

**Year 9
Overview of
Learning**

This term we are learning about
"Who are we?"



Our Change Maker principle, this term
is 'Bravery'



English

Maths

Science

Computing & Careers

PSHE/RSE

<p>Y9A</p> <p>Functional Skills English Level 1</p> <p>This term, young people working towards Functional Skills English Level 1 will be focusing on consolidating their existing skills and addressing any gaps in their knowledge. We will provide opportunities to revisit key areas of reading and writing, ensuring that young people feel confident in applying their skills to a variety of real-world and exam-style tasks. There will be a particular emphasis on accuracy, clarity and fluency in both written communication and reading comprehension.</p> <p>In preparation for the Level 1 qualification, young people will practise applying their skills to a range of texts and contexts, developing their ability to identify information, interpret meaning and produce well-structured written responses. The aim is to build their confidence and ensure they are fully prepared for the demands of the final assessment.</p>	<p>In Year 9, students will deepen their mathematical understanding through three key units: Straight Line Graphs, Forming and Solving Equations, and Testing Conjectures. They will explore graphical relationships by interpreting gradients and intercepts, modelling real-life scenarios, and working confidently with equations of the form $y = mx + c$. In algebra, students will develop fluency in solving equations and inequalities, including those with brackets and unknowns on both sides, while also learning to rearrange formulae of increasing complexity. The Testing Conjectures unit encourages logical reasoning and pattern recognition, as students investigate number properties, algebraic identities, and mathematical statements to determine whether they are always, sometimes, or never true. These topics build a strong foundation for GCSE-level thinking and problem-solving.</p>	<p>Organisation</p> <p>Students will explore the fascinating world of cells and organisation. They will learn about the hierarchy of organisation, starting from cells to tissues, organs, and ultimately, systems. We will dive into specialised cells, such as muscle and nerve cells, alongside the importance of bones and the skeleton for support and movement.</p> <p>Practical activities include chicken leg dissection to observe muscle and joint structure and the different types of tissue present.</p> <p>Students will also engage in microscope work to investigate cells up close. Additionally, they will explore the respiratory system and the processes of anaerobic and aerobic respiration, enhancing their understanding of how living organisms function.</p>	<p>This term in Computing, Year 9 will be focusing on Cybersecurity and learning how to stay safe in the digital world. The unit begins by exploring what cybersecurity means and why it is important in everyday life. Pupils will learn about different types of cyber threats, such as viruses, scams, and phishing, and discuss why hacking is harmful and illegal.</p> <p>As the lessons progress, students will practise building strong passwords and understand how to protect their personal information online. They will also look at simple strategies for staying safe, such as spotting secure websites, logging out of accounts, and avoiding unsafe behaviours.</p> <p>Towards the end of the unit, pupils will be introduced to the laws that govern computer use, including the Computer Misuse Act and Data Protection Act, and reflect on the importance of using technology responsibly. The unit concludes with a Cybersecurity Challenge, where students review and</p>	<p>This half term in PSHE our topic is - Self- Awareness. We are going to be developing our understanding of this in the following areas:</p> <p>Identifying some of our own personal strengths and skills, Describing the particular ways we like to learn and identifying the difference between a short-term target and an aspirational long-term target, Recognising what prejudice means, Explain what it means to discriminate against someone, Recognise that prejudice and discrimination in any forms are not acceptable, Explain what is meant by teasing, hurtful and bullying behaviour, Explain how we do not need to put up with someone being unkind, hurtful, abusive or bullying to us. Recognise what is meant by peer pressure and peer influence.</p>
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<p>Y9B</p> <p>Functional Skills English Entry Level 3</p> <p>This term, young people studying Functional Skills English Entry Level 3 will be developing their reading and writing skills with a focus on building confidence and independence. This will focus on including targeted activities to strengthen areas where young people may need extra practice and helping them to consolidate their understanding of key skills. The programme is designed to prepare learners for progression towards Level 1 by ensuring that they can apply their skills to everyday and assessment-style tasks.</p> <p>Alongside this, young people will practise reading different types of texts, improving their ability to find and understand information, as well as developing their writing so that it is more accurate and structured.</p>			<p>apply their learning in a fun, problem-solving activity.</p> <p><u>Careers</u></p> <p>For Year 9, this half term will focus on exploration of identity and the connections between career, community, and society. We will revisit students' aspirations and personal ambitions, whilst reflecting on their prior experiences. They will examine the significance of heritage and personal values in the context of career planning. Students will discuss how careers interact with community and societal structures. Following this, students will delve into the relationship between careers, politics, and the economy. They will also consider various pathways beyond school, such as college, apprenticeships, and work, culminating their learning by planning informed next steps.</p>	
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Geography & History	Art and DT	PE & Music	MFL & RE
<p><u>Geography:</u> This half term students will start the unit on Tectonics and Hazards. We will start by asking what is meant by a natural hazard and how this differs from a natural disaster. We will consider the different types of natural hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis and decide if these are weather hazards or tectonic hazards. From there we will recap the structure of the earth to understand the forces at work beneath our feet and how these tectonic shifts shape our world. We will examine the theory of continental drift and ask why it wasn't originally given much credit, before examining each major hazard in turn including a case study on the Haiti earthquake.</p> <p><u>History:</u> This half term students we start a unit of The Civil Rights Movement. We will begin by going back and recapping why there is ethnic tension in the USA by considering the impact of slavery on the future relations between whites and African Americans, as well as the Declaration of Independence and the Thomas Jefferson's deleted paragraph condemning slavery and ultimately the American Civil War. From here students will look at key individuals such as Harriet Tubman, Emmett Till and Rosa Parks, as well as understanding the Jim Crow Laws</p>	<p><u>Food Technology:</u> Pupils will be creating a variety of dishes as voted for by themselves to celebrate their likes and explore different tastes. They will follow step-by-step plans, choosing the right equipment and ingredients to prepare and cook a variety of dishes using a range of cooking techniques, especially demonstrating an increasing confidence in techniques such as measuring, mixing, chopping, baking and cooking. Pupils will cook or bake a product and make sure that it looks attractive, being able to explain the process that they have used.</p> <p><u>Art:</u> Natural Forms in Detail - Inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe</p> <p>In this unit, students will explore the natural forms inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe. They'll start with observational drawing, discuss the emotional impact of O'Keeffe's work, and learn tonal shading techniques. The lessons will cover colour theory, watercolour techniques, and composition, culminating in the creation of a final piece. Through peer feedback and self-assessment, students will reflect on their artistic journey and develop their unique styles. It's all about enjoying the process of art!</p>	<p><u>PE:</u> Young people will be advancing their skills in invasion games. They will continue to work on skills such as passing, shooting, tackling and marking. Young people will be focusing on tactics, including creating and denying space and adapting strategies during gameplay. They will also strengthen their teamwork, communication, decision making and leadership skills to enable more competitive game play.</p> <p><u>Music:</u> This half term we will be developing our music theory - how to read music - by learning to play Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' on the keyboards. We will learn note names and lengths, where notes are on a staff and how this relates to the keyboard. We will learn the song to play as a duet and have a performance at the end.</p>	<p><u>MFL</u> In Spanish the young people will be focusing on Phonics and Core Vocabulary.</p> <p>Looking at their phonics, whilst focusing on nouns and adjectives which help the students communicate with their peers, using Spanish knowledge that they have learnt.</p> <p><u>RE</u> RE young people will focus on " How do Christians see the kingdom of God"</p>