



STONAR



# The Stonar 9



# INTRODUCTION

If Year 7 and 8 is all about enjoying a wide-ranging curriculum, searching out and developing areas of interest and talent, then Year 9 is about sharpening the focus as pupils head towards GCSE courses. What is important at this stage is developing a sense of ownership of learning and leadership of self and others.

The **Stonar 9** programme seeks to offer pupils the chance to start to exercise some choice over their curriculum and to provide co-curricular opportunities that excite, inform and challenge.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

In the Summer Term of Year 8, pupils and their families are supported in their first decisions on the path to the GCSE options.

The core subjects of English, Maths, and Science, as well as the three main Humanities subjects – PE & Games continue to be compulsory in Year 9, but pupils benefit from a more focused approach to their studies.

### Lessons are allocated across the two-week timetable as follows:

Subject	Notes
English	7 periods - plus one reading lesson
Maths	8 periods
Science	9 periods – this is the start of Science being taught in separate subjects – 3 periods of each (Biology, Chemistry, Physics).  Science is not yet taught for GCSE Combined Science (two GCSEs) or Triple Science (three separate GCSEs – the decisions for which will be made with Science staff for Year 10).
Humanities	9 periods – each being taught in their own right by subject specialists – 3 periods of each (Geography, History and Philosophy, Religion & Ethics)
Assembly	2 periods
PSHE	2 periods
PE	2 periods
Games	4 periods
Options	4 periods of each



# OPTIONS SELECTION

Pupils will be asked to confirm their preferred subjects from the following list. We will aim to give as many top 4 choices as possible. Some pupils may study 3 options to allow space for Learning Support lessons or study support.

## Year 9 Optional Subjects

- Art
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food
- French
- Music
- Spanish

Year 8 pupils will have a special assembly in June introducing the options process and outlining the next steps. The assembly will also outline the **Stonar 9** in detail and the later GCSE options process in Year 9. It is important to note that pupils can still opt for GCSEs they did not choose at this stage when they complete their final Year 9 GCSE choices.

In the week following this assembly subject teachers in Languages and the Creative Arts faculties will discuss with their classes the content in Year 9 and the skills they will develop. This will help the pupils to make an informed choice.

You may find the below list of GCSE optional subjects useful in making your decisions.

- Art
- BTEC Level 2 in Sport
- Business
- Computer Studies
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Spanish



# STONAR 9 CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

In addition, the **Stonar 9** involves nine key co-curricular opportunities:



- **Outdoor Activities Residential Trip**
- **Charity Fair**
- **Leadership Day**
- **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award**
- **Public Speaking and Debating**
- **Etiquette**
- **European Adventure**
- **Revision and Exam Skills**
- **Enrichment Week Challenges**

## Outdoor Activities Residential Trip

Based at an adventure training camp in Wales, Year 9 will participate in a variety of outdoor activities on this four day, three night trip that will develop their teamwork, resilience and courage.

## Charity Fair

Year 9 pupils will be responsible for liaising with the Charity Co-ordinator to host a fair for pupils across the School that offers a range of stalls and activities to raise money for the School's nominated charity for the academic year.

## Leadership Day

As part of the curriculum, we get our Year 9 pupils out of the classroom to participate in an event designed to develop their leadership skills. Pupils pre-select their preferred role from an aspect of school life:

- Sports Leader
- Induction Leader
- Creative Arts Leader
- ICT Leader

## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Although optional, pupils are encouraged to sign up for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Award scheme is designed to develop independence, initiative and a sense of adventure in young people and is recognised and valued by universities and employers.

## Public Speaking and Debating

A year-round programme to not only develop confidence in speaking more clearly, confidently and effectively, but also to hone skills such as listening actively, providing productive feedback, research and analysis and constructing arguments.





## Etiquette

An informative, interactive workshop is followed by a formal 5-course dinner hosted in La Cantina which will equip pupils with the skills and confidence to present the most polished version of themselves in social situations.

## European Adventure

A five-day, four-night trip to a European city of interest will provide pupils with an opportunity to develop their cultural knowledge, while participating in a range of activities that will foster relationships and broaden their historical knowledge of their host city.

## Revision and Exam Skills

A series of workshops conducted by teaching staff will present pupils with a range of techniques that can be adopted for effective revision and provide confidence for tackling exams.

## Enrichment Week Challenges

Pupils will have the chance to experience broad and exciting activities that create opportunities to stretch, challenge, learn and enjoy outside of the normal confines of their timetable. The activities will enhance and enrich their academic understanding through hands-on learning.

Further information on each of the above opportunities, including dates and costs, will be made available to parents and pupils throughout the year.



**If you have any further questions,  
please do not hesitate to get in touch**

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