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Year 9 Curriculum Information Booklet



Advent Term 2021

INTRODUCTION



In this booklet teachers have outlined all that you will be learning in the Advent Term. Please read the booklet and be excited by all that you are going to learn.

Please share this booklet with your parents. They might like to know what you are learning so that they can help you.

FACULTY OF RE, GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

RE

In the first half term students will be studying the topic: Did Jesus really rise from the dead? Students will reflect on their own views on resurrection and afterlife before researching other religious and non-religious beliefs. They will study the resurrection and post-resurrection accounts from the gospel and investigate the common themes amongst these. Pupils will investigate whether it is possible to move the resurrection stone and will evaluate the reliability of the Swoon Theory and the Shroud of Turin. Students will be assessed on their research skills and ability to present their findings in an autopsy report.

In the second half term, pupils will complete a topic on 'Crime and Punishment'. They will investigate the criminal justice system in the UK, analyse the difference between crime and sin, before moving on to Christian attitudes and aims of punishment. Finally, pupils will look at the issue of capital punishment and evaluate whether capital punishment should be reinstated in the UK.

Geography

Rivers

Students start their Geography option with an in-depth study on rivers. They learn how river processes shape the landscape, consider the value of rivers and evaluate how the risk of flooding can be managed.

Climate change

Students investigate the evidence, causes, impacts and responses of climate change. With reference to some dramatic case studies such as the potential loss of the Maldives students focus on the concept that local actions have global consequences.

History

Year 9 will continue their study of the Twentieth Century with a focus on America 1920 – 1970. The first half term will be exploring the themes of 'boom' for those living in America in the 1920s. They will explore mass production, entertainment and the rise of the gangster. They will be completing an assessment on the problems that occurred during this period.

After the half term students will continue exploring the unit on opportunity and inequality. This time they will discover the 'bust' of the 1930s. They explore the experiences of the depression and the New Deal.

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE

English

In the Advent term, students will be introduced to the acclaimed Shakespearean Tragedy 'Macbeth'. Pupils will explore how Shakespeare uses the genre of Tragedy to reflect on complex ideas such as ambition and power. They will also develop their understanding of key literary concepts such as characterisation, patterns of imagery and different dramatic methods and forms.

By the end of this unit, pupils will be expected to be able to comment on the 'whole text' in terms of both themes and character. This understanding will be shaped both by the socio-historical context of the play and also how these ideas relate to our current society.

Pupils will be encouraged to develop the confidence to offer their own interpretations of the text using detailed analytical paragraphs to structure their responses.

The assessments both at the end of Advent 1 and Advent 2 will be GCSE style questions. Pupils will be supported in learning how to plan and develop responses to this style of question in preparation for KS4.

Languages

How can you help your child to make fantastic progress in languages?

Because practice is so important when it comes to learning language, if you can encourage your child to speak the new words they're learning, this will have a real impact on their results. A little practice every day, even if it's just 10 minutes, will make all the difference! And a pocket dictionary will also help your child to become more independent and more creative. In September, we'll be advising your child about which one to buy.

All languages

This half term, we talk about the family lives of teenagers! Our routines, giving your opinion about other people, arranging to go out, describing a date and going to a music festival with family or friends. We will learn how to describe the importance family and friends have for us, and what kind of relationships we would aim to have in the future with our loved ones. We will talk about the importance of marriage and children analysing pros and cons of different opinions on these matters.

After half term, it's all about technology, and the role it plays in our lives, whether it's chatting online or entertaining ourselves!!

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Maths

In the Advent term, Year 9 will be learning about the application of Mathematics in the following subject areas:

- Language
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Information & Communication Technology

Students will be asked to use Mathematics in context and to discover new mathematical skills through exploration and reasoning. Pupils will have regular assessments in class including an exam style assessment in October.

We do encourage pupils to enjoy mathematics outside of lessons; the following websites may be of interest:

- www.mymaths.co.uk
- www.mathsbot.com
- www.ttrockstars.com
- www.corbettmaths.com
- www.connect.collins.com
- www.mathswatch.co.uk

Pupils may also like to take advantage of the mathematics homework support club which takes place on Monday afternoons from 3pm until 4pm in J111. Pupils have access to devices, mathematics textbooks and mathematics teachers, they can work on homework or can ask for additional support on topics which they would like to explore in more depth.

Science

What am I studying in Year 9 Advent Term?

Exam Board: OCR **Specification:** Gateway Suite of Sciences **Qualifications:** GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Subject	Title	Content	Assessment
Biology	Unit B4 (and B6.1) B4 Community Level Systems <i>B4.1 Ecosystems</i> <i>B6.1 Monitoring and maintaining the environment</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key terminology 2. Sampling techniques 3. Sampling techniques 4. Carbon cycle 5. Nitrogen cycle 6. Water cycle 7. Decomposition 8. Food chains and food webs 9. Abiotic and biotic factors 10. Interdependence and competition 11. Maths within the Ecosystem – Pyramids, Efficiency and Bioaccumulation 12. Loss of biodiversity 13. Increasing biodiversity 14. Maintaining biodiversity 	<p>There will be 4 assessment points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2 x Formative assessment of multiple choice and extended answer questions 2. 2x Book checks. <p>Assessments will be separated into B4.1 and B6.1</p> <p>There will also be peer and self assessment during lessons for students to check their understanding.</p>
Chemistry	OCR Gateway C1.1 and C2.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Main features of the particle model 2. Physical and chemical changes 3. Limitations of the particle model 4. Predicting states of substances 5. Purity of a substance 6. Melting point data 7. Useful materials and mixtures 8. Filtration, crystallization, distillation 	<p>There will be 3 assessment points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. End of term test including multiple choice and extended answer questions. 4. Book checks. 5. Synoptic exam question homework.

		9. Separation techniques 10. Paper and thin layer chromatography	
Physics	Module Contents	Assessment Points in Lessons	
Unit 1	Working Scientifically and Matter Advent Term 1. Working Scientifically This involves the processes of science, including understanding the sorts of questions that are the province of science; the design of experiments; reasoning and arguing with scientific evidence; and analysing and interpreting data. 2. Matter –Particle Model You be introduced to the particle nature of matter. You will learn to have an appreciation of matter in its different forms, you will also be aware of subatomic particles, their relative charges, masses and positions inside the atom.	Your approach to learning will be assessed each half term with a book check. You will sit a Multiple choice paper, a long answer question paper each half term to assess your understanding of the content covered in lessons. Your practical skills will be assessed in Practical Assessment Group tasks, completed in lessons. You may be asked about these practical activities on exam papers. These may happen more often than once per half term.	

How can I find out more? www.ocr.org.uk We follow the Gateway Suite of Sciences.

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KS3 Coordinator Leah.Abbott@st-pauls.org.uk

BTEC Level 2 & 3 and Horticulture Coordinator David.Breuilly@st-pauls.org.uk

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 Nationals (Engineering) in their specific subject area.

As in previous years all Design and Technology courses are based around the principles of designing.



Subject areas:

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

Computer Science

Designing and solving intermediate problems using Python

Year 9 will start with learning formal techniques for designing computer programs using flowcharts and pseudocode. This will be linked with the ideas on computational thinking in particular abstraction, decomposition, pattern recognition and algorithms. At the end of this unit students will be able to apply computational thinking to solve intermediate level problems. In terms of programming they will be introduced to more advanced techniques such as functions, procedures and how to use arrays/lists effectively in a program. These techniques will be applied to contextual problems using case studies.

FACULTY OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Art

Pupils have now opted for Art in Year 9 and will now begin building their coursework portfolio for their GCSE in Art & Design. Students produce a portfolio of work to form a unit which is worth 60% of their GCSE. This shows their journey of research, exploring materials, idea development to practical conclusions. Pupils must show they have worked in a range of styles and materials, have fully researched and evaluated artists, developed a range of ideas which is then further developed into final pieces. Pupils will experiment with a range of media and will be encouraged to be creative and to independently explore ways to resolve their ideas.

During the Advent term pupils will respond to a diverse range of artists' work to develop a wider understanding of Art and Design.

The exam board does not set a syllabus but gives assessment objectives that need to be met which enables students to develop their projects individually, demonstrating their technical skills and creative ideas as well as their broader understanding of Art. The Assessment Objectives are as follows:

AO1 – Develop their ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.

AO2 – Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.

AO4 - Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realizing intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

Homework will be both research based as well as building on practical skills learned. In order to be successful pupils should include examples of the art work, background information about the artist and personal judgements about the work.

How can I find out more?

- www.edexcel.org.uk
- [BBC bitesize](#)
- Visit art galleries.

Drama

Firstly, Year 9 students will be undertaking a Devising Unit in preparation for their GCSE Component 1 assessment. They will be using a number of different stimuli to create drama using both rehearsed and spontaneous improvisation skills. They will be utilising a range of explorative strategies and will evaluate the process and outcomes of devising effective drama. Example stimuli will be script extracts, poetry, objects, pictures, articles and music. They will also make links to established theatre practitioners and styles and experiment with these practically.

After half term, Year 9 will apply their devising skills to exploring the film 'Let Him Have It' and the issues and characters involved in the legal case of Craig and Bentley. They will use the medium of Drama and the integrated learning talents to interpret the various situations leading up to the shooting and portray different characters' perspectives on what happened. They will also complete some written portfolio tasks to enable them to evaluate their practical development.

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

- Voice and Body Language
- Thoughts in the head/thought tracking
- Hot-seating
- Spontaneous improvisation
- Rolling theatre
- Characterisation
- Physical theatre to music (dream sequences)

Assessment: students are assessed on their skills of:

- Self-Awareness and Planning
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Sustained Response (performance)
- Written evaluation

Music

Advent 1:

In the Advent term, year 9 will begin with 'An introduction to pop'. Students will learn about popular music from the 1960s to present through listening and performing. They will collaborate to perform a variety of popular songs on a range of instruments including the drum kit, guitar and vocals. Students will learn how to set up microphones for their final performance.

Advent 2:

In the second part of the Advent term, students will build on their knowledge and understanding of popular music by focusing on the song 'Africa' by Toto. Students will study key features of the song through listening, performing and arranging their own versions of the song on the music technology software, GarageBand and Logic.

Physical Education

Pupils will be following a physical activity programme which will include a range of sports including team games, net games, striking games, dance, gymnastics, athletics and fitness. We will be developing 4 key concepts through core PE, which include Fitness, Autonomy, Skills and Talents (the learning talents)

There will plenty of opportunities for students to extend their abilities out of normal school hours, through the extra-curricular programme which includes badminton, rugby, netball, football, hockey, handball and table tennis. Intra-class fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition every term in selected sports.

Pupils who have chosen to study PE in year 9 will then continue to progress into Year 10 on either the GCSE PE pathway or OCR Nationals Sports Studies. In Year 9 lessons are delivered to support their learning of key concepts and ideas to help them to transition onto the relevant qualification. Both courses have opportunities for theory and practical based learning and both courses sit an external exam.

How can I find out more?

Pupils can look on these websites for more information:

- www.brianmac.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- <http://www.ocr.org.uk/>

They can also use their textbooks and a revision book will be made available for pupils to purchase around exam time.