

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, we continue to work on developing the curriculum in each of our subject areas, and want to ensure you are regularly informed as to the topics and key knowledge and skills that your child is studying. Not only does this give you an overview of what they are working on, it also helps you in supporting your child in their learning at home.

Please find below the summary of what your Year 9 child is working on during Term 2 and the topics and skills that this builds onto in Term 3. This will also include reference to any key events that are taking place within the subjects.

Subject	Content
English	<p>This term students are looking at the theme of Identity in creative writing; they will explore their own identity and the features that make them who they are, whilst also looking at other writers' identity and what it means to them. Their appreciation of poetry from last term will help them identify and mimic the style of poet's and author's alike. Their understanding of the theme of identity will help them with their study of Malorie Blackman's <i>Noughts and Crosses</i> next term.</p>
Maths	<p>Students in Year 9 are studying Constructions in 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. They will build on their knowledge of the properties of 2-D shapes and apply them to constructing 3-D shapes on square and isometric paper. As well as surface area and volume we will be exploring plans and elevations. These skills will provide the foundation when looking later at investigating volumes of other 3 –D shapes, such as pyramids and prisms in KS4. During the unit of constructions, we will look at the idea of loci and explore how different loci are formed. In term 3 students will be reasoning with Number. Students will develop their knowledge of the number system to include rational and real numbers. Building on their previous work relating to fractions and decimals, they will be looking at Using Percentages including reverse percentages. Students will practise their number skills in various financial context. Simple ideas of tax and wages are introduced and the percentages studied in the last block are applied in various contexts including simple and compound interest. These skills will be developed further in KS4 when we will look at growth and decay and the Iterative process.</p>
Science	<p>This term, year nine learn how cells function. In biology, students will learn how specialised cells are adapted to different functions. In chemistry, they will learn how substances move through diffusion and active transport, and in physics they will learn about pressure. Student's homework will include making 7 pages towards a class book, each about a different specialised cell.</p> <p>In term 3, year nine will learn about the way science may influence our futures. This involves learning about DNA, including how its structure was discovered by Watson and Crick. It also involves looking at waves and technology. At home students will be asked to produce a model one of: DNA, Waves or a piece of technology that uses waves to work.</p>
Modern Foreign Languages	<p>During Term 2, students in both French and Spanish have been continuing their journey on the theme of work where they have been talking about earning money, jobs they want to do and why, talk about jobs they are going to do in the future, talk about entrepreneurship. Students will build on their newly acquired knowledge to look at musical preferences and talking about concerts in Term 3 in French, and looking at diet and an active lifestyle, talk about their daily routine, talking about ailments and illnesses, talk about getting fit in Spanish.</p>

Design Technology	<p><i>In year 9, Design Technology and Food Technology both have different topics in each term.</i></p> <p><i>Term 2 DT) Electronic systems. Students will work with sensors to create electronic circuits. Students will do virtual experiments before creating your own circuit by soldering.</i></p> <p><i>Term 3 DT) Mechanical systems. Students will learn how we can use cams, pulleys and gears to generate a range of movement with differing speeds and directions. Students will use materials, tools and equipment to shape parts appropriate to their design.</i></p> <p><i>Term 2 FT) Proteins. Students will learn which foods contain protein and why the biological values are important and the role of protein in the diet. Students will learn about plant bases and animal based foods and the reasons for dietary choice. The effect of heat on proteins.</i></p> <p><i>Term 3 FT) Fats. This term Students will learn why fats have an important role in a healthy diet and the difference between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ fats, and where fats come from both visible and invisible.</i></p>
History	<p>In Year 9 term two students will continue to study ‘Conflict in the Twentieth Century’. The focus continues to be World War One. When this topic has been completed students will move onto aspects of World War Two. In term three the theme of conflict in the 20th century continues with a study of social and gender conflict. Through their study of this period they will continue to develop their understanding of key concepts (change & continuity, cause & consequence, chronology) and skills (analysis and interpretation).</p>
Geography	<p>This term, students will be learning about China’s development, its relationships with other countries and how they are trying to become a more sustainable nation. Students will explore concepts around trading, development measures and the impacts these have on the country’s population and environment. Homework presentations this term should be created around a geographical topic in an Asian country. We had some fantastic work last term, but a lower than average completion rate. We will be reminding students in lesson about the homework, and look forward to seeing what they create in the week before Christmas. Next term, students will begin their unit on the Middle East where they will look at how lack of development leads to issues such as resource scarcity and how we tackle these problems.</p>
Fine Art	<p>In Term 2, Year 9 Fine Art Students look at the work of Andy Goldsworthy as part of their Natural Forms projects and create their own responses using collage, photography and mixed media. This may include a visit to the school woodland where students create and photograph their own Goldsworthy inspired Land Art interventions. In Term 3, students start to develop ideas for a final piece and continue to experiment with a variety of media. Photography is used in response to the work of Edward Weston to record natural forms. This is used a starting point for collage and printmaking experiments. Students also experiment with drawing using stitch, oil pastels and mixed media.</p>
Sculpture	<p>In term 2 students develop their project ‘The Sea’ by looking at Michelle Reader and creating sculptures using recycled materials. In Term 3, students will start a project based on Masks, studying Venetian carnival masks, African masks, Japanese Noh masks and Aztec masks before making their own response. Students will use a variety of sculptural materials including cardboard construction and clay.</p>
Textiles	<p>In term 2, students learn to thread sewing machines, using them for free embroidery, and move on to making applique pieces based on flower studies. Students study the work of textiles artist Caroline Saxby. In Term 3, students will learn Batik techniques, using wax resist and dye to create artwork based on flowers. Students will also learn felt making, weaving, beading and couching techniques.</p>
Photography	<p>In the term 2 students develop their ‘Everyday’ photography projects, looking at local Photographers such as Jack Ambridge and Dan Mountford. They learn increasingly complex editing techniques such as tilt shift and multiple image. Students use the photos taken on the Brighton Photography trip at the end of term 1 as source material. In term 3,</p>

	students conclude their projects and make final piece developments using a range of manual and digital techniques, Towards the end of Term 3, students will start a project on 'Close up' photography, looking at the work of Photographers such as Andreas Feininger.
Dance	Our year 9s have taken to the stage with a focus on musical theatre, the students are learning two set phrases from two different musicals working as one large company to work on their group performance skills. Timing, musicality and facial expressions are the main skills we have been developing with both dances being assessed at the end of term. After Christmas the students are being thrown into the deep end with a choreography project, independently working through mini tasks which open their eyes to the choreographic process, researching, improvising, planning, developing, performing and reviewing their own work.
Drama	Year 9 are working on creating physical theatre and mask work. We are creating stylised and symbolic representations of a range of caricatures, looking at how archetypes, physical theatre, mime and silent film techniques combine to create stylised mask work. This builds on the work we did last term in drama and is a contrast to the naturalistic use of script and duologue. Year 9 will be exploring the theme of social media and how it plays a vital role for young people today. Students will devise their own performances with the brief to perform to an invited audience. Students will be familiar techniques such as thought in the head and narration as well as challenging their selves with more complex techniques such as flashback and chorus.
Music	Year 9 were chunked in the deep end with a musical futures scheme of work this term, using their chosen instrument they have been aurally working out chord progressions to some popular songs which they have then performed together as bands, duets and soloists. They have impressed us with their independence and focus, we can already see some bands forming, watch out for them at our next gig! The year 9s are also further developing their sequencing skills through recording 'Black Eyed Peas - I Gotta Feeling', focusing on their accuracy or rhythm, melody and style we have some very high-quality production work. Next term the students will be performing, composing and further developing their listening skills through western styles of classical music alongside some classic rock n roll from the 1960s/70s.
PE	In Term 2/3, we establish and embed the principles of training skills in the next two sports in the learning journey. The main focus sports are basketball, netball, and volleyball. The students use the new holistic assessment system to be assessed. The OCR Sport Science Option In term 2/3, the students will continue to build their knowledge of fitness with work based on fitness testing and training methods.
PSHE	Year 9 students are also currently learning in Term 2 about substance abuse including drugs and alcohol, including the exploitation of young people by criminal gangs. They will then be exploring career options, setting goals and learning how to write a CV. In Term 3 they will be exploring relationships including families, parenting and conflict resolution.

Should you have any questions, then please do feel free to contact us directly.

M Feeley



Vice Principal