

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 GCSE Options

Your child will shortly be choosing their GCSE 'option subjects' in preparation for their start to GCSE studies in Year 10. To ensure students are fully prepared for this important phase in their education, we are providing our Year 9 students with a substantial programme of support, advice and guidance.

The programme has started this week with individual, one to one careers meetings with Year 9 students. In these meetings we discuss with students what subjects they enjoy or are particularly interested in, where they are making good progress, and if they have any thoughts as to what career or post-16 education route they may want to pursue. In addition to this, is a discussion with individual students about which subjects they would be interested in choosing as an option. This is not an option choice at this stage, more of an expression of interest.

As part of this programme of support advice and guidance, students will also access options talks from subject leaders who run option courses, and have an opportunity to have a 'taster' of the subjects they are interested in choosing.

The programme of support, advice and guidance will culminate in our Parental Engagement Evening in late March. I will be writing to you again, nearer the time, to provide further details.

In the meantime, if you have any queries regarding options please contact school.

I look forward to writing to you again shortly.

Kind regards,

Nathan Powell
Deputy Headteacher

What your child is learning in Year 9

Subject	What now	What next
Art & DT	Developing photography skills. Developing logo and branding skills. Designing and making packaging and cake decoration from nets etc.	ELEMENTS OF 'LEGO': Researching and learning about LEGO. Developing skills in different media linked to the different styles of artists. Analysis of own and others artwork. Researching LEGO artists independently. developing presentation skills. Rendering skills in monochrome and colour. Scaling up and 3D drawings. Sustainability of plastic. Develop photography knowledge and macro photography skills.
Computer Studies	UNIT 2 MEDIA: Creating 3D animations, using use animation software. Where animations could be used, demonstrating, using and manipulating 3D animations.	Advanced spreadsheet formulas and functions including: Round Function, Now Function, Add Mode, Add Median, Concatenate, <u>VLOOKUP's</u> and <u>HLOOKUP's</u>
English	Explore the meaning of a poem (conflict poetry). To use the context of the poem to extend comments on the meaning.	To understand the features of speeches. To understand the contexts in which the speeches being studied were written.
Food Technology	Preparing and Making skills involved in food practical lessons: Pizza dough balls and stuffed crust pizza. Food hygiene and safety. Knife skills. Use of equipment. Introduction to food equipment and rules. Eatwell guide. Sensory testing. Environmental considerations.	Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment. Functional properties and chemical characteristics of food. Nutritional content of food and drinks. Functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food. A range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional Welsh, British and international), inspiring new ideas or modifying existing recipes.
Geography	Natural Hazard definitions. Plate tectonic theory and continental drift. Plate margin processes. Example of earthquake in a HIC. Example of an earthquake in a LIC. Contrasting effects and challenges due to varying wealth. Types of volcanoes. Montserrat - decision making. Management of tectonic hazards. Tsunami causes and effects.	Sustainable water supply in the UK. Strategies to increase water supply - dams and reservoirs. Waste disposal. Strategies to reduce waste. Air pollution. Renewable energy. Renewable energy investigation. Sustainable resource – bamboo. Sustainable development goals.
History	DID THE AFTERMATH OF WW1 LEAD TO A RISE IN DICTATORSHIPS?: Dictatorship vs. democracy. Treaty of Versailles - impact of this. Rise of dictators in the 20th century - Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin. British Union of Fascists - Oswald Mosley - Battle of Stockton. Appeasement - Neville Chamberlain.	WAS THIS BRITAIN'S FINEST HOUR?: Dunkirk - success or failure. Battle of Britain and the role of the Polish and Czech pilots. Was there a 'Blitz spirit'? Impact of evacuation. Was the 'People's War' truly a people's war. Using historian interpretations - Angus Calder and Sonya Rose". Role of the Commonwealth in the war. Pearl Harbour. D-day. Was the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki justified?
Maths	CONSTRUCTIONS: Three dimensional shapes- finding volumes & surface areas of prisms. Constructions & congruency- nets, scale drawing, congruence.	REASONING WITH NUMBER: Number. Using percentages. Maths & money.
Music	Reading - What is pop music? Communication - Elements of music and keywords. Performance - Pop songs on keys, guitar, ukulele and voice. Composition - write an original pop song.	What are the features of Minimalist Music? MAD-T-SHIRT - Melody, Articulation, Dynamics, Tempo, Structure, Harmony, Instruments, Rhythm and Texture
PE	Coach peers through different skills within aesthetics. Perform rotations and drops. Put together an individual routine and perform. Recap previously learnt skills and apply them in to a complex routine featuring shapes, rotations and twists. Act upon feedback given in order to improve their skill application. Apply safety factors.	Net Activities: Striking the ball whilst stood still Striking the ball whilst moving across the court. Forehand shots. Backhand shots. Able to serve the ball properly. Can move around the court appropriately to maintain a rally. Can get their opponents moving around the court in order to try and outwit their opponent.
Science	KEY CONCEPTS IN BIOLOGY: Microscopes and magnification. Identifying organelles and their function. Specialised cells - identification, functions. Enzymes and what they do. Enzymes and conditions. Transporting materials in organisms.	FORCES: Quantities - Vectors and scalars. Resultant forces. Newton's laws. Mass and weight. Momentum (H). Crashes and stopping distances. ATOMIC STRUCTURE AND THE PERIODIC TABLE: Atomic mass and number. Isotopes. Elements and the periodic table. Atomic number and the periodic table. Electronic configurations.
Spanish	¡ORIENTATE! (JOBS AND FUTURE PLANS): Saying what you have to do. Saying what job you would like. Talking about your future. Describing jobs. Talking about jobs in detail. El Gordo in Spain at Christmas.	EN FORMA (HEALTHY LIVING): Talking about diet. An active lifestyle. Daily routine. Talk about getting fit. Talk about ailments. Presentation on fitness and routine. Spanish idioms. Teaching Spanish dance routines.