

2026-27 Year 9 Curriculum overview

Subject	Autumn Term	
Art	<u>Portraiture Project</u> - Introduce pupils to the Art Project/sketchbook structure. They will focus on drawing skull structures and facial features in various media. Exploration into the Invention of the camera and how it affected Art.	Portraiture – Contextual Studies Students will be introduced to various portraiture-based artists (AO1), materials and techniques (AO2).
Computing	Python Programming II:- This unit introduces learners to how data can be represented and processed in sequences, such as lists and strings. The lessons cover a spectrum of operations on sequences of data, that range from accessing an individual element to manipulating the entire sequence. Great care has been taken so that the selection of problems used in the programming tasks are realistic and engaging: learners will process solar system planets, book texts, capital cities, leaked passwords, word dictionaries, ECG data, and more. Media – Animations:- Films, television, computer games, advertising, and architecture have been revolutionised by computer-based 3D modelling and animation. In this unit learners will discover how professionals create 3D animations using the industry-standard software package, Blender. By completing this unit learners will gain a greater understanding of how this important creative field is used to make the media products that we consume	
Drama	Conscience alley and Hot seating Students will learn what conscience alley is and how to perform it in its simplest form. Students will learn what adaptations are and what they could symbolically represent. Students will perform directed adaptations. Students will devise and implement their own adaptations for performance. Students will have an initial introduction to hot seating. Students will deepen their knowledge of hot seating and create their own characters that link together to create a story. Students will devise their own performance including hot seating and conscience alley.	Stimulus Students will learn what a stimulus is and work with a range of stimuli to create different characters. Students will learn about improvisation and rehearsed improvisation and use these techniques to devise a performance from a given stimulus. Students will use their prior knowledge of techniques to enhance their performance.
English	Class Reader: Analysing Literature Students will read ‘Heroes’ and explore themes of guilt, trauma and identity. Their study will include how language	Rhetoric: Transactional Writing Students will study rhetorical writing alongside reading ‘The Outsiders’. This unit will allow students to gather knowledge of rhetorical devices, practice developing their

2026-27 Year 9 Curriculum overview

	and structure are used to create effect as they consider the topic's 'Big Idea': Existentialism and the loss of faith.	writing skills and explore a variety of real-world examples as they work on composing their own speech. Inspired by the accompanying text, students will question the disparity between 'Capitalism and Christian morality'
Geography	North America - Is this Continent in Peril? In this unit, students explore the geography of North America with a focus on natural hazards including volcanoes, supervolcanoes, tectonic activity, and atmospheric risks. Using GIS technology, they investigate how these hazards impact people and places across the continent. The unit also examines human geography topics such as migration, urban change, and economic shifts, including the rise and fall of cities like Detroit and the realities behind places like Las Vegas. Students learn about environmental wonders such as Niagara Falls and Yellowstone National Park, deepening their understanding of the relationship between humans and nature. The unit concludes with a comprehensive assessment and reflective study of wilderness and wildlife in North America.	
History	India and the British Empire - Exploring the significance of the impact of colonisation on India, and addressing the question of was Empire good for India? The First World War - Studying the causes of the 'Great War' and the consequences for countries involved. Challenging the idea that it was a 'white man's war' through source analysis.	
Maths	Unit 1: To confidently perform and interpret numerical calculations involving decimals, integers and negative numbers, applying efficient methods, estimation and appropriate use of calculators to ensure accuracy and check solutions. Unit 2: To apply angle rules and geometric reasoning to solve a range of angle problems including increasingly complex problems involving angles in parallel lines and polygons. Unit 3: To understand and apply ratio and proportion in a range of contexts, including simplifying ratios, sharing quantities and solving real-life proportional problems. Unit 4: To develop fluency in simplifying, expanding and factorising algebraic expressions, and to understand the structure and manipulation of algebraic forms. To develop fluency in simplifying, expanding and factorising algebraic expressions, and to understand the structure and manipulation of algebraic forms. Unit 5: To confidently form, solve and interpret equations and inequalities, applying efficient algebraic methods, inverse operations and reasoning to check solutions and represent them accurately.	
Music	Blue Notes: Jazz, Blues & Musical Expression Students explore the origins and influence of Jazz and Blues music. They study harmony, improvisation and expressive	Stage to Screen: Song, Story & Character Students investigate how music is used in musical theatre to communicate character, emotion, and narrative. Through performance, composition, and analysis, they explore

	performance, developing their understanding of how these genres shaped much of today's popular music.	how composers use musical elements to support dramatic storytelling.	
RE	What Makes us Human? Christianity/ Humanism During this topic, year 9 will be investigating what makes us human? They will be considering whether we have a soul or a conscience, they will be focusing on Humanism and their views on what makes humanity special? We will be considering whether it's acceptable to test on animals due to our superiority? We also start our journey of looking at the works of famous Philosophers and Psychologists to see whether their views can help us answer this ultimate question. Why does Evil Exist? Christianity/ Judaism/ Humanism This topic can be quite challenging but also very thought-provoking. The study of where does suffering come from and if there was a God, would there be any suffering? These questions invite a wealth of opinions and views about the existence and nature of God. We also dedicate a large portion of the topic to the Holocaust, where we look at actual accounts of those who experienced the Holocaust and whether their faith did or didn't remain. Should the decision be based on the situation? Christianity/ Islam/ Humanism Our final study of this year is based on moral reasoning and the evaluation of is anything really right or really wrong, or does it depend on the situation? We investigate the works of Joseph Fletcher and his theory of situation ethics. We delve in to discussions about IVF, organ donation, abortion, assisted dying and the death penalty.		
Science	<i>Biology -</i> <i>Cell Biology:</i> Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic cells, stem cells and cell division by mitosis. Principles of diffusion osmosis and active transport	<i>Chemistry -</i> <i>Elements, Mixtures and Compounds:</i> The structure of the atom and techniques to separate mixtures.	<i>Physics</i> <i>Energy and Motion:</i> Energy stores and transformations, and how things move.
Spanish	Students will know: How to use 2nd person plural verb forms and use these along with previously-taught vocabulary to be able to speak in more formal manner. Students will also recap: A large variety of key vocabulary seen over the past two years and the rules for conjugating regular verbs into past tense. They will consolidate their knowledge of using past tense in new contexts, such as talking about Mexico, to be able to		

	talk about a past holiday. They will also recap using final syllable stress to perfect their spoken language and intonation.	
Technology DT	Lighting project: Students will Refine their understanding of the design cycle through researching, planning, designing and making tasks. Pupils will look into sustainability, influential design movements such as Art Nouveau and gain an understanding into biomimicry. Students will continue to refine their skills selecting and using a range of tools and equipment safely and effectively. Students will look at production methods including batch production, they will learn about the use of templates and learn about electronics/ electrical systems.	
Technology Food	Students will learn about how and why food is cooked and the methods of heat transfer they will apply this knowledge through learning how to make burgers. Students will learn about the science of carbohydrates and how this is used in cooking. They will learn about dextrinisation and caramelisation.	
PSHE	Employability Skills Online Reputation Enterprise and Employability Skills Me as a Citizen The Labour Market Payslips	Intimate Relationships Portrayal of Sex Deepfakes and Sextortion Consent Pleasure in Intimate Relationships STIs Contraception Abortion
PE	The KS3 curriculum works on a rotation basis, and by the end of the year all students will have studied the same activities. 9A: Rugby, Football, Basketball, Netball and Handball 9B: Netball, Handball, Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA), Table Tennis, Health Related Fitness (HRF) 9C: Table Tennis, Health Related Fitness (HRF), Dance, Rugby, Football 9D: Rugby, Netball, Football, OAA, Basketball 9E: Netball, Rugby, Handball, Dance, OAA Students will continue to build upon the three strands of; Healthy Body; developing more advanced practical invasion games skills of passing over distance, receiving the ball one handed or with different parts of the body, outwitting an opponent with different methods, advanced footwork, defending using different techniques and advanced shooting	

	and applying knowledge of components of fitness and methods of training to develop a fitness training programme to improve an identified area of weakness. Healthy Mind; explaining the three stages and benefits of a warm up, the different types of movement available at a joint, the role of the skeleton, how to apply principles of training and the rules, regulations and key points of how to perform skills and tactics in different activities Healthy Relationships; students will take on further leadership roles in lesson and develop manners and respect when working with others
--	--

	Spring Term	
Art	Portraiture – Contextual Studies continued.	Portraiture – Final response
Computing	Data Science:- In this unit, learners will be introduced to data science, and by the end of the unit they will be empowered by knowing how to use data to investigate problems and make changes to the world around them. Learners will be exposed to both global and local data sets and gain an understanding of how visualising data can help with the process of identifying patterns and trends. Representations – going audio visual:- In this unit, learners will focus on making digital media such as images and sounds, and discover how media is stored as binary code. You will draw on familiar examples of composing images out of individual elements, mix elementary colours to produce new ones, take samples of analogue signals to illustrate these ideas, and then bring all these things together to form one coherent narrative.	
Drama	Physical Theatre Students will use the play Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night time to create a Physical Theatre performance. Students will learn trust to perform simple leans and lifts before lifting students in to ‘Christophers world of space’. Students will show Christophers journey through the train station to get to his mum.	Live theatre Students will watch recorded Live theatre performances and evaluate the actors contribution to performance. This will help students to reflect on their own performances. Students will write a review of a live theatre performance.
English	Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet Students will study Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and explore themes of fate, love and family honour. Their study will include how Shakespeare uses language, structure and stagecraft to create effect as they consider the topic’s ‘Big Idea’: Fate and prophecy	Creative Writing: Dystopian Students will study conventions of the dystopian genre as they write about themes of oppression and rebellion. This unit will allow students to gather knowledge of narrative methods, practice developing their writing skills, and explore a variety of high-quality examples as they work on composing their dystopian narrative. To supplement their understanding of these topics, they will explore the ‘Big Idea’: The destruction of the class system

Geography	Antarctica - Why is this Continent being Threatened? In this unit, students explore the impact of ice and glaciers on shaping the Earth's surface, beginning with an investigation of the last Ice Age and the immense power of ice. They examine how glaciers have transformed landscapes and learn about Antarctica's unique climate, environment, and global importance. Through presentations and case studies, students engage with Antarctica's history, including the famous Race to the South Pole, and consider current threats to the continent alongside the role of the Antarctic Treaty in its protection. The unit concludes with an assessment and an <i>Earth Heroes</i> study focused on Inuit activism, encouraging students to reflect on human connections to extreme environments and climate challenges.
History	The interwar years - Examining the similarities and differences between dictatorships and democracies in Europe and America between the World Wars. The Holocaust - Examining the significance of the Nazi policies towards the Jewish people and the escalation of violence used in the 'Final Solution'.
Maths	Unit 6: To confidently write, interpret, substitute into and rearrange formulae, applying efficient algebraic methods and inverse operations to model and solve problems. Unit 7: To identify, generate, describe and model linear, geometric and Fibonacci-type sequences; derive nth terms; solve related problems; and interpret sequence behaviour. Unit 8: To develop fluency and accuracy with fraction arithmetic, including simplifying, converting between mixed and improper fractions, and adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions in increasingly complex problems. Unit 9: To convert fluently between fractions, decimals and percentages, explain the equivalence between the three forms, and choose an efficient representation for problem solving. Unit 10: To calculate, compare and interpret percentages, including percentage of an amount, percentage change, reverse percentages and problems involving repeated percentage change.
	Multiples, Factors and Primes
Music	Lights, Camera, Soundtrack Students discover how music enhances film through the use of leitmotifs, texture, harmony and orchestration. They perform well-known film themes and create their own soundtracks, developing an understanding of how music supports mood and narrative on screen.
RE	Should the decision be based on the situation? Christianity/ Islam/ Humanism Why is Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) important?

Science	<i>Biology -</i> <i>Human Organisation Part 1:</i> The digestive system and enzyme action. Metabolic processes.	<i>Chemistry -</i> <i>The Periodic Table:</i> The history of the atom and the periodic table, and groups 1, 7, and 0.
Spanish	Students will learn: How to use 3rd person plural verb forms in the past tense to talk about past events and will link this to new cultural knowledge to be able to talk about the history of Peru. They will also learn new vocabulary and structures linked to the world of work to be able to talk about jobs and future plans. Students will recap key vocabulary linked to festivals as well as lesser-used verbs to be able to describe cultural and important events.	
Technology DT	Students will learn about levers. They will also learn soldering techniques and construct their own lighting circuit using a PC. Students will develop their understanding of polymers and how sustainability should be considered when selecting appropriate materials. Students will critically evaluate their work and be able to suggest future developments.	
Technology Food	Students will learn how to make cinnamon rolls. They will learn the science of proteins and how this is used in cooking, they will apply this knowledge when making meringues. Students will also learn the science of fats and how this is used in cooking, they will apply this knowledge through making sausage rolls using puff pastry.	
PE	9A: Handball, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (OAA), Table Tennis, Health Related Fitness (HRF), Dance 9B: Health Related Fitness (HRF), Dance, Rugby, Football and Outdoor and Basketball 9C: Football, Basketball, Netball, Handball, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (OAA) 9D: Dance, Table Tennis, Health Related Fitness (HRF), Handball 9E: Basketball, Health Related Fitness (HRF), Table Tennis, Football Healthy Body; developing more advanced practical invasion games skills of passing over distance, receiving the ball one handed or with different parts of the body, outwitting an opponent with different methods, advanced footwork, defending using different techniques and advanced shooting and applying knowledge of components of fitness and methods of training to develop a fitness training programme to improve an identified area of weakness. Healthy Mind; being able to apply the components of fitness and principles of training within a range of sports and the rules, regulations, tactics and key points of how to perform core and advanced skillsHealthy Relationships; students will further develop the qualities of developing empathy and resilience when working with others in a range of scenarios	

PSHE	Respectful Relationships Marriage Families and Parenthood Extremism and Radicalisation	Healthy Lifestyle Healthy Eating and Exercise Unhealthy Choices Body Image Ideals
	Onlines Respect Conflict in Relationships Love and Abuse	FGM Self Checking First Aid

	Summer Term	
Art	Portraiture – Contextual Studies. Students will continue refining and experimenting with texture, pattern and mixed media to the research they have collated during the Spring term.	Portraiture – Final response. Students will devise a final response to their project to demonstrate the depth of understanding and skill accrued across a range of media through their portraiture investigations.
Computing	Introduction of cyber security:- This unit takes learners on a journey of discovery of techniques that cybercriminals use to steal data, disrupt systems, and infiltrate networks. The learners will start by considering the value their data holds and what organisations might use it for. They will then learn about social engineering and other common cybercrimes, and finally look at methods to protect against these attacks. Applying programming skills with physical computing:- This unit applies and enhances the learners’ programming skills in a new engaging context: physical computing, using the BBC micro:bit. In the first half of the unit, learners will get acquainted with the host of components built into the micro:bit, and write simple programs that use these components to interact with the physical world	
Drama	Specialism exploration Students will have one lesson on each of the following specialisms Acting, singing and dancing, lighting, sound, costume make up and set design They will learn new skills in each of these areas for example how to create a bruise using stage makeup, how to use tulle to make a variety of costumes, model box design	An Inspector Calls Students will read the play and act out scenes. They will develop their use on intonation of voice. Students will use key quotes to support their Journey in to GCSE English Literature
English	Poetry through time Students will study a short anthology of poetry from different eras and explore themes of class, conflict and change. Their study will include how different poets use language and structure to create effect as they consider the topic’s ‘Big Idea’: Champagne socialism	The Big Idea Speech Students will study oracy skills and practice drafting and delivering speeches. They will recap the ‘Big Ideas’ studied across all units this year and select one to form the basis of their own persuasive speech. Taking a strong position, students will plan and deliver a passionate speech on their chosen topic/subject.

Geography	Oceania - Is this Continent Down Under? In the final unit of Year 9, students explore Oceania, considering whether it is a continent, country, or region, and investigate how volcanic eruptions in Oceania have influenced the globe. They study the effects of climate change on Oceania's landscapes and oceans, including threats to mangroves and coral reefs like the Great Barrier Reef. Students examine environmental challenges such as plastic pollution, wildfires, and weather patterns that shape the region. The unit also looks at human geography topics including migration, the Commonwealth's influence, and issues of underpopulation. Fieldwork activities, including a tree survey, develop practical skills, while the <i>Earth Heroes</i> series and David Attenborough's <i>Seven Worlds, One Planet</i> inspire students to engage with conservation and sustainability.	
History	Black and British - Investigating the causes of migration from the Caribbean to the UK after the Second World War. Considering the consequences of settlement for incoming migrants and British society as a whole. The Cold War - Exploring the causes of conflict between the West and the East after the Second World War. Considering the consequences of the development of nuclear weapons at the time as well as the longer-term impact for society today.	
Maths	Unit 11: To understand and use index notation, powers and roots, and represent, compare and calculate with numbers in standard form. Unit 12: To identify and use factors, multiples and primes confidently, including prime factorisation, HCF, LCM and divisibility reasoning in unfamiliar problems. Unit 13: To solve problems involving right-angled triangles using Pythagoras' theorem and appropriate trigonometric relationships, with accurate diagrams, calculations and interpretation. Unit 14: To calculate area, surface area and volume accurately, including compound and three-dimensional shapes, and to convert between appropriate units of measure. Unit 15: To plot, interpret and generate linear graphs, understand $y = mx + c$, and calculate and interpret gradient and intercept in mathematical and real-life contexts. Unit 16: To calculate, convert and interpret compound measures, including speed, density and rates, and to solve multi-step problems involving appropriate units. Unit 17: To calculate, interpret and compare averages and spread, choose appropriate statistical measures, and communicate conclusions from data accurately.	
Music	Press Start: Music in Video Games Students explore the role of music and sound in video games, investigating how composers create themes, atmosphere, and interactive musical	

	experiences. Using keyboards and music technology, they perform, analyse and compose original music inspired by the gaming industry.	
RE	How does Reincarnation affect a Hindus life? Does religion encourage equality? Sikhi	
Science	<i>Biology -</i> <i>Infection & Response:</i> Pathogens and body defences. The immune system and principles of immunisations. The development and testing of drugs	<i>Chemistry -</i> <i>Bonding:</i> Ionic, covalent and metallic bonding. Properties of substances formed through each type of bonding.
Spanish	<i>Students will learn:</i> key vocabulary linked to films and television to be able to describe a crime film. They will also learn how to use previously-seen possessive adjectives to claim possession. <i>Students will recap:</i> Using the future tense along with direct-object pronouns to be able to describe plans for the summer holidays.	
Technology DT	DT and Food will rotate in February, Autumn and Spring topics will repeat for new groups	
Technology Food	DT and Food will rotate in February, Autumn and Spring topics will repeat for new groups.	
PSHE	Peer Influence, Substance Use and Gangs Healthy Friendships Peer Pressure Gangs Knife Crime	Setting Goals Financial Goals Desert Island Project Pathways into Careers Recruitment

	County Lines Risks of Gangs and County Lines	My Career My Options
PE	All classes will study the following sports this term; Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Tennis Healthy Body; practical athletics skills, including advanced techniques to generate power into jumps and throws and pacing to run for distance and advanced practical skills of batting, bowling, fielding, serving, forehand and backhand shots and rallying within the different sports. Healthy Mind; apply the short-term effects of exercise to sports scenarios and tactics of race running for either speed or distance and applying knowledge of long-term effects of exercise to sports specific scenarios and advanced tactical play within the three sports Healthy Relationships; students will focus on developing communication when feeding back to a partner on technique and providing guidance to improve performance	

