

YEAR 8 OPTIONS

INFORMATION BOOKLET 2020



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April 2020

LETTER TO PARENTS AND PUPILS

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

This booklet has been created to provide you with information about year 9 courses and to help pupils choose their year 9 options subjects.

Most of the subjects in the school are compulsory, however we offer option choices for pupils in year 9 to study subjects that they have greater interest in and to have a taster of what the subjects may be like at GCSE.

By choosing subjects in this process, it does not mean that these have to be taken for your GCSE options. A formal process will take place at the end of year 9 in order to establish what option subject you will take at GCSE.

This is an important process and you must choose the subjects you think you will enjoy the most.

With a lot of subjects to choose from, it is very important to make the best choices - it may not be possible to change once the course is underway. We recommend that parents/ carers and pupils go through this booklet together.

There is information on all of the subjects on offer in year 9 in this booklet – both compulsory and optional.

If you have any questions regarding any subject or this process, please email year8pastoral@platanoscollege.com.

Please note that in the event of a subject becoming oversubscribed, attendance, punctuality and behaviour records will be taken into account in being accepted for a first-choice option.

We continue to have an unshakable belief in our pupils, we believe that Attitude Determines Altitude.

Kind regards,

Mr W. Bourke
Deputy Headteacher

WHAT “OPTIONS” ARE ALL ABOUT

KEY STAGE THREE

In your first two years at Platanos College, you have studied many different subjects - English, Mathematics, Science, Arts subjects, Music, Computing, a Modern Foreign Language, Humanities subjects, Physical Education and PSHRE. These have provided you with a wide range of skills, experiences and knowledge and have built a sound foundation for the future.

KEY STAGE FOUR

At the end of year 9 you will move to a higher level of learning - Key Stage 4, where you will complete General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations. In this key stage, you will continue to study some subjects (compulsory ones) but will have a choice about the others (options). Options subjects include ones you may not have studied before.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS IN YEAR 9 AND AT GCSE

There is no choice about these - you have to study them. This is because they are seen as very important by the government, colleges, universities and most employers. They include GCSE subjects and non-examination subjects.

- English
- Science
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- History (compulsory for all in year 9 – but only for A and B bands at GCSE)
- Spanish (compulsory for all in year 9 – but only for A and B bands at GCSE)
- Physical Education (Core)

OPTION SUBJECTS

- Art and Design
- Art Graphics
- Photography
- Drama
- Animation
- Computing

PLATANOS PATHWAYS

There are three different pathways to follow for pupils in different bands. It may be the case that you will move up or down a band according to your levels of academic progress, in which case you will still stay with your first option choice.

What you will study?

A Band Pathway – tutor groups: 9A, 9B, 9C and 9D

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Spanish
- Religious Studies
- Compulsory Physical Education
- Two Option choices

B Band Pathway – tutor groups: 9H and 9W

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Spanish
- Religious Studies
- Compulsory Physical Education
- Two Option choices

C Band Pathway – tutor groups: 9E

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Spanish
- Religious Studies
- Compulsory Physical Education
- Drama
- Computing
- One Option choice of either: Art and Design, Animation, Graphics or Photography

In addition to this, for a minority of pupils, the option subjects that we have on offer may not be suitable, and for these pupils we will be able to offer a more technical or vocational option.

COMPULSORY SUBJECT DESCRIPTORS

English

Why you study this subject

English is an essential element of education and society. English will help improve pupils' literacy allowing them to read and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others.

Reading, in particular reading literature, provides pupils with opportunities to explore ideas and through these ideas develop emotionally, intellectually and socially. It can also be a pleasure and an opportunity to explore. Reading enables pupils to acquire knowledge in all other subjects. With the ability to read effectively and critically, pupils can successfully access all other areas of the curriculum.

Additionally, as pupils improve their literacy, speaking, listening and analytical skills, this empowers them to scrutinise everyday literature, such as magazines and newspapers, so they are prepared to formulate their own opinions and responses.

English also provides pupils with the skills they need to write effectively, a skill which can be applied creatively (with writing poetry, narrative or even plays to express emotions and ideas) or formally (with application letters, reports and academic essays). All of these skills are an advantage in all pupils' future aspirations.

Topics covered

- Macbeth
- Romantic Poetry
- Non-Fiction texts on Current Affairs
- Transactional Writing
- Creative Writing
- Victorian Fiction

Skills covered

- Comprehension
- Inference
- Summary
- Comparison
- Language analysis
- Structural analysis
- Evaluation
- Writing for form, purpose and audience
- Using accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Using a range of sentence structures and vocabulary
- Presentation skills
- Using standard spoken English
- Listening and responding appropriately
- Discussing and Debating

Links to GCSE

Year 9 provides opportunities for pupils to build on and refine the skills they have learnt in year 7 and 8 as they begin to work towards writing and exploring more demanding texts.

Pupils will have a chance to sample texts that they will cover more thoroughly in years 10 and 11, for instance: Macbeth, Victorian fiction and Romantic poetry. Furthermore, as pupils progress into year 9, the texts that they study will become more challenging both in content and expression. Pupils will also begin to develop their own writing for different audiences and purposes, using the texts they study to help them experiment and write creatively.

All of the skills covered during year 9 are linked to the skills which pupils will be assessed on for both their English Literature and Language GCSEs.

What careers does English link to?

English provides a range of transferrable skills, which means that this subject is useful in a range of careers. English Language in particular is a requirement for an array of professions, including teaching! The communication skills gained through both English Language and Literature are beneficial for all jobs, including medicine, engineering, veterinary science and even accountancy.

More specifically, English Language and Literature link directly to the following careers: journalism, publishing, editing, marketing communications, public relations, advertising, law, digital media, business, film and television and web content management.

Mathematics

Why you study this subject

Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary in most forms of employment.

A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

Topics covered

The course covers a wide variety of topics from each of the key areas.

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
4. Geometry and Measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Skills covered

Each key area will require the development of a variety skills, an example of skills developed in year 9 in each topic is shown below:

Number

- estimate number, measures and approximate answers, including using these to check other calculation methods

Algebra

- recognise, sketch and produce graphs of linear and quadratic functions of one variable with appropriate scaling, using equations in x and y and the cartesian plane

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

- use multiplicative reasoning where two quantities have a fixed product or fixed ratio represented graphically and algebraically

Geometry and Measures

- use Pythagoras' Theorem and side ratios in similar triangles to solve problems in right-angled triangles

Probability

- record and describe the outcomes of simple probability experiments involving randomness, fairness, equally and unequally likely outcomes using appropriate

language and the 0-1 scale

Statistics

- describe simple mathematical relationships between two variables in observational and experimental contexts

Links to GCSE

At GCSE there's a greater emphasis on **problem solving** and **mathematical reasoning**, with more marks now being allocated to these higher order skills. Students will be required to memorise formulae as fewer will be provided in the examinations.

Pupils are taught the knowledge, skills and understanding through practical activities which:

- a) ensure they become familiar with and confident using standard procedures for a range of calculations
- b) develop their problem-solving skills in a range of contexts
- c) show how algebra, as an extension of number using symbols, gives precise form to mathematical relationships and calculations
- d) develop their geometrical skills
- e) require students to analyse and draw inferences from data consider the uses of statistics in society
- f) require students to use appropriate ICT tools to present data and also to use these to solve numerical and graphical problems
- g) develop their application of learning to real life situations.

What careers does Mathematics link to?

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have a GCSE in mathematics, but the following careers are some that would enable you to make a lot of use of your Mathematics: Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Environmental Studies, Computing, ICT, Banking, Insurance, Marketing, Business Management, Pharmacy, Science, Aviation, Construction, Cookery and many more...

Science

Why you study this subject

Science is a study of how the entire world works. KS3 science provides a strong foundation in skills and knowledge required to prepare students to explore how the world functions. Platanos College has high expectations of all students and in line with this; pupils will be given the opportunity to gain the required knowledge, skills and attitudes outlined in the programme of study. Science encourages you to practice problem solving and critical thinking which is useful in any career chosen.

Topics covered

Earth

- *Earth Structure*
- *Universe*

Genes

- *Variation*
- *Human reproduction*

Electricity and magnetism

- *Voltage and resistance*
- *Current*
- *Electromagnets*
- *Magnetism*

Reactions

- *Metals and non-metals*
- *Acid and alkalis*

Organisms

- *Body system Digestion*

Matter

- *Periodic table*
- *Elements*

Waves

- *Sound*
- *Light*
- *Wave effects*

Skills covered

- Planning and designing investigations
- Collecting and presenting data
- Using scientific evidence to draw valid conclusions
- Use of mathematical skills effectively to solve scientific problems

Links to GCSE

Studying science at GCSE level will enable you to:

- Develop and apply your knowledge and understanding of the scientific processes through hypotheses, theories and concepts.
- Develop your understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations.
- Develop your awareness of risk and the ability to assess potential risk in the context of potential benefits.
- Develop and apply your observational, practical, enquiry and problem-solving skills and understanding in laboratory, field and other learning environments.
- Develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions.
- Develop your skills in communication, mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.

Links to GCSE

Studying science at GCSE level will enable you to:

- Develop and apply your knowledge and understanding of the scientific processes through hypotheses, theories and concepts.
- Develop your understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations.
- Develop your awareness of risk and the ability to assess potential risk in the context of potential benefits.
- Develop and apply your observational, practical, enquiry and problem-solving skills and understanding in laboratory, field and other learning environments.
- Develop your ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions.
- Develop your skills in communication, mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.

What careers does Science link to?

- Here are some careers where further studies in Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) will be an advantage, if not a requirement: dentist, doctor, electrical

engineer, food scientist, managers in industries, quality controller, marketing, pathologist, primary/secondary school teacher, soil scientist, nurse and numerous other careers.

History

Why you study History

History is an academic subject which is highly respected. History helps to develop a number of skills necessary for work and future study. These include debate, analysis, evaluation and creating judgements based on evidence. Pupils learn about key events, people and changes that have shaped the world today. The ability to form opinions and make strong judgements will be of benefit during this course.

History also provides you with an understanding of how the world has come to be today. This helps in challenging discrimination and prejudice.

Topics covered

Pupils study three units relating to 20th Century History in order to prepare them for GCSE work undertaken in the Summer term.

The First World War:

This unit focuses on the causes of the First World War in 1914, the nature of trench warfare, and its' aftermath. Pupils study sources which show how early enthusiasm for war changed to horror as the reality of warfare became known. We evaluate the role of technology, soldiers from Empire, and the cost of war. Pupils also study the Versailles Peace Treaty which punished Germany and led her to wanting revenge. Pupils refine their skills of analysing evidence and forming judgements.

The Second World War:

We study the causes of the Second World War by looking at the damaging impact of the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, and the failure of appeasement. Pupils analyse the Second World War battles. The unit involves a depth study of Wartime Britain, including the impact of evacuation, women workers, and the experience of the Blitz. Pupils develop their skills of analysing sources and evaluation in their written responses.

The Holocaust:

This unit takes an empathetic look at the plight of Jews and other minority groups persecuted in Nazi Germany. As the Nazis invaded more land across Europe, they had a devastating effect on families who were deprived of rights, moved to ghettos, and executed in concentration camps. The study allows pupils to ask why this genocide occurred, and link it to modern society. Pupils continue to improve and practice exam style responses in preparation for GCSE written work.

The Elizabethan Age:

Pupils in Year 9 begin the first unit of GCSE work. It focuses on the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603). This includes the study of Elizabeth as a ruler, her advisors in the Royal Court, the lives of rich and poor, entertainment and theatre, as well as challenges from zealots following the religious changes of the Reformation. A key event is the battle of the Spanish Armada.

Pupils study the **Eduqas** exam board. Pupils learn how to answer a range of analytical and evaluation questions in line with GCSE criteria for this unit. They are assessed regularly each term.

Skills covered

- Pupils develop their historical knowledge and understanding & their ability to describe, explain and analyse a range of key events, people and changes.
- Pupils develop skills in researching, writing, discussing and debating different views and interpretations in order to form judgements focused on answering key controversies in History.
- Pupils learn to investigate issues critically using a wide range of historical sources, working independently and collaboratively to construct written arguments using evidence.

What careers does History link to?

History is a well-respected subject which will help pupils with their decision making, articulation of ideas, and analytical writing. Therefore, it can help with a wide range of managerial roles. Traditionally, History is associated with careers in law and journalism. However, it is highly desirable in a wide range of decision making and problem-solving roles. This includes banking and Civil Service jobs working with government.

Modern Foreign Languages

Why you study this subject

Bilingualism brings many benefits: it enhances the thinking process and allows for contact with other people and cultures. Speaking more than one language also increases brain capacity and enhances memory function.

In addition, it has been shown that those who speak multiple languages have better empathy and social understanding than those who don't. Furthermore, those who speak two or more languages have wider work and education options and opportunities available to them.

Why Spanish? Spanish is the world's third most spoken language, after English and Mandarin. The Spanish speaking population is also increasing at a fast rate.

Therefore, companies interact with Spanish speaking clients all the time and require staff with language skills. In recognition of that fact, bilingual employees are paid up to twenty percent more than other employees with no additional languages.

Topics covered

- Identity and culture
- Healthy living
- Holidays
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Skills covered

- Listening - concentration, brain processing, recognising linking words
- Speaking - listening actively, organising ideas, expressing ideas clearly in Spanish
- Reading - understanding lengthier texts in Spanish
- Writing – being able to write in Spanish using a range of past, present and future tenses

Links to GCSE

The themes covered during Year 9 continue to build pupils' knowledge and prepare them to start their GCSE examination course in Year 10.

The Spanish GCSE will open doors to better educational opportunities. Currently, having a language GCSE or A level is an essential entry requirement for the top universities in the UK.

What careers does a Modern Foreign Language link to?

Language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses that trade internationally.

Some jobs directly related to a language degree include interpreter, political risk analyst, translator, teacher, academic researcher, broadcast journalist, diplomatic service officer or marketing executive.

Religious Studies

Why you study Religious Studies

Religious Studies is an academic subject which helps develop pupils' skills of debating, analytical writing, and forming judgements. These are skills that are necessary for both work and future study.

Through Religious Studies, pupils learn more about the key religions of Christianity and Islam, and how religious believers adapt to the world around us today. Our discussion work will link to current or recent events.

Your ability to form opinions and make strong judgements will be of benefit during this course. Pupils begin studying the Christianity unit of the GCSE in Year 9, before moving on to Islam and the thematic studies prior to their Year 11 GCSE exams.

Topics covered

Christianity – Key beliefs and practices:

- Key beliefs of Christianity e.g. the nature of God, the creation of the world, the nature of sin, and its' link to the afterlife. Also, the impact that these ideas have on Christians.
- Jesus Christ and salvation e.g. beliefs and teachings about the incarnation, the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and Jesus' teachings.
- Worship and festivals e.g. different forms of worship, prayer, sacraments, pilgrimages, etc.
- The role of the church in the local and worldwide community e.g. missions, Christian Aid, why charity and kindness is important, etc.

We follow the **AQA** exam board. Pupils begin learning how to answer the five types of GCSE style questions and are assessed regularly each term.

Skills covered

Pupils will learn key words relating to theological and ethical debates. They will recall information about beliefs, practices and worship.

- Pupils will be able to expand on their arguments to explain ideas. They will be able to link these ideas to religious teachings as evidence of their knowledge.
- Pupils will be able to construct two-sided arguments based on an opinionated statement. They will be able to show a detailed knowledge and understanding of the way in which religious ideas relate to the world around them today.

What careers does Religious Studies link to?

Studying Religious Studies does not have a firm link to any area of work, however it does help to develop skills of analytical writing and decision making which are necessary for a number of managerial roles.

It also helps develop skills such as communication, analysis, attention to detail, and problem solving. There are a wide variety of careers that Religious Studies can be used for from Arts and Media, to Leisure and Tourism. Students may choose to study theology at A level or university.

Compulsory Physical Education (PE)

Pupils who do not wish to choose an option in PE will still have PE as part of their timetable. There is no formal assessment within this subject.

PE develops pupils' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that hopefully become a central part of their lives, both in and out of school.

Our high-quality PE curriculum enables all pupils to enjoy, achieve and succeed in many kinds of physical activity. They will tackle complex and demanding activities and get involved in physical activity that is mainly focused on performing, promoting healthy and active lives, or developing personal fitness.

In year 9 pupils will be taught to:

- Use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games.
- Develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports.
- Take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present mental and physical challenges and which encourage pupils to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group.
- Compare their performance with previous ones to achieve their personal best.
- Continue to take part in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

OPTIONAL SUBJECT DESCRIPTORS

Art and Design

Why should you study this subject?

Art and Design equips pupils with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a subject. Art provides the opportunity for pupils to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design within the classroom and through trips and visits.

Art is all about developing visual ideas and is perfect for those pupils who enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn new techniques are essential. You will learn about significant artists and designers from the past and about contemporary artists too. The skills you learn will be varied: among them will be a working knowledge of the materials, practices of art and design, analysis skills, experimentation and idea development.

Thinking skills will be developed alongside the practical activities to encourage creative thinking. Pupils become aware of art theory and wider cultural influences. Pupils keep a sketchbook, to explore themes and develop personal response for projects.

Topics covered

The year is split into two where you will study two 'pre-GCSE' projects.

- Micro Macro- Natural forms
- Reflections

The Art option is a broad and flexible course that requires you to develop an appreciation of the creative process through a practical response, using a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, materials, techniques and processes. You will explore critically how artists, craftspeople and designers from diverse cultures, times and societies have arrived at solutions and communicated meaning using the formal elements. You will use this knowledge when developing new ideas, recording observations and creating outcomes which fully realise your personal intentions.

Skills covered

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources.
- Apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to your work.
- Refine your ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes.

- Record your ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses.
- Use visual language critically as appropriate to your own creative intentions and chosen area(s) of study through effective and safe use of: media, materials, techniques, processes, technologies, use drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to the context.
- Realise personal intentions through the sustained application of the creative process.

Specifically, Art pupils will develop skills within the following areas:

- Drawing
- Photography
- Mixed media
- Printing
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Ceramics

Links to GCSE

After studying Art, it would be great for you to go onto studying GCSE Art however you could transfer to GCSE Graphics, GCSE Photography or GCSE Animation.

What careers does Art link to?

Possible careers after studying Art and Design are as follows: Architecture, Art Therapist, Games Designer, Audio - Visual Designer, Book Designer, Corporate Identity Designer, Display Designer, Electronic Image Designer, Exhibition Designer, Exhibition Officer, Fashion Buyer, Fashion Forecaster, Fashion Grader, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Journalist, Fashion Merchandiser, Advertising Designer, Animator, Ceramicist, Editorial Illustrator, Electronic Image Designer, Film Director/Producer, Maker, Fine art Conservator, Furniture Designer, Gallery Administrator, Illustrator, Image animator, Industrial Designer, Interior designer, Landscape designer, Lettering Artist, Magazine Designer, Model Maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Publicity Designer, Sculptor, Silversmith/Jeweler, Teacher, Technical illustrator, Theatre designer, Typographer... to name just a few!

Graphics

Why should you study this subject?

Graphics equips pupils with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a subject. Graphics provides the opportunity for pupils to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design within the classroom and through trips and visits.

Graphics is all about developing visual ideas and is perfect for those pupils who enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn new techniques are essential. You will learn about significant artists and designers from the past and about contemporary Graphic designers too. The skills you learn will be varied: among them will be a working knowledge of the materials, practices of graphic design, analysis skills, experimentation and idea development.

Thinking skills will be developed alongside the practical activities to encourage creative thinking. Pupils become aware of art theory and wider cultural influences. Pupils keep a sketchbook, to explore themes and develop personal response for projects.

Topics covered

The year is split into two where you will study two 'pre-GCSE' projects:

- Micro Macro- Natural forms
- Reflections

Graphic Communication introduces students to a visual way of conveying information, ideas and emotions, using a range of graphic media, processes, techniques and elements such as colour, icons, images, typography and photographs. Pupils should conduct primary and secondary investigations during their design development and explore traditional and/or new technologies.

They should also consider the use of signs and symbols, and the balance between aesthetic and commercial considerations. Pupils will also understand that Graphic Design practitioners may work within a small team environment or work as freelance practitioners. They may be responsible for a particular aspect of the Design or Production process or for the entire design cycle. They will need good communication skills in order to liaise with clients and to promote themselves as graphic designers.

Skills covered

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources.

- Apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to your work.
- Refine your ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record your ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses.
- Use visual language critically as appropriate to your own creative intentions and chosen area(s) of study through effective and safe use of: media, materials, techniques, processes, technologies, use drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to the context.
- Realise personal intentions through the sustained application of the creative process.

Specifically, Graphics pupils will develop skills within the following areas:

- Advertising
- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Illustration
- Multi media
- Package design
- Signage
- Typography

Links to GCSE

After studying Graphics, it would be great for you to go onto studying GCSE Graphics however you could transfer to GCSE Photography, GCSE Art or GCSE Animation.

What careers does Graphics link to?

Possible careers after studying Graphics are as follows: Architecture, Art Therapist, Games Designer, Audio - Visual Designer, Book Designer, Corporate Identity Designer, Display Designer, Electronic Image Designer, Exhibition Designer, Exhibition Officer, Fashion Buyer, Fashion Forecaster, Fashion Grader, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Journalist, Fashion Merchandiser, Advertising Designer, Animator, Ceramicist, Editorial Illustrator, Electronic Image Designer, Film Director/Producer, Maker, Fine art Conservator, Furniture Designer, Gallery Administrator, Illustrator, Image animator, Industrial Designer, Interior designer, Landscape designer, Lettering Artist, Magazine Designer, Model Maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Publicity Designer, Sculptor, Silversmith/Jeweler, Teacher, Technical illustrator, Theatre designer, Typographer... to name just a few!

Photography

Why should you study this subject?

Photography equips pupils with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a subject.

Photography provides the opportunity for pupils to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design within the classroom and through trips and visits.

Photography is all about developing visual ideas and is perfect for those pupils who enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn new techniques are essential. You will learn about significant artists and designers from the past and about contemporary photographers too. The skills you learn will be varied: among them will be a working knowledge of the materials, practices of art and design, analysis skills, experimentation and idea development.

Thinking skills will be developed alongside the practical activities to encourage creative thinking. Pupils become aware of art theory and wider cultural influences. Pupils keep a sketchbook, to explore themes and develop personal response for projects.

Topics covered

The year is split into two where you will study two 'pre-GCSE' projects:

- Micro Macro- Natural forms
- Reflections

Photography may be defined as the creative journey through the process of lens- and light-based media. This could include work created using film, video, digital imaging or light sensitive materials.

With the developments of new affordable lens-based technologies, students should attempt to use the photographic mediums to explore and create a body of work, which develops and refines both the process and the concept.

Pupils will also understand that Photography practitioners may work to client commissions within a commercial photography studio or work as freelance photographers. They will need photo manipulation and graphic design skills, and good communication skills in order to liaise with clients and to promote themselves as photographers.

Skills covered

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources.
- Apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to your work.
- Refine your ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record your ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses.
- Use visual language critically as appropriate to your own creative intentions and chosen area(s) of study through effective and safe use of: media, materials, techniques, processes, technologies, use drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to the context.
- Realise personal intentions through the sustained application of the creative process.

Specifically, Photography pupils will develop skills within the following areas:

- Documentary photography
- Photo-journalism
- Studio photography
- Location photography
- Experimental imagery
- Moving image: film, video and animation

Links to GCSE

After studying Photography, it would be great for you to go onto studying GCSE Photography however you could transfer to GCSE Graphics, GCSE Art or GCSE Animation.

What careers does Photography link to?

Possible careers after studying Photography are as follows: Architecture, Art Therapist, Games Designer, Audio - Visual Designer, Book Designer, Corporate Identity Designer, Display Designer, Electronic Image Designer, Exhibition Designer, Exhibition Officer, Fashion Buyer, Fashion Forecaster, Fashion Grader, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Journalist, Fashion Merchandiser, Advertising Designer, Animator, Ceramicist, Editorial Illustrator, Electronic Image Designer, Film Director/Producer, Maker, Fine art Conservator, Furniture Designer, Gallery Administrator, Illustrator, Image animator, Industrial Designer, Interior designer, Landscape designer, Lettering Artist, Magazine Designer, Model Maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Publicity Designer, Sculptor, Silversmith/Jeweler, Teacher, Technical illustrator, Theatre designer, Typographer... to name just a few!

Animation

Why should you study this subject?

Animation equips pupils with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a subject. Animation provides the opportunity for pupils to explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design within the classroom and through trips and visits.

Animation is all about developing visual ideas and is perfect for those pupils who enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn new techniques are essential. You will learn about significant artists and designers from the past and about contemporary Animators too. The skills you learn will be varied: among them will be a working knowledge of the materials, practices of art and design, analysis skills, experimentation and idea development.

Thinking skills will be developed alongside the practical activities to encourage creative thinking. Pupils become aware of art theory and wider cultural influences. Pupils keep a sketchbook, to explore themes and develop personal response for projects.

Topics covered

The year is split into two where you will study two 'pre-GCSE' projects:

- Micro Macro- Natural forms
- Reflections

Animation is a method in which pictures are manipulated to appear as moving images. This could include work created using film, video, digital imaging or illustration.

With the developments of new affordable lens-based technologies, students should attempt to use the photographic mediums to explore and create a body of work, which develops and refines both the process and the concept.

Pupils will also understand that Animation practitioners may work to client commissions within a commercial animation studio or work as freelance animators. They will need photo manipulation and graphic design skills, and good communication skills in order to liaise with clients and to promote themselves as animators.

Skills covered

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by selecting and critically analysing sources.

- Apply an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries to your work.
- Refine your ideas as work progresses through experimenting with media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record your ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation, using appropriate specialist vocabulary, as work progresses.
- Use visual language critically as appropriate to your own creative intentions and chosen area(s) of study through effective and safe use of: media, materials, techniques, processes, technologies, use drawing skills for different needs and purposes, appropriate to the context.
- Realise personal intentions through the sustained application of the creative process.

Specifically, Animation pupils will develop skills within the following areas:

- Illustration
- Drawing
- Photography
- Mixed media
- Sculpture
- Experimental imagery
- Moving image: film, video and animation

Links to GCSE

After studying Animation, it would be great for you to go onto studying GCSE Animation however you could transfer to GCSE Photography, GCSE Art or GCSE Graphics.

What careers does Animation link to?

Possible careers after studying Animation are as follows: Architecture, Art Therapist, Games Designer, Audio - Visual Designer, Book Designer, Corporate Identity Designer, Display Designer, Electronic Image Designer, Exhibition Designer, Exhibition Officer, Fashion Buyer, Fashion Forecaster, Fashion Grader, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Journalist, Fashion Merchandiser, Advertising Designer, Animator, Ceramicist, Editorial Illustrator, Electronic Image Designer, Film Director/Producer, Maker, Fine art Conservator, Furniture Designer, Gallery Administrator, Illustrator, Image animator, Industrial Designer, Interior designer, Landscape designer, Lettering Artist, Magazine Designer, Model Maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Publicity Designer, Sculptor, Silversmith/Jeweler, Teacher, Technical illustrator, Theatre designer, Typographer... to name just a few!

Drama

****this subject is compulsory for 9C band pupils (9E)***

Why should you study this subject?

Drama develops and refines communication skills that are key to rapid progress and promotion. It actively develops creativity, whilst building self-confidence in your ability to both debate and to perform.

You will hone your acting skills whilst exploring a range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues, and study extracts from thought-provoking plays. Lessons are both practical and academic, allowing you to build on your acting skills alongside analysis and evaluation that is extremely helpful in English.

You will develop and refine your teamwork skills and your approach to independent work with a combination of performance projects in larger groups, home groups and pairs with increasing autonomy.

Drama is highly enjoyable, and pupils in Year 9 appreciate the structure of the learning, with each lesson containing a range of practical elements starting with a warm-up game.

Studying Drama also involves opportunities for workshops with professional actors and theatre trips. Drama helps develop literacy skills, not only within dialogue but also in your written work where the Year 9 curriculum provides an increasingly technical vocabulary that begins to prepare you for the demands of GCSEs.

Topics covered

- Baseline Performance Testing
- 'Our Day Out' by W. Russell
- Addiction
- Mental Health
- Theatre in Education
- Devising and Refining with Practitioners
- 'Blue Stockings' by J. Swale

Skills covered

- Creative thinking
- Critical evaluation
- Negotiating and organisational skills
- Understanding and using GCSE Marking Criteria
- Developing soliloquys, duologues and devised group performance

- Using Drama theorists and practitioners to develop a more personalised acting style.

Links to GCSE

All formal testing of performance work is in line with GCSE criteria to ensure complete familiarity with how Assessment Objectives are marked for GCSE Drama.

The *Theatre in Education* scheme prepares students for Component 1 of GCSE Drama (40% of the final grade), as a scaled down version, with the fundamentals of the unit introduced to prepare you for Year 10.

A fluency with a variety of practitioners is essential at GCSE, which is addressed in the *Devising and Refining* work. One of the studied plays, '*Blue Stockings*,' is the core text for GCSE Drama. By experimenting with core scenes from the play, familiarity and a greater confidence is gained in order to make informed decisions as a director in the GCSE exam paper.

What careers does Drama link to?

The creative industries are worth over £8 million an hour to the UK economy and as such there are vast numbers of careers linked to Drama.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Actor (Film, TV, Theatre) | • Drama Therapist |
| • Stage Manager | • Drama Teacher |
| • Arts Administrator | • Radio Presenter |
| • Television Production Assistant | • TV Presenter |
| • Arts consultant | • Journalist |
| • Youth & community worker | • Set designer |
| • Personnel Manager | • Marketing Manager |
| • Social Worker | • Charity Administrator |
| • Media (various) | • Visual artist |

Physical Education

***available to pupils in 9A and 9B band (9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9H and 9W)**

Why should you study this subject?

The Physical Education course enables pupils to further develop their knowledge, understanding and skills to develop their own performance in sport. It also develops pupils' understanding of socio-cultural influences on participation in sport, and the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being.

Topics covered

The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

The structure and functions of the musculoskeletal system

- The short- and long-term effects of exercise
- The relationship between health and fitness and the role that exercise plays in both
- The components of fitness, benefits for sport and how fitness is measured and improved
- The principles of training and their application to personal exercise/training programmes
- Effective use of warm up and cool down

Socio-cultural influences

- Health, fitness and well-being
- Commercialisation of physical activity and sport
- Physical, emotional and social health, fitness and well-being
- The consequences of a sedentary lifestyle
- Energy use, diet, nutrition and hydration

Skills covered

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.
- Apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.
- Analyse and evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.
- Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport. Analyse and evaluate performance.

Links to GCSE

This course will predominately be classroom based theoretical lessons. This is to ensure that the scientific theoretical elements are fully covered and to prepare pupils for the **two** papers which will make up **60%** of their final grade at GCSE. During these lessons', students will be regularly assessed and have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with exam style questions and key vocabulary.

What careers does PE link to?

As well as being the ideal preparation for GCSE PE, Physical Education allows for progression to related vocational courses, such as BTEC Level 3.

The course will provide the relevant skills and subject content for pupils to choose a variety of careers or degree options including, sports science; sports coaching; sports management; PE teacher; Physical Therapist; sports nutrition; commentator, sports journalist; sports psychology or performance analysis to name a few.

Computing

****this subject is compulsory for 9C band pupils (9E)***

Why should you study this subject?

Computing skills have an immense impact on modern life. The job prospects are excellent, and the field is rigorous, intellectually vibrant, and multi-faceted.

Computing helps prepare pupils for a world dominated by electronic gadgetry and instant communication. The pace of change is rapid and demand for basic computing skills is already standard which will continue to evolve such as technology.

Learners need to be able to make effective and safe use of not only existing technology but also be able to transfer and develop existing skills to the technology of the future.

This course will provide learners with essential fundamental knowledge, transferable skills and tools from three main topic areas of computing studies. The first main area is programming fundamentals and developing programs. The second area is using computers as a tool during business studies.

The final area is multimedia computing.

This is a unique 1 year Computing course studied in Year 9 and it will form foundations to pathway related options in Year 10 & 11 studies.

Topics covered

- Programming fundamentals and developing programs
- Using computers as a tool within Business studies
- Multimedia computing

Skills covered

Programming fundamentals and developing programs
Computational Thinking
Programming fundamentals
Problem solving with programming
Reporting, logging & presentation

Using computers as a tool within Business studies
Business enterprise
Purpose of business activity
Researching skills
Effective use of office applications

Multimedia computing
Using multimedia software for creation

Links to GCSE

Computer Science
Creative iMedia
Business Studies

What careers does Computing link to?

Knowledge of Information Technology is a requirement of virtually any job or career. Even those students who do not wish to pursue a career as a specialist in Information Technology will still need to have a good all-around knowledge of the subject. This 1 year course combined with a follow on related GCSE option to study in Year 10 & 11, will form foundations for a range of IT and Business career pathways, some are as follows:

Software developer
Cyber security consultant
Games developer
Games designer & engineer

IT consultant
Systems analyst
Computer network architect

Digital Animation & Graphics engineer
Website developer
Media & film industry

Multimedia Design engineer
2D/3D modelling Engineer

Accountancy
HR/personnel
Public relations
Sales and marketing

General Management
Management consultancy
Retail management