

Year 9 Subject Content

Art

In Year 9, pupils explore a variety of artists, disciplines and techniques over three projects. In the 'Perspective' project, pupils study different perspective drawing techniques, culminating in a large panoramic drawing of an imagined cityscape. In the 'Telling a Story' project, pupils study narrative painting and photography from different time periods and cultures and create their own work telling the story of a historical or contemporary event of their own choice. In the final project, pupils explore Photorealism and the work of Chuck Close, working in detail from photographs to create hyper-realist portrait drawings.

Chinese

The year 9 students continue to develop their language and communication skills on a wide range of topic areas such as media, tourism environment and plans. Four skills of are learned and practiced for preparation of GCSE. The content that pupils have learned includes characters, sentence patterns, dialogues and exercises. Students also improve their knowledge and skills by doing Chinese culture research, performances and presentations. Students have the opportunity to take part in the British Council Chinese Speaking Competition where they can enlarge their vocabulary and build up their confidence.

Drama

In this year the students are introduced to the concept of physical theatre and influential practitioners such as Steven Berkoff and Frantic Assembly. They extend their awareness of body language in performance by developing their use and control of symbolism, stylised movement and physical theatre. They use devising techniques to create a series of short performances whilst exploring Steven Berkoff's exaggerated form of physical theatre and Frantic Assembly's non-verbal physical style of theatre to create their own responses to well-known morality tales and fables.

They are introduced to the concept of Teacher In Role and a wider variety of dramatic explorative strategies including freeze frames, thought tracking, 'marking the moment', role-play, and narration. They develop their understanding of how to create, and what constitutes, a dramatic scenario. They continue to use proxemics, voice/language, non-verbal communication and movement /mime to explore and create semiotic meaning in dramatic scenarios as a backdrop to the wider concept of crime, punishment and justice.

Finally, the students are introduced to another key theatre genre, Epic theatre, articulated and developed by the playwright Bertolt Brecht, which uses very particular forms of theatrical expression. Although first invented at the beginning of the 20th century and considered highly controversial, this style of performance has permeated main stream theatre and is now universal. (Think of National Theatre's *War Horse* and *Jane Eyre*) The students learn how to employ all the techniques whilst considering a particular topic such as homelessness, or gang violence.

English

This is an important year in preparing students for the challenge of GCSE. They study forms of poetry, a novel, a Shakespeare play and pre 20th Century fiction extracts with a view to developing the reading and analytical skills they need for the new GCSE. They also read a range

of non-fiction and continue to develop their own writing skills with an ongoing emphasis on accuracy, fluency and creativity.

French

In Year 9 pupils studying French lay the foundations for their GCSE studies. Through the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, they extend the ability to take part in a more complex range of topic areas. They further their knowledge of grammar by revising the basics and learning to use the future and the imperfect tense.

Geography

In Year 9 students start the GCSE course. They look at issues that impact the economic development of countries, such as international trade. In physical geography they learn about the movement of the earth's plates, the natural hazards that this causes and whether it is possible to reduce the impact of those hazards. They also study the cycle of ice ages and warmer periods and how those cold periods have dramatically changed the UK's landscape.

German

In year 9 pupils learn to communicate about themselves and their daily lives in sufficient depth for a detailed conversation. The course is presented through the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Pupils study German grammar in some depth in preparation for GCSE, including the past and future tense, modal verbs, adjective endings and subordinating conjunctions.

History

Pupils follow a course based on Twentieth century history. Units on the First and Second World Wars are followed by a study of Terrorism.

ICT

In Year 9 pupils learn the basic elements of Information Technology:

- Finding things out
- Developing ideas and making things happen
- Exchanging and sharing information
- Reviewing, modifying and evaluating work as it progresses

They learn how to produce web Pages using Macromedia Dreamweaver and develop their skills using Microsoft Office Applications. In preparation for GCSE BACS they also use Python programming language.

Maths

In Mathematics this year students have continued to develop their skills in number, ratio and proportion, algebra and measure, probability and statistics. There has been an increased focus on problem solving, reasoning and communication as many of the topics studied their year will be assessed as part of the GCSE.

Music

The Year 9 curriculum is more practical and included minimalism, critical listening skills, film music and classroom performances. All of these topics have been approached in a practical way either using their own instruments, classroom instruments or in the case of Film Music, the computer software Logic Pro. This software enables the students to synchronise their original

composed music and chosen sound effects to a silent video clip. They were able to choose from the genres: love, action, cartoon and horror.

PE

During Key Stage 3, students will take part in a wide variety of activities in PE lessons. Progress is made through the development and improvement of a wide variety of skills (Hands); the application of these skills in a variety of contexts (Head); and a wider understanding of the role of sport and physical activity for a healthy lifestyle and the role of collaboration, teamwork and leadership in our lives (Heart).

Activities covered are: Hockey, Football, Rugby (boys), Netball (girls), Gymnastics, OAA, Badminton, Short Tennis, Basketball, Fitness, Trampolining, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Rounders

RE

The Year 9 course covers the topic of worship in different religions, in particular the study of Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. It also includes the journey, " From The Cradle To The Grave" which involves studying the rites of passage in different religions. Pupils also consider some ethical dilemmas related to different stages in life.

Science

- Maths in Science
- Particles
- Diffusion and Osmosis
- Matter
- The Atmosphere and Pollution
- Cells
- Microorganisms
- Assessing Purity and Separating Mixtures
- Material Properties
- Waves and Light
- Heat Transfers
- Enzymes
- Magnets and Magnetic Fields
- Formulae and Equations

Spanish

In Years 8 and 9 pupils are taught to talk about themselves and to undertake simple tourist transactions through the mediums of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. They are also taught the basics of Spanish grammar.

Citizenship

Pupils have looked at aspects of Human Rights and considered how the law deals with crime. Party politics and the role of Local Government have also been considered. Eating disorders and drug issues have been discussed in class.