



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love Serve Do the best that is possible

Year 9 Curriculum Information Booklet

Pentecost Term 2019



FACULTY OF RE, GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Pupils have begun the Edexcel Catholic Christianity Religious Studies Specification A Course. Pupils will study Judaism Beliefs and Teachings, which will include the following areas;

- The Almighty
- The Shekhinah
- The Messiah
- The Covenant at Sinai
- The Covenant with Abraham
- The Sanctity of Life
- Moral Principles and the Mitzvot
- Life after death

Pupils will then go on to study Judaism Practices, which will include the following areas:

- Public acts of worship
- The Tenakh and Talmud
- Private Prayer
- The Shema and the Amidah
- Ritual and Ceremony
- Shabbat
- Festivals
- Features of the Synagogue

GEOGRAPHY

Students will study deserts, a key global biome. They will investigate how animals and plants have adapted to cope with this extreme environment. This unit will include a detailed case study on the Western Desert in the US.

After half term, students will have the opportunity to complete a local fieldwork project. They will plan and collect some local data. They will write up their findings as an independent project. Further details on the topic will become available during the term.

HISTORY

This half term, Year 9 will be starting a new unit, Conflict and Tension in Asia 1945 – 1975, as part of the AQA specification. This will explore how the origins of the Cold War led to physical fighting within Asia. They will firstly look at Korea and how it came to be divided today, before looking at Vietnam and the involvement of America in a full scale conflict. This topic has a lot of cross over with the American unit that they have just completed

Independent learning will be based on consolidating and acquiring new knowledge to deepen their understanding in lessons. Some of these tasks will reflect back to their previous unit on America 1920-1975. A more detailed schedule of students' homework is distributed to them in the first week of term.

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE

ENGLISH

During the Pentecost term, students will study William Shakespeare's play, '*Macbeth*'. As part of this, pupils will understand how Shakespeare has presented characters and themes to his audience through close text analysis where they will also apply their understanding of the play as a whole. Practice essay questions will be in the style of the GCSE Literature examination specification. Lessons will be tailored by their teacher in response to past GCSE English Literature examination papers prepared by the AQA examination board. Through this unit of work, students will practise how to answer Literature questions using the assessment objectives as a spring board. Supported by a mark scheme, they will develop the art of peer assessment which encourages students to understand examination requirements.

LANGUAGES

French

We continue following the GCSE course. We'll be learning all about where we live, which enables us to learn the Conditional Tense (eg. I *would* like to live) and other language that helps us to add complexity to our work thereby opening the door to those lovely higher GCSE grades. After half term we go on to talk about charity work, deepening our understanding of the Conditional Tense, whilst also starting to learn the Subjunctive, a very elegant 'mood' that's guaranteed to impress examiners!

German

We continue following the GCSE course. We'll be learning all about where we live, which enables us to learn and revise a range of tenses and other language structures that will help us to add complexity to our work thereby opening the door to those lovely higher GCSE grades. After half term we go on to talk about charity work, deepening our understanding of the Past Tense, whilst also starting to learn a range of other elegant grammatical structures that are guaranteed to impress examiners!

Italian

We'll be learning about volunteering and the environment, reinforcing our understanding of the Conditional Tense (the things we *could* and *should* do to help others). This tense enables us to really impress GCSE examiners!

Spanish

We continue following the GCSE course. We'll be learning all about where we live, which enables us to learn and revise a range of tenses and other language structures that will help us to add complexity to our work thereby opening the door to those lovely higher GCSE grades. After half term we go on to talk about charity work, deepening our understanding of the Conditional Tense (describing what we *would* like to do), whilst also starting to learn a range of other elegant grammatical structures that are guaranteed to impress examiners.

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SCIENCE

All of our Year 9 pupils will embark upon 3 years of study that are part of the OCR GCSE Gateway Science. Students study the sciences separately, regardless of whether they study Combined Science (two GCSEs) or separate science (three GCSEs).

Course outline/key topics covered

The topics being covered this half term are as follows. For details please see the specification using the link given below.

- Biology (Combined Sciences) B2 Scaling up
- Biology (Separate Sciences) B3 Organism level systems

- Chemistry (Combined Science) C2.3 Properties of materials
- Chemistry (Separate Sciences) C2.1 Purity and separating mixtures

- Physics (Combined Science) P2.2 Newton's Laws
- Physics (Separate Sciences) P2.3 Forces in Action

Assessment and Lesson Delivery

Pupils will have subject content assessments that will inform progress throughout the year. These assessments will address their recall and application of content taught whilst also allowing pupils to demonstrate their development in the following 5 scientific skill areas;

- Researching and Planning
- Observing, Recording and Processing Scientific Information
- Analysing and Concluding
- Evaluation and Future Implications
- Science in Society

There are three double lessons a week, one for Biology, one for Chemistry and one for Physics. The majority of pupils will have three different specialist teachers who they will meet once a week. All assessment is internal. There are no external modular exams or controlled assessments.

How can I find out more?

The modules outlined above constitute a third of the course. If you want to see the whole specification and more information such as the format of exam papers and controlled assessments visit <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-gateway-science-suite-chemistry-a-j248-from-2016/>

MATHS

In the Pentecost term, Year 9 will be studying Maths in the contexts of Expressive Arts, PE and Magic. These will include topics from the following range:

- Number Tricks in Magic to allow students to see algebra and number rules being applied and to apply them themselves.
- Sport where we analyse and use graphs.
- Mathematics of Design
- How artists use mathematics in their work

Short assessments for this year group will take place at the end of each module. These will take place in the classroom. Pupils will also sit an assessment in examination conditions after half term.

Some websites which may be of interest in helping them to further develop their understanding.

- ItsLearning
- www.mymaths.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- www.nrich.org
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.corbettmaths.com

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

All pupils at St Paul's Catholic School follow a Design and Technology programme of study at Key Stage 3.

Year 9 pupils are continuing in their studies in one subject area of Design and Technology. This allows pupils to achieve a depth of knowledge, understanding and a wide ranging skill base in preparation for study towards GCSE D&T or OCR National (Engineering) in their subject area.

As in previous years all Design and Technology courses are based around the principals of Designing.



Subject areas:

1. Electronic Design.
2. Food Preparation and Nutrition.
3. Paper, Cards and Boards.
4. Engineering Design and Manufacture.
5. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
6. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Python Programming – working with Data & Functions

During this part of the GCSE course students will continue to develop their understanding of Computational Thinking and master the art of writing algorithms in Python. In addition to this the students will learn about how Arrays are used to handle data and how algorithms can be used to manipulate data within Arrays.

Students will go further and develop an understanding of Procedures and functions that will enhance their ability to code intelligently.

All resources will be on Its Learning and so can be accessed at home as well as in school. If a student misses the lesson they can easily catch up through Its Learning.

FACULTY OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS

ART

Knotted and twisted

Throughout the unit, pupils have been looking at a variety of artists who explore mark making and alternative representation techniques. Students have focused on the theme 'Knotted and Twisted' and developed a range of pieces using drawing, observation and mark-making using a wide range of materials. Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of Art History as well as increasing their understanding of techniques and processes.

DRAMA

Year 9 will be developing their ability to create sustained and creative characters and to write and perform their own monologues. Initially they will use music as a stimulus for these characters. There will also be the opportunity to apply their use of drama skills to the text Blood Brothers.

Pupils should focus on developing their ability to use the following key skills:

- Voice and Body Language
- Line learning
- Physical theatre
- Spontaneous improvisation
- Rolling theatre
- Characterisation
- Evaluative writing

MUSIC

Term 1: In the first half of the Pentecost term, students will look at Rock and Pop music. They will study different genres of rock and pop ranging from disco to heavy metal. Students will listen to and perform pieces of music from a range of bands and musicians from these genres. Students will also continue to develop their compositional and music technology skills by creating their own pieces of music on either Sibelius or Logic Pro software.

Term 2: In the second half of the Pentecost term, students will Film Music. Students will learn about how and music is used in Film and will do so through listening, composing and performing. They will continue to develop their understanding of Music technology through composing on Sibelius and Logic.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During the Pentecost term pupils in Year 9 will follow a programme of study which will include Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and Softball. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils have been working in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. In year 9 pupils are encouraged to develop their understanding further and improve their communication skills by taking on different roles during the lesson, for example, performer, coach or official. Within physical education, all pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal organisation, perseverance and development of care and concern for others.

There will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours through the extended curriculum programme, which this term features golf, and through the extra-curricular programme which includes traditional summer sports such as Athletics, Rounders and Cricket. We encourage all pupils to attend at least one club session in at least one sport to develop their skills.

Pupils will also have the opportunity to study PE through either GCSE PE or a Cambridge National technical award at GCSE level. This course is broken down into practical and written examinations. The practical exam is worth 30% of the overall mark and will be based on the pupil's **3** best sports grades. The written element is worth 70% through written exams as well as a written analysis task, as a consequence a large part of the course is classroom based, with most sports being assessed in games lessons.

The Cambridge National level 1/2 course will be taken by pupils who have not reached the required level to access the GCSE PE course by the end of year 9. This will be determined by the pupils' teacher as to which pathway pupils are more suited. The Cambridge National level 1/2 has a 25% external examination unit and 3 further coursework units making up the other 75% of the course.