

YEAR 9 CURRICULUM LETTER: AUTUMN 2023



Welcome to our Autumn term Curriculum Letter. There are plenty of activities for students to get involved in this term and many departments will be running exciting activities in the run up to Christmas. Watch out for the Extra-Curricular Clubs list - out next week.

More general information about the curriculum can be found [here](#).

The departments that teach your child have contributed below to let you know what students will be studying this term.

Art

Students will be completing a Plymouth Marine Aquarium project. They will respond creatively to an off-site visit, create sketches and photographs on the trip for use back at school and produce an independent sketchbook submission over several weeks from the trip. This will culminate in a printmaking final piece.

Plymouth Marine Aquarium - Project. Students will:

- Produce an independent sketchbook submission over several weeks from the trip that includes sketches and photographs
- Produce a printmaking final piece

Computer Science

In Computer Science, students will develop skills in understanding how data is used on computers, including text, numbers, pictures and sounds. They will move onto studying Logic Gates and their uses in Computer systems. Students will then move onto basic programming using the Python programming language.

Careers

As part of their PSHE lessons, they will develop understanding and knowledge about Employment Law, Budgeting & Saving.

Drama

'Commedia Dell'Arte'

Pupils will learn about the history of Commedia dell'arte and use stock characters, improvisation, masks and stylised acting to create their own improvised scenario. Towards Christmas they will be looking at physical theatre, specifically Frantic Assembly and using some of their warmups and techniques to create their own movement patterns.

English

Students will build on their work on Shakespeare in the summer term by beginning year 9 with the study of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Students will explore the text both analytically and creatively, beginning to consider how the meanings and style of the play is shaped by the context in which it was written.

Towards Christmas, students will begin their study of their class novel, Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird. This will continue to develop student's understanding of the effect of context on writers and their works by exploring the history surrounding segregation and racism in America's Deep South in the 1930s.

These texts will lay the foundation for GCSE by establishing some of the core skills they will need in Year 10 and 11, developing students' understanding of Shakespearean tragedy and exploring how themes, motifs and symbols are crafted across a modern text.

Food & Nutrition

Students will look at expanding their knowledge of types of pastry, making sauces and food science topics. They will look more in depth at nutrition and gain an understanding of the importance of vitamins and minerals and their deficiencies. They will be making scones, southern fried chicken and mince pies.

Geography

This term, year 9 students are investigating the global fashion industry and the social and environmental impacts of fast fashion. So many of us buy clothes online or in shops without fully realising the unseen impacts this might be having elsewhere in the world.

Students will then look at the Geography of Film by looking at how places, such as cities and slums, are depicted in films such as Slumdog Millionaire. Students will then move onto the GCSE level topic of the 'Natural Hazards', with a focus on tectonic hazards.

History

Students will look back at the history of the 20th Century. Starting by looking at what / who was responsible for the sinking of Titanic, students develop their knowledge of key events of the 20th Century including the Prohibition, the assassination of JFK and an evaluation into whether the Moon Landing was fake.

Mathematics

Students will cover the following topics:

Number - this topic links to science and form the basis for work on calculus in the future. A googol for instance is 1 followed by 100 zeros. Scientists use standard form to write very small or very large numbers.

Algebra - these skills are needed to graph and analyse quadratic graphs often used to model real life scenarios such as throwing a javelin.

Data representation - learning to extrapolate and predict from data sets.

Statistical Diagrams 1

Time Series

Scatter Graphs

Line of Best Fit

Averages and Range

Ratios

Ratio and Proportion

MFL - French

In French, students will complete a topic called: Qui suis-je?

They will learn how:

- To describe family & friends
- To discuss relationships & justify opinions
- To discuss past & future events
- To say what they used to be like

Students will learn how to discuss role models & their importance, make arrangements to meet up with friends, talk about favourite TV/film genres and review an award-winning french animation.

MFL - German

In German, students will complete a topic called: Die Umwelt

They will learn how to:

- Say what they think the biggest environmental problems are locally and worldwide
- Say how they think we should solve environmental problems at home and worldwide
- Learn to use the phrase 'in order to'

'The Environment in Germany' - students have been learning to discuss local and global environmental problems and what we should do to solve these. We will look at some case studies from Germany to learn about how Germany is tackling environmental problems. They will focus on verbs and word order and will build on this to discuss how Eco Villages and Cities were founded and why.

Music

Students will study reggae. Learning about the history of reggae and performing some Bob Marley and composing their own songs.

SONG WRITING - Year 9 will be composing their own Christmas songs. They will look at the development of song structure; the typical instruments used within a song and then use their new found knowledge to write their own lyrics, chord progressions and melody lines. They may write in the style they enjoy listening to, be it rap, reggae etc.

PE

Students in year 9 rotate every 3 weeks which gives them 6 lessons per activity. So each group will be taking part in 2 of the following:

Dance - students will explore a range of dance movements using steps, gestures, formations, body shapes, contact work, and contrasts in dynamic and rhythmic patterning. Students will demonstrate creativity by copying and adapting movement and movement phases from Matthew Bourne's The Nutcracker. Students will evaluate and assess movements to improve routines and perform dances using advanced dance techniques within a range of dance styles and forms.

Handball - students will be refining their invasion games techniques by learning the new sport of handball. They will be refining skills such as throwing, catching, shooting and goalkeeping as well as developing their attacking and defending strategies.

Hockey - students will be refining core skills as a team and as individuals to outwit opponents. Teams will be expected to plan strategies and implement them in competitive games. They will be working on how to beat defensive players as well as learning set plays for the attack and defence. Health Related Fitness - Students will reinforce their understanding about the importance of warming up and create their own warm up. They will learn about the different components of fitness and which are health related and which are skill related. Students will learn how to test their own fitness and analyse normative data. Students will further develop their understanding of the importance of leading an active lifestyle.

Netball - students will recap all the fundamentals from years 7 and 8 and further develop their game play including court linkage, effective centre passes and backline throw set plays. Students will learn about the 3 stages of defence and use it in skills practices and game play. Students will be encouraged to learn all the positions and rules of the game.

PSHE

Students will cover a range of topics including: Mental Health, The Dangers of Alcohol, Smoking and Vaping, Drugs, Eating Disorders, Sex Education, Unhealthy Relationships.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Year 9 begin the academic year with a unit "How should we deal with violent crime?" In this unit, students consider Christian and Buddhist views about prison, knife crime, forgiveness, and the death penalty.

Students will also start a unit on what is good and what is challenging about being a Muslim in the UK. This was written with some of our current Muslim students and looks at topical issues.

Science

Biology:
Diet and Digestion Unit.

This unit assumes knowledge of the digestive system studied in the year 8 Diet and Digestion unit and immediately follows on from the year 9 cells unit. The main foci of this unit are the chemical digestion of the main macronutrients by enzymes and the development of students' investigative skills through the exploration of the factors affecting enzyme activity. The link to the role of enzymes in other biological reactions, such as those controlling metabolic reactions, is fundamental in the understanding of processes such as respiration, photosynthesis and decay, and the importance of homeostasis in humans and other organisms, all of which are studied in years 10 and 11.

Chemistry:

In Chemistry, students will complete a topic called Chemistry Foundations to consolidate work done in years 7 and 8 and ensure that students are completely ready to develop their knowledge and skills further.

In studying the topic "Atomic Structure" students will see links with Physics as they describe why the new evidence from the scattering experiment led to a change in the atomic model, describing the difference between the plum pudding model of the atom and the nuclear model of the atom. They will calculate the relative atomic mass of an element given the percentage abundance of its isotopes and develop their understanding of the electron configuration in atoms.

Physics:

In Physics, students will be developing their understanding about Energy Stores, The conservation of Energy, how different Energy Resources are used to produce electricity and their effects on the environment.

Students will complete the unit on Energy Resources which builds on knowledge of energy in year 7. Students will evaluate the pros and cons of different methods of electricity production; renewable and non-renewable and have the opportunity to discuss methods of powering the world.

Textiles

We have some changes in the timetabling of textiles this year as I will see all student for 1 hour every two weeks for the whole academic year -instead of the rotation system they became used to in year 7 and 8. Year 9 will be moving into the realms of textiles art as students learn to 'hoop up and drop the feed dog' for free machine Embroidery. The Autumn Term will focus on drawing in stitch - combining with applique and/or stencilling for the more ambitious, to make a sample square which will combine to make a form blanket.



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