

WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE LEARNING ABOUT IN SCHOOL?

YEAR 9

SUBJECT	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	'EXTEND LEARNING' OPPORTUNITIES	RECOMMENDED READS
ENGLISH	Reading: Protest Poetry Students will study 8 poems, grouped in 4 themes: protest against war, protest against racial injustice, celebration of gender equality, and protest against social hierarchy. They will develop inference and analysis skills, as well as learning how to compare texts. Writing: Persuasive Writing about the Environment Caring for our environment is becoming a more pressing issue, and in this unit students will explore arguments for and against various related issues. They will then write either a persuasive speech, letter, or article expressing their views. They will further develop their ability to craft language methods, structural methods, and develop technical accuracy.	Reading: Salt to the Sea Set in East Prussia in 1945, this young adult novel explores World War Two from the perspective of refugees. Students will develop inference and analysis skills, whilst linking their ideas to historical context and exploring structural analysis in more depth. Writing: Describing Journeys Students will learn how to write and structure a piece of writing about a journey. They will also hone their ability to craft language methods and use punctuation/sentence structures for effect.	Reading: Julius Caesar Students will explore the concept of the tragic hero and the tragic victim as they read one of Shakespeare's Roman plays. As they do so, they will hone their inference and analysis skills, as well as becoming more comfortable in tackling Shakespeare's language. Drama: Educating Rita Students will discuss the context of 1980s England as they embark on reading Educating Rita. Students will explore how Russell using staging and other dramatic conventions to bring his critique of social hierarchy to the stage.	Listen to Sepetys discuss her inspiration for and experience whilst writing Salt to the Sea: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvllhYXED3A Watch Educating Rita: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCel6jzugtE RSC Learning Zone: Julius Caesar - https://www.bing.com/search?q=rsc+learning+zone+julius+caesar&vid=01280085d8a8449eb29591fb543ec6488gs_l crp=EgRIZGdlkYgIABBFgDkyBgqAEUyOTIGCAEQABHAMgYIAhAAGEAyBgqDEAAyQDIGCAQQABHAMgYIBRAAGEAyBgqGEAAyQDIGCAcQABHAMgYICBAAGEAyCagIEOkHGPxVtGElMzlzOWowaJSoAgCwAgA&FORM=ANAB01&DAFO=1&PC=U531	There is a wealth of books for young people in our school library: students can pop in at lunchtime to browse the shelves and speak to our librarian (Mrs Morgan) about her recommendations. For Year 9, our top picks are: Where The Lemon Trees Grow - Zoufka Katouh The Fountains of Silence - Ruta Sepetys Blood Brothers - Willy Russell I Ada - Julia Gray Welcome to Nowhere - Elizabeth Laird.
MATHS	Fractions and percentages Probability Standard form Inequalities Quadratic equations Formulae Constructions Circles	Rounding 3D shapes Pythagoras' theorem Ratio and Proportion Linear graphs Compound measures Motion-time graphs	Quadratic graphs Angles and bearings Transformations Similarity and congruence Handling data and statistical diagrams Vectors	Life Science Centre - Newcastle: STEM exhibitions, coding workshops, interactive maths shows. Discovery Museum - Newcastle: Engineering, invention, and problem-solving exhibits. Locomotion - Shildon: Railways, forces, mechanics - great for maths in motion. Kielder Observatory - Northumberland: Astronomy meets maths: orbits, distance, scale. Hopetown - Darlington: rich and engaging maths and STEM learning environment through observation, interaction, creativity, and real-purpose context.	Humble Pi - Matt Parker The Maths Behind ... - Colin Beveridge Maths Girls - Hiroshi Yuki The Cracking Code Book - Simon Singh
SCIENCE	Cell structure and transport: cell organelles and microscopy, diffusion, osmosis and active transport. Atomic Structure: History and structure of the atom, chemical equations, separation techniques, ions, atoms and isotopes, electronic structures. Particle Model of Matter: understanding and critiquing scientific models, density, changes of state, heating and cooling, pressure.	Cell division, digestion, and circulation: mitosis and the role of stem cells, enzymes and physiology of the digestive system, blood and the heart. Structure and Bonding: States of matter, ionic and covalent bonding, bonding in metals. Atomic Structure: internal structure of the atom, history of the development of the atom, radioactive decay, transmutation, half-life, fission/fusion	Lungs and gas exchange, adaptations, organisation in plants: Gas exchange and ventilation, structure of a leaf, transpiration and translocation Periodic table and Chemical calculation: Development of the periodic table; alkali metals; halogens and explaining trends. Equation and calculations. Energy: energy stores and transfers, conservation of energy, energy calculations, efficiency, reducing unwanted energy transfers, specific heat capacity and specific latent heat.	Science Club The Great North Museum (Hancock) - Ecology Life Museum - Genetics; Space; Discovery Museum Botanical Gardens- Flowers and biodiversity Cragside - Hydroelectricity Planetarium - Space Farms and Zoos At home science experiments: https://www.iop.org/explore-physics/at-home Documentaries: David Attenborough, Brian Cox,	Horrible Science book set Fairy Tale Physics by Sarah Allen Science you can eat by Stefan Gates What a waste by Jess French How to be an engineer by Carol Vorderman Kay's Anatomy by Adam Kay Kay's Marvellous Medicine by Adam Kay Spilling the beans on Albert Einstein by Frances Mayes Confident readers The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot Storm in a Teacup by Helen Czerski Will we ever speak Dolphin? By New Scientist The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean Women in Science by Rachel Ignatofsky A Life on Our Planet by David Attenburgh
FRENCH	My life online Students will learn to talk about what they do online, who they follow, and assess the pros and cons of social media. They will be introduced to vocabulary to talk about a range of online activities, as well as discourse markers to use in extended writing when discussing advantages and disadvantages. The grammar focus will be the formation of regular -er verbs in the present tense and using direct object pronouns to talk about who they follow online and why (je le/la suis, je l'admire).	Future plans To link in with the Y9 options process, students will learn to talk about what they are going to do in the future in terms of study and work. They will be introduced to vocabulary about different types of jobs and further education. The grammar focus will be the formation of the near future tense and the conditional form using je voudrais + infinitive verb.	The natural world Students will learn to talk about the world around them, including environmental problems and what they must do to protect the planet. The grammar focus will be forming superlative structures, and using modal verbs such as on peut, on doit, il faut + infinitive verb.	Petite Maman (2021) La Famille Bélier (2014)	Olly Richards - Short French Stories for Beginners Maurice Leblanc - Arsène Lupin (Graphic Novel version) Konami Kanata - Chi (Manga for kids) Max Et Lili series of books
GEOGRAPHY	Asia: Students study key climate issues within Asia such as monsoon rain and tropical storms. They compare these climate issues to the ones Africa are experiencing to show similarities and differences between the two continents. They also explore how population issues are similar between the two continents with a focus on China's One Child Policy, Japan's aging population and Kenya's youthful population. Following this, they study how the two largest continents can be connect through globalisation and trade.	Middle East & Russia : Students study two contrasting areas within Asia and explore the challenges these places face. Starting with the Middle East students explore key issues relating to climate, water availability and conflict. Whilst in Russia they consider if the vast geography of the country helps or hinders Russia's development.	Europe: Through this topic, students study the present day issue of Climate Change. They explore the Earth's climate history with a focus on glacial periods. They explore how the Lake District has been shaped by glaciers and the opportunities and challenges these areas face today due to increased tourism. Students also study the cause and evidence of past climate change due to natural factors as well as the significant impact humans are causing today.	Documentaries Asia - (Typhoon Haiyan - Eye of the Storm) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BnahLG_DmQ Russia & Middle East (Russia with Simon Reeve) https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b099127q/russia-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-3 Europe - (Climate Change) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEt6-jA2UE4 Research Task To widen and develop your geographical understanding of processes and your place based knowledge of the world create a case study of a recent tropical storm event.	Boy at the back of the class The ivory key The summer we turned green
HISTORY	Protest in the Twentieth Century: Britain – the struggle for the right to vote US - Black Civil Rights Movement	Protest in the Twentieth Century: South Africa: the campaign against Apartheid Britain – the campaign for LGBT Rights	Protest in the Twentieth Century: County Durham – the Miners' Strike of 1984 People Power and Protecting Our Planet	Site visits that relate to our Year 9 curriculum include 1. Free museums such as The Discovery Museum in Newcastle or Durham Story 2. Paid for museums such as Beamish or Woodhorn (for coal mining. Free entry to under 18's). There are documentary series to watch on iPlayer or YouTube, on almost every era of history, including ones which focus on each of the case studies of Protest we study.	Historical novels linking to each case study of protest 1. Female Suffrage: Until We Win by Linda Newbery 2. US Civil Rights: Fire From the Rock by Sharon Draper 3. South Africa: Out of Bounds by Beverley Naidoo 4. LGBTQ+ : Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertall 5. Miners' Strike: Billy Elliott by Melvin Burgess 6. Protecting Our Planet: The Last Wild by Peter Torday
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Justice, Morality and Human Nature This topic focuses on the concept of crime and justice where students will consider how do we determine right from wrong. Students will learn about some elements of the criminal justice system and judge the benefits of different aims and types of punishment within society. Questions around laws, morals and faith will be challenged to determine are humans naturally good and how should we be judged.	Where do morals come from? Students will look at considering the difference between faith and reason when it comes to acting morally. This topic allows students to bring together their previous knowledge of philosophy and different religions, and apply this to evaluating whether the concept of morality depends on God.	Does God exist and does it matter? This topic focuses on the Buddhist religion that looks at the idea of whether there needs to be a God to act morally. Students will start to look at the differences between religions previously looked at such as Christianity and Judaism and consider a religion that focuses on human experience.	1. Life Science Museum Newcastle (many displays will allow students to consider ethics) 2. Newcastle Castle (links to crime and punishment) 3. Durham Castle (links to crime and punishment)	'You think you know me' by Ayaan Mohamud 'Guard your heart' by Sue Divin
ART	Artists can control media: Revisiting skills and techniques to ensure every pupil is 'GCSE Ready'.	Artists present personal responses: GCSE style project developing personal investigations from the starting point of Pop Art.	Artists present personal responses: GCSE style project developing personal investigations from the starting point of Pop Art.	https://thisisfsdartanddesign.weebly.com/independent-learning--you-are-a-photographer.html	https://thisisfsdartanddesign.weebly.com/ks3-reading-list.html
MUSIC	Working with Chords Pupils analyse scores and the core elements of melody and harmony to give an understanding of chords. Pupils perform in a variety of ways (solo and/or ensemble) to show their understanding	Working with melody	Modern Music Pupils study modern 'classical' music by composing aleatoric pieces.	a) The Glasshouse Weekend School (Durham) Held at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, this flexible weekend program offers pupils and families interactive workshops spanning singing, notation, drumming, and composition. It's a great way to extend Year 7 learning in a relaxed, hands-on environment. b) Explore Gala Theatre Durham listings Keep an eye on the Gala Theatre's events page for family-friendly music workshops and performances, such as community drumming sessions, live electronic music showcases, seasonal singing events, and more. These are excellent for reinforcing school topics in a real-world setting.	1. 'AI-generated music: revolution or threat to musicians?' Publication: The Guardian Summary: Artificial intelligence reshapes music creation, sparking debate. Link: https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/jan/15/ai-music-revolution-threat-to-musicians 2. "The resurgence of vinyl records in the digital age" Publication: Financial Times Summary: Vinyl sales surge as listeners seek tactile music experiences. Link: https://www.ft.com/content/2d0a53e4-cd7a-4e1f-b1bb-ec3643b5e8a4
DRAMA	Devising drama - creating our own plays	Scripted drama – DNA by Dennis Kelly and The Last Resort by Chris Owens	Beyond the theatre – soap opera and TV drama	Theatre visits Joining extracurricular drama groups	Saving Hamlet by Molly Booth
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Python Programming recap and project work Syntax Functions Iteration Indentation Working with numbers Mini programming challenges and project Applying computational logic with software – linking it to reality	Problem-solving and creating solutions Computational thinking skills and more advanced computational logic Writing and solving algorithms with the software: Flowol and Logic Gate Simulator	Cyber security Building a mobile phone app	LEGO Spike Tournament https://hourofcode.com/uk VEX Robotics https://electronics.howstuffworks.com/tech https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f	The first to die at the end by Adam Silvera I love Ada by Julia Gray
FOOD & NUTRITION	Bread - ingredients in bread, yeast, bread making. British food and organics Diet related diseases Waste food Seasonality Food poisoning	Cuisines from around the world including Greek, Indian and Italian. Meal planning Gelatinisation.	Chinese and Thai cuisine Food and social media Ultra processed food (UPFs)	1. Cooking at home 2. Visit Newcastle Grainger market (lots of different food from around the world to try 3. Watching food programmes such as Masterchef and Bake off 4. Food festivals such as Seaham 5. Visiting different restaurants which serves cuisine from around the world	1. A Pho Love story - Loan Le 2. Hungry Hearts: 13 Tales of food and love - edited by Elsie Chapman 3. Cook books 4. Magazines such as Good Food and Olive 5. How food works: Publisher DK
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	Advanced Drawing Skills Autodesk; Isometric; Crating; Rendering Design Ideas	Design development	Making and evaluation	1. Discovery Museum 2. Grand designs TV programme 3. The repair shop TV programme 4. Locomotion - Shildon	1. Engineers making a difference - Dr Shini Somara 2. The Design Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained (DK Big Ideas)- Publisher DK 3. 20th Century Design - Catherine McDermott
PE	Sports covered across the year: Orienteering, Badminton, Rugby, Netball, Football, futsal, Table Tennis, Rounders, Cricket, Athletics, Climbing, Fitness, Fitness testing & Sports Leadership. All classes will follow a core PE curriculum which covers a range of sports looking at a range of tactics and benefits. Students will also learn about some key elements of sport, including the importance of a warm up, basic sport psychology, and understanding how our body works.			There is a full array of Extra-Curricular Sports Clubs to get involved with throughout the year. After school clubs run from 3-3:45 every day, all students need a PE kit and a drink. Clubs will focus on participation and introductions to the sport, while training or teams will focus more on competition and tactics. Opportunities: While we have strong links with a range of local sports clubs and teams, students are encouraged to find a local club to them for whatever sport they are interested in. PE staff can help guide students where needed.	



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