

Autumn term 2023- what we are learning in year 9

Faculty of English, literacy and communication

What will your child be learning?

During the autumn term, your child will have studied the topic, 'extreme sports' and the novel, 'Animal Farm'. They will have produced a number of reading and writing responses that focus on the literature and language skills required at GCSE level.

What can you do to help?

Encourage pupils to log on to Google Classroom to complete the homework tasks, discuss examples of dystopia/extreme sports and explore new texts to support in-school learning.



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Faculty of mathematics and numeracy

Mathematics and numeracy

What will your child be learning?

During this term your child will be continuing to practice their written calculations using the four rules of number on both negative and decimal numbers and, using BIDMAS to ensure calculations are done in the correct order. Pupils will be interpreting data accurately and using a variety of averages to analyse data. In geometry, pupils will be looking calculating angles in polygons and using compasses to construct accurate drawings.

What can you do to help?

You can support your child by discussing the learning completed in school and apply skills learnt in lessons to real life context. Ensure independent learning tasks that are given and set on Google Classroom are completed by the set deadlines. Encourage them to practise their times tables and use apps/games/competitions with yourself for fun to aid faster recall.

Enterprise and financial education

What will your child be learning?

Throughout the year, learners will be working towards a qualification by the London Bank of Institute and Finance developing their financial understanding. During this term they will be exploring various aspects of finance including; money management solutions, the benefits of credit and debit cards, debt management, exchange rates and understanding the sources of money. Your child will also be completing the first part of their enterprise qualification, developing their entrepreneurial mindset and understanding. They will be researching local and national entrepreneurs and exploring their mindset and the skills required to start their own business. We are striving to help our students become ethical, informed citizens who are ready for all aspects of financial independence and the entrepreneurial world.

What can you do to help?

For the financial education your child will have been given a username and password to access all the material needed for the course. Included on here are all the class notes, short quizzes and mock questions. All of which can be accessed at home via the website www.libf.ac.uk Login in by clicking in the top right hand corner and then go to the blue block to 'Access your brightspace course websites' All work for the enterprise, including any deadlines for submission of work, will be on their google classroom.



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Faculty of STEM

Science

What will your child be learning?

Over the course of the year pupils will study GCSE unit 1 across the three subject areas: biology, chemistry and physics. They will study the WJEC triple award unit 1 topics across the year and will be sitting GCSE assessments. All information on the assessment is shared with the pupils and yourselves via the Google Classroom and parentmail. Within each of the three sciences they will complete all topics within unit 1 before moving on to unit 2.

Unit 1:

Biology: cells, organ systems and ecosystems

Chemistry: chemical substances, reactions and essential resources

Physics: electricity, energy and waves

Unit 2:

Biology: the variety of life, cell division and stem cells, DNA and inheritance and variation and evolution.

Chemistry: bonding, structure and properties, acids, bases and salts, metals and their extraction and chemical reactions and energy.

Physics: distance, speed and acceleration, Newton's laws, work and energy and further motion concepts.

What can you do to help?

All work can be accessed on the Google Classroom and pupils should be accessing this at home to recap the work they have undertaken in class and to complete the independent learning sheets.

Information and course guidance can be found at:
https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/biology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/chemistry-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/physics-gcse/#tab_keydocuments



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Faculty of STEM

Information technology- ITQ

What will your child be learning?

In year 9 pupils work towards a BTEC level 2 award for IT users. Pupils will work toward their qualifications within lessons. They will gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in the IT sector or further education. They will develop functional skills and personal learning and thinking skills essential for successful performance in working life. They develop the following skills in the first term. Pupils engage in learning which is relevant to them in terms of IT and they will be provided with opportunities to develop these skills and techniques through assessments. For example, pupils will use spreadsheets and evaluate their use within schools and the workplace. All assessments completed within this term contribute towards the qualification.

What can you do to help?

All assessments are started within lesson but all work can be accessed at home to complete or improve upon. The work is located on the Google Classroom and their own drive. At home they can be working on these assignments to ensure they have all the necessary ones completed to gain the qualification. All assignment details are sent to parents via parentmail and your support at home is appreciated. As a parent you can be reviewing the work with your son/daughter and providing guidance on the improvement points. Talking about the work and ensuring they meet the deadlines is also important.

Design technology

What will your child be learning?

In year 9 we start to look at the GCSE courses available in the faculty, starting with the GCSE in food and nutrition. Pupils spend the autumn term learning all about dairy products. They will learn how to identify dairy products and its sources, alternatives to dairy products and lactose intolerance. Pupils develop an understanding of the role of dairy in the diet and nutrients provided and how an excess or deficiency of dairy can affect health. They use their knowledge of dairy products and apply this when develop food preparation skills and make a variety of dishes including: potato dauphinoise, buttermilk scones and cheesecake.

What can you do to help?

Discuss in-school learning. Practise recipes and food preparation skills at home. Discuss how much dairy you eat as a family - is it inline with recommendations?
Visit the <https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/> website and read about the eatwell guide.



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Faculty of life

Humanities

What will your child be learning?

During the autumn term, your child will learn about physical, intellectual, emotional and social development changes through the different life stages. During history lessons, pupils will explore the changes to health and medicine through time, exploring the significance of Hippocrates and investigating beliefs and ideas to cure disease across the time periods. They will analyse a range of sources to aid their analysis of what life was like and develop their knowledge of attitudes towards how to cure disease and reasons behind the spread of disease. Further, your child will learn about how rivers link to the hydrological cycle, the main parts of a river and how a river changes from its source in the mountains to its mouth where it enters the sea. Furthermore, they will be learning how various named river process shape the land to produce "V-shaped" valleys and waterfalls. Finally, in this unit of work your child will consider why some rivers flood regularly, the impacts of river flooding and strategies to minimise the risk of flooding.

How can you help?

Have discussions around milestones and development. Perhaps there are family members or friends who would be willing to discuss their physical, intellectual, emotional and social changes that they have experienced through their lives. You can support your child with the homework tasks they are given to support their learning. Further, you could discuss the impact of disease and how we cure it. You could visit local areas to view our valleys and the river at the base and discuss the course that the river takes on its journey to Cardiff Bay. Additionally you might share your memories of how our local river flooded in February 2020 and the impact that this had on many people.

Religion, values and ethics (RVE)

What will your child be learning?

During the autumn term we have been exploring what our own worldviews are, consider the factors that influence us and the opinions that we have. We are exploring the 'lens' of people of religious and non-religious beliefs, and consider the influences that their beliefs may have on their behaviours, lifestyle and opinions, and making comparisons. Next term, we will be exploring medical ethics and investigating a range of issues, exploring our own worldview on the topics and considering how these may influence medical ethics and vice versa.

How can you help?

Discuss in-school learning and share your opinions, and consider what factors influence why our opinions may be different to each other. Support independent learning tasks, as these all support learning and progress towards the qualification.



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Faculty of life

Well-being

What will your child be learning?

During the autumn term, pupils will participate in a range of activities to improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being. All pupils will develop key attributes on how to be a great leader in team sports and how to be a competent individual within individual sports. Pupils will apply themselves by developing their knowledge and understanding within sports by taking part in a variety of roles such as; performing, coaching and officiating. We will cover practical sports such as fitness testing, gymnastics, netball and basketball. Within the classroom, we will cover lessons on internet safety and online technology. The internet and online technology topic provides new opportunities for our pupils to learn and grow in a safe manner, but also investigates the variety of risks they could face online.

How can you help?

Please ensure that your child brings and wears the correct PE kit to these lessons. You could also discuss the benefits of regular physical activity and explain how this reduces the risk of illness both in the short and long term and how it is linked to positive mental health outcomes. You could also explore the type of physical activity that your child enjoys most and help them to incorporate that into their weekly routines.



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Faculty of languages and culture

Welsh

What will your child be learning?

In year 9 we start to look at the GCSE course, looking at the theme 'leuenctid' (Youth). Pupils are working on developing their grammatical and language skills whilst studying the topics of holidays, healthy living, leisure time and young people's problems. Pupils are developing their translation, correction, oracy and extended writing skills. During the year pupils will complete assessments in all 3 skill areas, oracy, reading and writing. Pupils will continue to develop key grammar terms and how to form the present, conditional, future and past tenses. They apply these rules to create phrases to write and speak about the topic as well as to understand written texts.

What can you do to help?

Pupils should use the GCSEPods on the Google Classroom to support the learning of topical vocabulary. They should also complete all independent learning tasks set, these will be uploaded to the Google Classroom and will support the development of skills as well as building vocabulary and improving grammatical accuracy. Pupils are also able to use free online learning resources such as Quizlet and Duolingo to build their vocabulary and gain confidence in speaking aloud. Further information about the course, as well as blended learning tools are available at:

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/welsh-second-language-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Spanish

What will your child be learning?

Your child will be learning key vocabulary and structures around the topic of holidays and travel. They will cover key vocabulary such as types of tourism as well as weather and countries. They will start to use this new vocabulary to construct sentences in the present, past, future and conditional tenses. In the spring term, they will also be learning about El Salvador, researching both the tourism and the challenging past of the country. They will then study the topic of Spanish speaking countries, seeing how the Spanish language varies from one country to another, and how customs and traditions make these countries unique.

What can you do to help?

Online language learning platforms such as Duolingo and Quizlet provide plenty of opportunities for language development. Pupils can also access Spanish language television programmes, films and music to become used to the spoken Spanish language. Independent learning tasks and further revision can be found on Google Classroom.



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Faculty of languages and culture

Art

What will your child be learning?

Your child was developing personal creative skills through exploration of pattern and decoration. They investigated artists and cultures that celebrate patterns, finding patterns in natural and man-made environments and developed use of various materials to make art. They created personal responses to their studies whilst building skills and techniques. This term, your child will be developing those personal creative skills through further exploration of pattern in animals. They will be investigating artists and cultures that take inspiration from the animal kingdom and create a printmaking project. This will then lead to the study of mythical creatures in film and media inspiring 3d studies.

What can you do to help?

You can support your child at home by ensuring that all work set on Google Classroom is completed by the deadline, sketchbooks are expected to go home for tasks to be completed.

Performing Arts

What will your child be learning?

To begin the year pupils in Year 9 take part in lots of exercises and workshops to rediscover their practical performance skills. They then study the topic of 'Film' across the disciplines of music, drama, design and media studies. Pupils take part in the creation of storyboards, film workshops, the explore the use of symbols in film and film analysis. Pupils take part in an in depth study of the 'Djembe' drum focusing on polyrhythms, ensemble performance and African music. This term your child will be focusing on Physical Theatre and its use in performance, keyboard skills and the play 'Game Over' by Mark Wheeler.

What can you do to help?

You can support your child at home by ensuring that all work set on Google Classroom is completed by the deadline, including learning lines and rehearsing for practical performance.

