pupils' own choice performance
- The music industry project
- The study of different instruments and a variety of musical styles

Physical Education

The Physical Education course in Year 9 leads pupils to the end of KS3. Throughout this year the full recognised team games are developed and tactics or strategies within team situations are emphasised. Pupils are encouraged to make more mature decisions about their learning by looking at planning and evaluating their own performance and that of others.

PSHCE

PSHCE lessons aim to promote pupils' personal and social development, including their health and well-being. We hope to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills, and understanding to become informed, thoughtful and responsible citizens who are aware of their duties and rights.

Modules of study this year include; My Future (Careers), Personal Finance, Rights and Responsibilities including Human Rights, Government and Politics and Misuse of Substances.

RE

Through two key methods (of learning about religion and learning from religion) the course aims to enable pupils to become more aware of the religious and spiritual element of life through the study of basic Christian beliefs, major world religions and contemporary moral issues including racism, suffering and the Holocaust. They will also reflect on their own opinions, views and perspectives. During the Spring Term the pupils are given the

opportunity to visit the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial centre and will start the Relationships and Marriage module of their GCSE short course with the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC). This exam course will be continued in year 10 when the following 3 modules will be taught, culminating in an exam in May.

Science

During Year 9, pupils begin their KS4 studies that build on the knowledge and skills pupils gained in KS3.

Pupils study part of GCSE Core Science. The course encompasses the three main disciplines of Science — Biology, Chemistry and Physics based on the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The courses aim to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of the scientific world around them through developing their thinking, understanding, practical and investigative skills. Pupils complete the course in Year 10, with exams occurring in the summer term of that year.