What will my Year 9 child learn this term?

A summary of learning for the Autumn Term 2024

🎨 Art

In this project you will explore the theme of birds. You will begin by learning about observation drawing and the importance of looking carefully, and will explore different drawing techniques using pencil, coloured pencil and pen. You will focus on developing skills in representing texture, tone and mark making.

You will explore and analyse the work of a range of artists who use birds as inspiration, and then compose and create your own painted response showing an influence of their style and technique, taking into consideration colour theory.

💾 Computing

In Year 9, pupils will start by evaluating different types of technology, and will learn how to spot technologies which may be too good to be true. This will be done through looking at real life examples and following how the public's perception of these technologies changed with time. After this first unit, pupils will undertake a range of taster lessons for the different computer option subjects. This will allow pupils to better understand what we can offer in Year 10, and allow them to make a more informed choice into if our options are a good fit for them. In this term the taster sessions will include Cambridge National Creative iMedia, BTEC Digital Information Technology, GCSE Business and GCSE Computer Science.

🔨 Design & Technology

In Year 9 Design & Technology our pupils rotate through a range of topic areas, allowing them to experience a range of hands-on learning to support their developing theory knowledge. Throughout the school year pupils will cover: Food, Textiles, Smart & Modern Materials, Paper & Board, and Iterative Design and Manufacturing.

🎭 Drama

In drama, pupils will explore the play DNA by Dennis Kelly. They will focus on status, subtext and character motivation to explore the play from an actor's perspective. They will also explore design roles in theatre and will further explore the play from the point of view of set design, costume design, lighting design and sound design, exploring how these elements can underscore and enhance the action of the play.

📚 English

Pupils will cover both reading and writing skills in Year 9. They will begin by reading Malorie Blackman's thought-provoking and topical play 'Noughts and Crosses' for two lessons a week. This play explores the themes of love, hate, and conflict, and some of its central ideas will help to prepare students for when they study Romeo and Juliet for GCSE. Pupils will also study the topic of 'Structure and the Moving Image': exploring the importance of structure in both written texts and film and applying this knowledge to their own creative writing.

🌋 Geography

As pupils progress through the Geography curriculum, they will explore a range of topics which are connected through our core themes of interdependence, physical and human processes, environmental impact, sustainable development, cultural awareness and diversity. During the Autumn Term, pupils will continue to build on their knowledge of physical Geography developed from their Y7 and Y8 curriculum, and will consider how humans can continue to continue to live with the threat of tectonic hazards. Pupils will look at case studies of communities living in areas at risk of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions from around the world. Developing their understanding of human geography further, pupils will also investigate global population and health challenges, including responses in recent years to the Covid-19 pandemic.

📜 History

Throughout KS3, we focus on the unfolding narrative of History through three key themes: power and control, the lives of ordinary people, and Britain’s place in the wider world. In Y9, students revisit key themes of empire-building by considering a range of factors contributing to the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. They will study the local and global nature of the Great War and its victims, including its legacy and how we remember as a local, national and global community. After half term, pupils will use their understanding of the legacy of the 'Great War' to carry out an enquiry into the challenges to democracy in the 1920s and 1930s, looking at case studies from Communist Russia, fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, as well as extremist movements in the UK.

📐 Maths

Pupils will be starting their GCSE course this term. They will be expanding their skills and understanding in Maths, beginning with unit 1 on number where they will revisit and improve their skills involving number as well as learning new concepts such as error bounds. and working with Surds. Following on will be Unit 2 relating to core Algebra and building on their understanding of simplifying expressions and sequences.

💬 MFL

French: Pupils in Year 9 are currently learning about technology, how they interact with other people and expressing opinions on their views of technology. Pupils will learn how to develop more complex sentence structures and will do so in three tenses, the past, present and future. Pupils will broaden their range of vocabulary as they learn new vocabulary on this topic and will also complete a range of listening, reading, speaking and writing activities.

Spanish: Pupils in Year 9 are currently studying the topic of technology, how they interact with other people and expressing opinions on their views of technology. Pupils will learn how to develop more complex sentence structures and will do so in three tenses, the past, present and future. Pupils will broaden their range of vocabulary as they learn new vocabulary on this topic and will also complete a range of listening, reading, speaking and writing activities.

🎸 Music

Pupils study Rock Music in Term 1, which builds on their understanding of some of the features of Blues music, developed in Term 3 of Y8. Pupils work to build their keyboard skills, learning to play some well known Rock riffs. In addition to this, pupils learn about backbeats in Rock, and the common features of Rock song structure. In Term 2, pupils learn about Hip-Hop and the technique of sampling. They learn how too apply this technique to their own musical compositions. During Term 3, pupils study film music. This builds on their learning from Y8, Term 2, when they study Programme music of the 1800's. Pupils will learn how to compose their own music, tailoring it to a specific film scene, using techniques like spotting and mickey-mousing to increase the effectiveness of their work.

🤾 PE

In Year 9 pupils complete 4 week units of work in a wide range of sporting activities. Pupils learn advanced skills and techniques to improve their performance in competitive matches. Pupils develop an advanced knowledge of the key rules and tactics needed in each sporting activity and use their knowledge of the rules / tactics to improve their performances.

💝 PSHE

This term, Year 9 will be completing a unit on Identity and Diversity. This includes considering their own character and what is important to them. Students are encouraged to think about how they might become more active at all levels of community and look at opportunities for volunteering and social action.

✡ Religious Studies

In Year 9 Religious Studies, pupils will begin the academic year focusing on why people commit crimes. They will explore the different types and causes of crimes before moving on to explore the aims of punishment and the treatment of criminals. Pupils will debate on human rights and how they apply to everyone. Pupils will then move on to explore whether it is ever right to take a life. They will explore this by looking at lessons on the value of life, abortion and Euthanasia.

🔬 Science

In our biology lessons we will be covering the topic of cell biology and will cover the following areas:

- Describe what a microscope is used for
- Define magnification
- Define resolution
- Compare and contrast light and electron microscopes
- Describe how to make an onion cell slide for viewing under a light microscope
- Explain the purpose of each step in preparing an onion cell slide.
- Calculate the magnification of microscope images.
- Describe the structures of an animal and plant cell
- Describe the functions of the organelles in animal and plant cells
- Compare and contrast the structure of an animal and plant cell
- State the definitions for prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells
- Compare and contrast the structure of a prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell
- Give examples of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells
- Name examples of human specialised cells
- Name examples of plant specialised cells

- Describe the structures of human specialised cells and explain their adaptations for their functions.
- Describe the structures of plant specialised cells and explain their adaptations for their functions.
- Describe what a stem cell is
- Define differentiation
- Explain the difference between adult and embryonic stem cells
- Describe the uses of stem cells in medicine and research
- Explain the ethical issues surrounding the use of stem cells in medicine and research
- Evaluate the use of stem cells in medicine and research
- Define chromosome
- Describe mitosis and the cell cycle.
- Explain how mitosis leads to genetically identical cells.
- Describe the purpose and process of therapeutic cloning.

In chemistry we will be covering the topic of elements, mixtures and compounds and will cover the following areas:

- Atoms, Elements and Compounds
- Define and give examples of atoms, elements and compounds
- Identify and quantify atoms in compounds and molecules
- Name compounds and elements from their formula
- Construct word equations from information on products and reactants
- Conservation of Mass and Balanced Chemical Equations
- Define the conservation of mass
- Carry out investigations to show the prove the law of the conservation of mass
- Balance symbol equations
- Link the conservation of mass to balanced chemical equations

In physics we will be completing the topic of the kinetic model of matter and will cover the following areas:

- Describe the kinetic model of matter.
- Describe changes of state in terms of changes in internal energy.
- Explain changes in state in terms of changes in internal energy.
- Explain how internal energy leads to overcoming intermolecular forces.
- State how to calculate pressure.
- Describe the motion of particles in a gas.
- Explain how particles cause pressure in a container.
- Suggest how the pressure in a container can be increased or decreased.