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 1 Reading period in the Library
Maths	8 periods
Science	9 periods, 3 in each Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics). Science is not yet taught as GCSE Combined Science (equivalent to 2 GCSEs) or Triple Science (3 GCSEs). The decision as to who will be in which group/s will be made with Science staff for Year 10.
Humanities	9 periods – 3 periods in each Humanity (Geography, History, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)).
Options	4 periods of each
Digital Learning	2 periods
PSHE	1 period
PE	3 periods
Games	4 periods

Tutor Time, further PSHE and Assembly will take place ahead of lessons starting each day.

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 and strongly encourage pupils to study a modern foreign language. 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 GCSE choices.

In the week following this assembly, subject teachers in Languages and the Creative and Performing 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 Studies
- 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:

- **Adventure Training**
- **Charity Fair**
- **Leadership Day**
- **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award**
- **Public Speaking and Debating**
- **Communications Day and Etiquette Tea**
- **Take on an Additional Adventure**
- **Revision and Exam Skills**
- **Enrichment Week Challenges**

Adventure Training

Year 9s will participate in groups in a range of challenges to develop their team working, independence and their expedition skills before embarking on an expedition in the local area. Duke of Edinburgh's Award pupils will extend these skills further with a full, independent expedition including an overnight stay.

Year 9s will have fortnightly lessons on all aspects of Adventure Training. This includes climbing, camp craft, outdoor cooking, orienteering, expedition skills and first aid. These sessions are entirely practical and PE Kit is worn.

Charity Fair

Year 9 pupils will take a lead in organising the whole School Charity Fair. They will liaise with the Director of Partnerships 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 take 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
- Performing Arts Leader
- Events Leader

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award / TenTors

Although optional, pupils are encouraged to sign up for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Both Award scheme's are designed to develop independence, initiative and a sense of adventure in young people and is recognised and valued by universities and employers. Ten Tors is a more challenging event and teams will be selected following the training programme.

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.

Communications Day and Etiquette Tea

An informative day for pupils based around effective communication skills for different situations including interviews, debating and developing effective soft skills. Pupils end the day with an informative talk about correct formal manners, followed by a delicious Afternoon Tea in La Cantina.

Take on an Additional Adventure

The range of trips available will give pupils the opportunity to develop cultural awareness, strengthen relationships, and enhance their historical knowledge through a variety of engaging activities.

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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