



Welcome to our Spring term Curriculum Letter. There are plenty of [extra-curricular](#) activities for students to get involved in this half term and many departments will be running exciting activities.

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

This half-term, Year 9 will be taking part in the 2nd Challenge Day on 31st January, which is a day that focusses on careers and future options in line with them completing their GCSE Options by the 7th March.

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

ART

Pupils are still in the process of producing a mask final piece for the aquarium project. After this, pupils will embark on a GCSE type project that uses live exam themes from this year's externally set task for Y11. This will further enhance the pupils' ability to research independently a chosen theme from a set list. This project will be of great benefit to those pupils who have chosen Art as a GCSE and should also give those not taking Art on into Yr 10 an interesting, self-driven project as a crescendo to their KS3 Art Curriculum.

CAREERS

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will be developing their skills in the Python programming language, before employing these skills to programme Robots and Drones to provide solutions to a number of different problems.

DRAMA

Technical aspects of the theatre - devising from a prop stimulus.

ENGLISH

Students begin their study of a collection of poems themed around the concept of Belonging, including a diverse range of writers, which help to challenge and begin the progression to a more evaluative style of analysis required at GCSE.

Pupils will then begin studying a unit on the art of rhetoric, looking at using language with persuasive and political speeches to engage, entertain and inform an audience.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Diet and Health.

Food poisoning, bacteria, symptoms and causes.

Sweet and savoury dishes.

GEOGRAPHY

Tectonic Hazards.

The Living World.

HISTORY

Building upon the skills acquired previously, students are now starting the GCSE course on the Reigns of Richard and John 1189 - 1216. This term we will be studying Medieval Society and the reign of Richard I.

MATHEMATICS

Ratio and proportion and problem solving within it. Formulae, using, rearranging and understanding. Sequences, non-linear and linear. Percentages, including repeated percentage change.

MFL: FRENCH

[Tu veux sortir?](#)

Making arrangements and inviting people out.

Revising dates, times and places.

Accepting and declining invitations.

Describing an evening out in the past tense.

MFL: GERMAN

Pupils will complete the topic House and home and area. They will:

- Talk about different types of area.
- Talk about transport in your area.
- Talk about where you live.
- What there is in your area and what you can do.

- Comparing the above with the past/where you used to live.
- To talk about how your area could be improved.
- talk about different homes people can live in.
- describe your home, say what there is and isn't.
- give opinions about your home.
- compare your current home to a previous home.
- describe your ideal/dream home.

MUSIC

Music for Dance - Music tech project including composing on Logic Pro X

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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.

Trampoline - Students will learn how to accurately replicate basic shapes, turns, drops and rotational movements. Students will be able to demonstrate correct take-off and landing technique, as well as a clear body shape whilst airborne or in contact with the bed. They will learn how to apply movements individually and as part of a fluent sequence. Students will select, combine and perform skills demonstrating varied levels of creativity.

Football - Students will learn passing, receiving, dribbling, turning and shooting the ball. They will learn how to control the ball both under pressure in small sided games and in skills practices. Students will learn to use basic principles of play when selecting and applying tactics for defending and attacking. Students will develop the skills necessary to outwit opponents.

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 & ETHICS

Is GCSE RS for me?

This unit gives students information about what is studied at GCSE RS and how the subject might be useful for further education/careers through case studies and role play.

What is good and what is challenging about being a Muslim in the UK?

This unit was written in collaboration with TGGs Muslim students who identified issues that they felt would be relevant, topical and interesting for students at TGGs to look at. The issues looked at include arranged marriage, LGBTQ+ issues, the role of women, Islamophobia and halal food. Where relevant, students consider why there is diversity of opinion amongst Muslims about these topics. It also considers whether it is more or less challenging to be a Muslim in Devon than elsewhere in the UK. This unit links to the GCSE RS unit: Relationships and Families and has clear links to British Values.

SCIENCE

Biology:

The students are starting to study digestion, looking at mechanisms and organs involved, the impact of enzymes and how substances are absorbed. The following unit will explore aerobic and anaerobic respiration and metabolism.

Chemistry:

Metals and extraction: reactivity series; displacement reactions and metal extraction.

Physics:

Energy resources and formula (end); particle model of matter (start).

TEXTILES

Students are exploring the work of textile artists Sally Verrall and Janice Wright Cheney through written analysis and practical experiments. They will be developing and extending their skills in tie dye, free machine embroidery, hand embroidery and applique.

