



Welcome to our Spring term Curriculum Letter. There are plenty of [extra-curricular](#) activities for students to get involved in this half term and many departments will be running exciting activities.

More general information about the curriculum can be found [here](#).

Year 9 will be taking part in the Challenge Day on 30th January, which will be a business enterprise day.

The departments that teach your child have contributed below to let you know what students will be studying this term.

ART

Pupils are still in the process of producing a mask final piece for the aquarium project. After this, pupils will embark on a GCSE type project that uses live exam themes from this year's externally set task for Y11. This will further enhance the pupils' ability to research independently a chosen theme from a set list. This project will be of great benefit to those pupils who have chosen Art as a GCSE and should also give those not taking Art on into Yr 10 an interesting, self-driven project as a crescendo to their KS3 Art Curriculum.

CAREERS

As part of their PSHE lessons they will develop understanding and knowledge about Employment Law, Budgeting & Saving.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will continue to develop their Python programming skills. In this unit of work, they will work with data structures, selection and iteration in order to search and analyse data sets.

DRAMA

Technical aspects of the theatre - devising from a prop stimulus.

ENGLISH

Students begin their study of a collection of poems themed around the concept of Belonging, including a diverse range of writers, which help to challenge and begin the progression to a more evaluative style of analysis required at GCSE.

Pupils will then begin studying a unit on the art of rhetoric, looking at using language with persuasive and political speeches to engage, entertain and inform an audience.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Diet and Health.

Food poisoning, bacteria, symptoms and causes.

Sweet and savoury dishes.

GEOGRAPHY

Tectonic Hazards.

The Living World.

HISTORY

Building upon the skills acquired previously, students are now starting the GCSE course on the Reigns of Richard and John 1189 - 1216. This term we will be studying Medieval Society and the reign of Richard I.

MATHEMATICS

Ratio and proportion and problem solving within it. Formulae, using, rearranging and understanding. Sequences, non-linear and linear. Percentages, including repeated percentage change.

MFL: FRENCH

[Tu veux sortir?](#)

Making arrangements and inviting people out.

Revising dates, times and places.

Accepting and declining invitations.

Describing an evening out in the past tense.

MFL: GERMAN

Pupils will complete the topic House and home and area. They will:

- Talk about different types of area.
- Talk about transport in your area.
- Talk about where you live.
- What there is in your area and what you can do.

- Comparing the above with the past/where you used to live.
- To talk about how your area could be improved.
- talk about different homes people can live in.
- describe your home, say what there is and isn't.
- give opinions about your home.
- compare your current home to a previous home.
- describe your ideal/dream home.

MFL: SPANISH

[Lo que hacen los jóvenes en España](#)

Using authentic texts to learn about how young people use technology in Spain

Discussing the pros and cons of technology, including the risks of social media

To be able to discuss fashion trends in the Spanish speaking world

To learn language useful for shopping

Explaining the type of TV shows and films you like to watch and why

MUSIC

Music for Dance - Music tech project including composing on Logic Pro X.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in year 9 will have more autonomy over their learning in PE. Each term they will opt in to one of three pathways in which they have 6-7 lessons on each sport or physical activity. The following pathways and sports are the Spring Term options:

1. Games Pathway: Hockey, Badminton, Football and Volleyball
2. Aesthetics Pathway: Badminton, Gymnastics, Boxercise, Yoga/ Pilates
3. Mixed Pathway: Rugby, Indoor Cricket, Basketball, Fitness Suite

PSHE

Students start the spring term with the careers element of the course to help them understand the qualifications different jobs may ask for before choosing their options. They then move on to understanding the world of work through Employment Law, an introduction to Health & Safety rules, working out pay slips and budgeting. We then move back to PSHE and look at healthy and unhealthy relationships.

RELIGION. PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Students will continue studying the GCSE topic Christian Beliefs, before beginning Theme F: Human Rights and Social Justice. This theme explores religious (primarily Christian) and non-religious perspectives on human rights, social justice, discrimination (including racial and gender discrimination, and positive discrimination), wealth, poverty, and exploitation.

SCIENCE

Biology:

The students are starting to study digestion, looking at mechanisms and organs involved, the impact of enzymes and how substances are absorbed. The following unit will explore aerobic and anerobic respiration and metabolism.

Chemistry:

The development of the periodic table and groups 1, 7, 0 and transition elements.

Physics:

Energy concepts and formulae (end); particle model fo matter (start).

TEXTILES

Students are exploring the work of textile artists Sally Verrall and Janice Wright Cheney through written analysis and practical experiments. They will be developing and extending their skills in tie dye, free machine embroidery, hand embroidery and applique.

