

Main Topics or Activities covered by Year 9

Subject	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Art	Students will develop a project which is more independent and provides opportunities for them to have greater ownership of their work. Students will learn about concepts and origins of abstraction. The students will approach the ideas from a number of starting points responding to music, images and other areas. They will make connections to work from a number of times and cultures and will start to be more sophisticated in the challenges they undertake.	Students will continue developing work and a sustained outcome from abstraction.	Students will complete a new project which follows the GCSE criteria more closely allowing them to explore and refine many of the ideas, processes and use of resources they've acquired over KS3. They will also have plenty of opportunity to reflect on KS3 achievements.
Biology	The Autumn term covers Health. The topics include what causes infection and how it could be controlled by drugs and our immune system. We then look at how legal and illegal drugs are used. Followed by how our diets affect health.	We study how animals are controlled by the nervous system and how plants and animals are controlled by hormones. We then consider how organisms are adapted to their environment.	The term looks at nutrient and energy flow in ecosystems followed by natural selection and an introduction to gene technology.
Chemistry	Fundamental ideas in Chemistry are studied - atoms, the periodic table, chemical reactions. Topics also include limestone and building materials. Extraction of metals. Metals and their uses. Alloys.	Topics studied include crude oils and fuels- fractional distillation. Hydrocarbons. Combustion reactions. Products from crude oil and their uses- cracking, polymerisation and plastics.	The focus moves on to plant oil - emulsions and food issues. Changes in the Earth and its atmosphere- structure, plate tectonics, how the atmosphere has changes and the carbon cycle.
DT (FS & PD) and Visual Arts	Students will work through three modules over the year in Food Studies, Product Design and a new programme of Visual Arts Technology. The National Curriculum focus is industrial applications of technology. In Food Studies students will use a range of equipment (e.g. pressure cookers and microwaves) enabling fast, economical and efficient methods of food production. They will be encouraged to plan, design and work independently.	In Product Design students will be encouraged to manufacture products suitable for a mini enterprise business. Using CAD/CAM to introduce control in industrial systems such as moulds, students will design and plan a batch production of a decorative product and the publicity needed to introduce it to the market. Students will undertake a cross DT curriculum project, based on ready meals and packaging. They will also learn new graphic techniques and be encouraged independently to plan, resource and prepare a number of food products.	The Visual Arts Technology course will advance in complexity enabling the students to explore more sophisticated cross curricular opportunities in not only DT, ICT and Art but other subjects as well. The course aims to support students in developing skills that will help them to thrive in our advancing technological world.
English	A wide variety of activities will support the pupils in refining their skills in Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. Work in language and literature will continue to be integrated, with pupils practising their own writing following the reading and study of a range of good models across the genres of prose, drama and poetry. Each class will share at least one novel and one play, while being encouraged in their personal reading programme. Pupils will also study a play by Shakespeare. Texts will be chosen to provide an appropriate challenge for the age group and to generate consideration and discussion of a broad range of citizenship issues. Throughout the year, pupils will be helped to evaluate their own work and skills, and to set targets for ongoing progress, thus laying foundations for the more challenging and independent study required in Key Stage 4. This term all classes will be studying a novel or a play and investigating a range of advertising.	As in the autumn term, pupils will continue with the integrated course in language and literature, engaging in the study of a wide range of writing styles and practising their own writing, as well as speaking and listening skills. This term, all four classes will undertake a detailed study of a play by Shakespeare.	As in the previous two terms, students will continue to study a range of texts and to practise writing and speaking and listening skills which will help them to be ready for the demands of the GCSE course, which will begin this term with the study of fiction writing.
French	In French in Year 9 we progress within the four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. In the Autumn Term we cover the following topics: personal information, last weekend activities, family and friends, technology, leisure activities, childhood activities and so on. The grammar we cover includes: advanced connectives, perfect tense, imperfect tense, justification, using 'pour' + infinitive, comparatives, superlatives, likes/dislikes and adjectives. The pupils will also continue with their reading diaries as part of our Reading Weeks, but they will also be expected to read outside the classroom to acquire new language. They will also have more opportunities to use IT to consolidate the language covered so far.	In the Spring Term our topics are: school life, career plans and other future plans. In grammar the students will consolidate the future tense, imperfect and perfect tense and learn the conditional tense in order to be able to talk about past, future and ideal events. At the end of the Spring Term pupils will have the knowledge and understanding of four tenses (Past, present, future and conditional) that they will continue to practise in the Summer Term.	In the Summer Term we cover the topics: healthy lifestyle, the body, at the doctors and accidents. In grammar we will continue to practise our four tenses as a revision for GCSE and students will be introduced to some more complex GCSE structures.

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Geography	<p>Geography is about people and places. The world around us is constantly changing. The study of Geography helps us to understand and explain these changes. In the autumn term your daughter will begin with a study of Tectonics. She will learn about the global distribution of earthquakes, their relationship to crustal plates and compare the natural and physical worlds by studying the different impacts of earthquakes on rich and poor countries. This will be followed by an investigation into global food supplies, health and disease. In this unit we will explore the relationship between food and healthy living. We will study the rising incidence of obesity and associated illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease, associated with affluent societies. We will also investigate the illnesses, such as malnutrition and HIV/AIDS, associated with poor countries. Your daughter will appreciate the need for maintaining a healthy and balanced diet.</p>	<p>In the Spring Term your daughter will study two contrasting countries – USA and India. She will develop an understanding of their stages of development, population structure and settlement patterns. We will be investigating the impact that each country has on global culture with particular reference to Hollywood and Bollywood.</p>	<p>In the Summer Term your daughter will be making a study of the tourist industry as part of her Economic Activities unit of work. She will be preparing for a day visit to the sea-side and travel to Clacton-on-Sea in June. Your daughter will collect primary data, by a variety of fieldwork activities, to help her in her understanding of the nature of tourism in this Essex sea-side resort. Your daughter will study the impact that the tourist industry has had on this coastal resort and prepare a project for the end of term.</p>
German	<p>In German in Year 9 we progress within the four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. In the Autumn Term we cover the following topics: holidays, accommodation, holiday and weekend activities, buying fruit and vegetables at the market, ordering food in a café, shops and things you can buy in different shops, pocket money and Christmas in Germany. The grammar includes: revising the present tense, using the perfect tense, dictionary skills, using in + dative and accusative and using um ... zu (in order to).</p>	<p>In the Spring Term our topics comprise: TV programmes, telling the time, after school activities, parts of the body, health and fitness, diet and healthy living. We also cover the following grammar points: using gern, lieber and am liebsten, using 'sie' (they) correctly, using müssen with an infinitive, word order (time, manner, place), changing the pronouns in the perfect tense, possessive adjectives, wenn clauses, modal verbs and adverbs of frequency.</p>	<p>In the Summer Term we cover the following topics: accepting and turning down invitations, clothes, describing a party, daily routine, learning more about a particular German city and an exchange situation. We also cover the following grammar points: word order with 'weil', future tense, using ihr (you), separable verbs, imperfect tense (ich hatte), word order (time, manner, place), revising the perfect, future and present tenses.</p>
History	<p>The year nine History course will offer your daughter an exciting and invaluable opportunity to explore the key events of the twentieth century. She will begin by debating the legacy of this turbulent century and the impact it had on ordinary people in different parts of Europe. This will lead into a detailed study of the causes and consequences of WWI.</p>	<p>The spring term focuses on the rise of extremism across Europe in the 1930s. Your daughter will get the chance to explore the nature of different ideologies such as communism, fascism and liberalism. She also will look in detail at events in Germany and explore the nature of the Nazi dictatorship. It is hoped she will begin to develop a mature awareness of the circumstances in which extremist ideas flourish and in particular the way in which economic circumstances can contribute to this. An opportunity will be taken to discuss parallels with the recent political developments in Britain (the rise of the BNP) and across Europe.</p>	<p>The summer term involves an examination of some of the consequences of the rise of extremism, in particular the origins of WWII. Your daughter will be asked to debate the relative importance of the various factors leading to the outbreak of war in 1939. She will also get a chance to research the wide ranging social and political consequences that war can have on the countries involved. The term will conclude with an overview of the legacy of WWII in important areas such as our understanding of persecution and twentieth century attempts to prevent the emergence of a third world war through the formation of institutions like the UN. We hope that she will be inspired to study History at GCSE.</p>
ICT	<p>Pupils will develop their skills using multimedia authoring software such as Matchware Mediator 9 to design and create an interactive game or activity. Pupils will research target audiences, existing games and subject content. They will create and gather resources for implementation using the internet and Adobe Fireworks CS4 & Photoshop. They will be challenged to solving programming issues such as using variables, IF-Then-Else, events in order to enhance and complete their game.</p>	<p>In the spring term they will prepare for an ICT Functional Skills Level 1 exam in April updating their skills in MS Office Suite 2010 and revisiting.</p>	<p>This term they will be introduced to film making and what makes a good film/video. They will work in small groups to choose a topic, resources, scriptwriting, camera techniques and storyboard a video in preparation for filming.</p>
Latin	<p>In this year students will work through Unit 2 of the Cambridge Latin Course which includes material set in Roman Britain and Alexandria respectively. Background topics covered this term include the Romans in Britain, King Cogidubnus and his palace at Fishbourne, and the city of ancient Alexandria. The pupils also build on the basic language features learned last year. More grammatically complex topics are covered such as relative clauses, the pluperfect tense, the genitive case and adjective agreement.</p>	<p>Pupils will finish Unit 2 of the Cambridge Latin Course, continuing their study of ancient Alexandria. This term the focus will be on glassmaking, the worship of Isis, and Medicine and Science. Pupils study more grammatical topics including, pronouns, imperatives, the vocative case, and present participles. Language work from the whole year is further consolidated with translations from the Dunlop textbook.</p>	<p>They will gather the required assets (e.g. sound tracks, props and backdrop images), make decisions about on and off site locations, film video using chroma-key screen. They will learn and develop skills in editing to produce a short film for screening. They will expand their knowledge and use in applications such as Adobe Premiere Elements 11, Ulead VideoStudio 10, Adobe Fireworks CS4, Photoshop, Audacity and various files conversion applications.</p>

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Mathematics	In Year 9 your daughter's study of Mathematics will include Number and Algebra; Geometry and Measures and Statistics. In the Autumn term students study how to use index notation for integer powers; how to solve problems involving calculating with powers, roots and numbers expressed in standard form; fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio and proportion; graphs of linear functions; functions arising from real-life problems and how to plot their corresponding graphs and to interpret graphs arising from real situations, construction and loci; understand and use measures of compound measures; probability; quadratic sequences and how to solve linear inequalities	In the Spring term students will study simultaneous linear equations; how to expand and simplify the product of two linear expressions; congruence and similarity; how to use trigonometrical relationships in right-angled triangles; how to process and represent data; to plot graphs of simple quadratic and cubic functions.	Topics to be studied in the Summer term include how to change the subject of a formula; probability; geometrical reasoning; the equivalence between recurring decimals and fractions and in Statistics how to specify a problem, plan, collect, process and represent data.
Music	The Year 9 Curriculum in Music concentrates on music of the 20th-century. In the first term, students study Film Music, including composing an extended piece of music to fit with a scene from a film, before going on to look at Reggae and Calypso music.	In the Spring term, the examination of 20th-century music continues with an in-depth look at song writing, and the various techniques employed by a number of musicians writing in a variety of styles. This study is enriched through both composition, performing and listening work.	In the final term of the year, pupils look particularly at the wide diversity of music during the past century, examining a variety of modern classical styles including Minimalism, Serialism and Experimentalism. Their final project of the year gives them the opportunity to put together a short Radio Show, demonstrating their understanding of the styles which they have studied this year.
PE	During the Autumn and Spring terms pupils will study netball, basketball, badminton, fitness, gymnastics or dance. Due to the half term blocks of lessons the rotation for each group varies. Pupils will be expected to build on their skills, performing with consistent precision, control and fluency in a widening range of situations.	During the Autumn and Spring terms pupils will study netball, basketball, badminton, fitness, gymnastics or dance. Due to the half term blocks of lessons the rotation for each group varies. Pupils will be expected to build on their skills, performing with consistent precision, control and fluency in a widening range of situations.	In the Summer pupils study athletics and rounders. The majority of the athletics disciplines will be covered and pupil will be expected to show a good understanding of each technique, tactics and event rules, and then use this knowledge to effectively coach others.
Physics	The main content of the Physics work in the first term is based around the concept of energy and how it is transferred from one form into another. We will start by examining the transfer of heat energy via conduction, convection and radiation. We will learn that the Sun is the ultimate source of most of the Earth's energy resources including coal, oil and gas. We will also look at the particular nature of matter and how this relates to energy transfer. Appliances transfer energy but they rarely transfer all of the energy to the place we want. Students will learn about the efficiency of electrical appliances so that we can choose between them, including how cost effective they are, and try to improve them. We can calculate how much energy is transferred by an appliance and how much the appliance costs to run.	During the spring term students will learn about the various energy sources that can be used to generate the electricity we need. We must carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of using each energy source before deciding which energy source(s) it would be best to use in any particular situation. They will learn that Electricity is distributed via the National Grid.	Electromagnetic radiations travel as waves and move energy from one place to another. They can all travel through a vacuum and do so at the same speed. The waves cover a continuous range of wavelengths called the electromagnetic spectrum. Sound waves and some mechanical waves are longitudinal, and cannot travel through a vacuum. Current evidence suggests that the universe is expanding and that matter and space expanded violently and rapidly from a very small initial 'point', ie the universe began with a 'big bang'.
RS	The main theme for Year 9 is concerned with making choices in life. The Autumn Term begins with an introduction to Sikhism and the Khalsa. This is followed by examining religious milestones such as Baptism and Confirmation in Christianity.	The main theme for Year 9 is concerned with making choices in life. In the Spring Term infant ceremonies in Judaism and Islam are examined. This is followed by a study of Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies in Judaism. Following this, students begin to look at Marriage.	The main theme for Year 9 is concerned with making choices in life. The Summer Term continues to look at the concept of marriage and the meanings behind a variety of religious ceremonies. Finally the year concludes with an introduction to the Spiritual Life.