



**Year 9**  
**Pre-Options**  
**2019-20 Pupil Guide**



## **Introduction**

In Year 9, you will follow a similar curriculum to the one you have studied in Year 8, with a strong emphasis on English, Maths and Science. All students will continue to study French.

In year 9, we introduce the idea of studying subjects at GCSE through a system of pre-option choices. Students are able to study subjects that they are interested in taking forward to GCSE level. It is a chance to master some of the key concepts and skills surrounding the subject, and to access it in a more exploratory format. This booklet aims to give you details of all the subjects, which are available for you to study in Year 9 and give you guidance and advice about how to make your choices.

It is intended that you will choose to study subjects which you are interested in pursuing in Years 10 and 11. We hope that by studying subjects in Year 9, you will be well prepared for Years 10 and 11 and, be able to make well-informed choices.

## **How to make your choices**

Once you have read through this booklet carefully, you need to choose the subjects you would most like to study in Year 9. The list of subjects they can choose from is shown overleaf. These choices should be completed on the secure link that will be emailed to you and your parents/carers . You will complete this online, and your parents/carers should sign it off online to say that they agree.

You need to choose:

- A guided option (Geography, History )
- Two open options (this can include a second guided option)
- A reserve option

**Your Option choices should be completed online no later than Friday 4th May.**



## **GUIDED OPTIONS**

### **Geography**

Geography is about the rapidly changing and exciting world in which we live. In the GCSE pre-option, you will study our restless planet through the investigation of Earthquakes, volcanoes and other natural disasters. Explore how we use the coast, the processes that occur there and how we manage them. Examine world development and globalisation researching sweatshops and child labour in Asia.

Geographical and decision making skills will be developed and you will you will also improve your sense of place as well as getting an idea of different cultures and landscapes from around the world. You will broaden your awareness of what is happening around the world and be able to empathise with other peoples' points of view.

**For more information, see Mrs Wragg**

### **History**

In Year 9, students may opt to choose History with a view to then continuing their studies in Year 10 and 11 to GCSE.

Having ensured students will gain a full chronological spread in Years 7 and 8; Year 9 provides an exciting opportunity to go into depth on some selected stories. We will introduce students to some unique events and individuals to gain multiple perspectives on wider issues.

By studying History, students will see how the transformation of society after 1945 affected different groups. A diverse mix of stories will help to inform students about some of the current political and social issues that have affected our modern world.

**For more information, please see Mr Bradbury**



## **OPEN OPTIONS**

### **Art**

In Art, students will develop portfolio style projects. Students will be encouraged to be experimental and they will learn a variety of skills including modroc relief collage, fabric painting, batik and printing. Drawing from observation is a key feature of the course and students will develop their skills using a range of different media and sources. Reference will be made to the work of other artists and designers and students will take inspiration from a wide range of artwork.

Year 9 Projects:

Mixed Media based on Sweets

Observational drawing with reference to Pop Art,

Landscape Project with reference to the work of David Hockney

**For more information, please see Mrs Walker**

### **Business Studies**

The pre-option course allows students to explore and develop their enterprising minds. The course will be structured around project-based learning and will include elements such as:

- \* Marketing and branding
- \* Finance
- \* How to set up a business
- \* Recruitment

The final unit will include the opportunity to run your own small enterprise activity in school. We are hoping to offer visits to businesses as part of the course next year, which will allow students to see theory in practice.

**Please see Mrs Singleton for more information.**



## **Design Technology – Materials**

The focus will be on pupil's imagination, innovation and flair for designing and making. The course does not have a material bias, so students can develop skills through work, in a range of designing media, modelling and production materials and the use of ICT.

Key Features of this course include:

- The opportunity to take part in creative, design-based activities
- Explore ways in which different factors affect how you design something.
- Challenge yourself : which materials do you like to use?

**For further details, see Miss Clifford**

## **Design and Technology – Textiles**

If students decide to specialise in Textiles they will have a hands on approach, develop their practical skills in designing, pattern cutting, manufacturing and evaluating linking to Textiles products. Pupils will also gain knowledge into processes and issues within the industry. If you are a budding fashion-designer, this course will help you develop your skills and design flair!

The focus will be on pupil's imagination, innovation and flair for designing and making.

**For further details, please see Miss Eden**

## **Food and Nutrition**

During Y9, students have the opportunity to develop a number of skills surrounding the subjects of food and nutrition. It is a year to explore the world of food production and cooking

- Students will learn how to think like a chef and respond to clients' briefs.
- They will develop their cooking skills and help them grow in confidence in the kitchen.
- They will also learn how to select and adjust cooking times.
- Students will also learn about where food comes from, learning about seasonal foods and carbon footprints.
- Students will look at festivals and events making a range of dishes, adapting original recipes to suit a client profile.

**Please see Miss Eden for further information.**



## **Music**

In Year 9, pupils study Music for two periods per week. The work covered is divided into units which begin to prepare pupils for GCSE Music, should they choose to study it. These units include solo performance skills, ensemble performance skills, relevant case study works and a variety of theory skills, around listening and analysing music. Some lessons will also take place in an ICT room to equip students with the composing skills they would require if to continue with music education. All pupils are encouraged to receive weekly instrumental or vocal lessons.

Year 9 Case study projects include:

- Beatles – ‘Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band’ Album
- Santana: ‘Supernatural Album’

Listening Topics include:

- Western Classical Traditions ( Baroque - Romantic)
- Popular Music (Musical Theatre - Hip Hop)
- Twentieth century Music ( Minimalism)
- World Music ( African, Indian, Caribbean).

**For more information, please see Miss Davis**

## **Physical Education**

The pre-option course builds on the foundations created at Year 7 and Year 8. The course in year 9 begins to extend the knowledge of the subject into some elements of theory.

Topics covered during the year:

- Discovering how food leads to good sport performance
- Developing skills in a range of different sports.
- How technology is used in sport.
- How to become a successful leader in sport.
- Unit 3 – Reducing the Risk of Injury in Sport

During the course, all pupils will participate in a range of individual and team sports to develop their basic skills, comprehension and tactical awareness.

**For more details please see Mr Howard or Miss Taylor**



## **Sociology**

Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social classes. Students will develop their analytical and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world.

**For more information, see Mrs Wragg**

**Please note:**

**Courses will only run in Key Stage 4 if there are significant numbers of students opting for these courses so that they are viable.**