Year 9 – Challenge | Curriculum Overview

Broadening horizons and raising aspirations

Students embrace greater academic **challenge**, deepen their understanding and explore different perspectives. They strengthen their character, develop confidence in their abilities and make informed choices about their future pathways.

What will students learn in Year 9?

Tutor Time	• Enjoy tutor-led reading of The Hate U Give, The Blue Book of Nebo, Divergent, The Fault in Our Stars and Lark, immersing students in rich language and stories. • Explore identity, conflict and society, developing vocabulary, comprehension and a love of reading. • Take part in weekly Great Debates, exploring topical issues, cultural capital and confident, respectful argument.	**English**	• Explore protest poetry, Noughts & Crosses and Romeo and Juliet, analysing viewpoints, dramatic conventions and Shakespearean context. • Study Lord of the Flies and Animal Farm, exploring power, civilisation, rebellion, propaganda and the influence of context. • Develop comparative analysis, interpretations of language and structure, and persuasive rhetorical speech skills.
Mathematics	• Extend algebra through expanding and factorising expressions, completing the square, algebraic fractions and graphs. • Apply percentages, compound interest, indices, standard form, proportion and numerical problem-solving. • Explore statistical diagrams, probability, transformations, polygon geometry and surface area.	**Science**	• Explore cell organisation, atomic structure, bonding, energy transfers and the particle model. • Investigate nuclear radiation, infection, immunity and bioenergetics. • Study chemical resources, the atmosphere, human impacts and relationships within ecosystems.
Geography	• Investigate global inequality, development and tectonic hazards, considering how wealth affects responses.	**History**	• Explore the French and Industrial Revolutions, examining change and continuity across societies.

	• Explore globalisation, trade, the role of the dollar and the causes and impacts of conflict. • Evaluate pressures on ecosystems and distinctive UK landscapes, including sustainable management and National Parks.		• Investigate the 1929 American boom and bust and its unequal effects on different groups. • Study US civil rights and the changing nature of crime and punishment over time.
Spanish	• Discuss personal life, healthy routines and wellbeing, comparing lifestyles across Spanish-speaking communities. • Describe school experiences, express opinions and explore future plans and careers. • Strengthen grammar and independent communication while considering global citizenship and young people's actions.	**Computing**	• Investigate networks, cybersecurity, social engineering and malware risks. • Develop Python programs using count- and condition-controlled loops, debugging syntax and logic errors. • Explore software development, testing, artificial intelligence, machine learning and ethical impacts.
Religious Education	• Explore non-religious worldviews, especially Humanism, and how beliefs influence ethical decisions. • Consider explanations of suffering in Christianity, Buddhism and Judaism, including responses to the Shoah. • Compare beliefs about life after death and funeral practices across religious and non-religious traditions.	**PSHE / LIFE**	• Explore respectful relationships, consent, equality, wellbeing, substance risks and healthy choices. • Develop understanding of democracy, careers, work experience, employee rights and informed Key Stage 4 options. • Consider online reputation, AI and misinformation alongside budgeting, borrowing, taxation and financial decisions.
Physical Education	• Refine advanced sport-specific skills, tactics and decision-making in competitive situations. • Analyse performance and develop understanding of roles, responsibilities and teamwork.	**Music**	• Explore reggae's Jamaican origins, syncopated rhythms, offbeat patterns and social messages. • Develop performance, listening and composition skills through ensemble music-making.

	• Participate in a pathway-based selection of sports including athletics, football, netball, rugby and fitness.		• Learn popular songs in a band, refining instrumental technique, rehearsal and collaborative performance.
Art	• Explore First World War propaganda and how images communicate emotion and empathy. • Investigate German Expressionism, using colour, line and texture to create expressive effects. • Develop visual ideas and produce a printed outcome inspired by these artistic approaches.	**Drama**	• Explore acting processes through Blood Brothers and Frankenstein, applying Stanislavski's techniques to character. • Develop vocal and physical performance, subtext, objectives and believable relationships. • Investigate theatre through time and create Theatre in Education performances that communicate purposeful messages.
Design & Technology	• Design and make mechanical balancing figures, exploring motion, forces, counterweights and precision engineering. • Develop user-centred products through pewter casting, mould-making, refinement and quality assurance. • Design sustainable wildlife habitats using practical tools, teamwork and entrepreneurial presentation skills.	**Food**	• Explore macro- and micronutrients and their roles in growth, energy and healthy diets. • Investigate bacteria, food poisoning, hygiene, temperature control and safe food preparation. • Apply sports nutrition to a competitive weightlifter, evaluating hydration and meal plans for performance and recovery.