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Dear Parents

### **Parents of Pupils in Year 9**

I thought that you might like to know some details about what your child will be studying during the spring term. A brief summary follows:

#### **Art**

This term pupils will be developing their work on descriptive characters into completing a 3D cardboard construction character. They will experiment with a multitude of materials and techniques to decorate their characters.

#### **Biology**

The pupils will continue to follow topics from the new GCSE specification. They start by studying the structure of the digestive system. We then move on to look at enzymes and how they work. In the second half term we will look at the heart being part of the circulatory system and the transport of substances in plants.

#### **Chemistry**

The pupils will use their knowledge of atoms and electrons to predict the type of bonding in compounds and try to explain how these compounds would react with each other. Pupils then develop their ability to form and balance chemical equations. In the second term we will be applying our knowledge of the types of bonding to predict the properties in a range of products.

#### **Computing**

Year 9 will be studying some of the issues of cyber security. Data is big business so protecting that data is essential. We will look at what companies who hold our data can do to protect it as well as what they do with it and how companies can build an accurate picture of us without ever having met us.

#### **English**

In the first half term pupils will re-visit English Language Paper One, which will be the focus of their summer exam. In the second half term pupils will study the GCSE English Literature play 'An Inspector Calls'. Pupils will complete a timed GCSE paper for both topic areas at the end of each half term.

## **French**

The pupils will study the following topics: learning how to talk about Facebook; expressing opinions about other people; arranging to go out; and describing a date and a musical event. Pupils will also be introduced to direct object pronouns and will revise all three tenses.

## **Geography**

Pupils will continue to study the first topic in the GCSE specification, 'Natural Hazards'. They will complete the tectonic hazards element with a focus on comparing the effects of earthquakes in countries of contrasting wealth. They will then start to study the weather hazards part of this unit where they will learn about global atmospheric circulation, tropical storms and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

## **German**

Pupils will follow topics from the GCSE specification. During the spring term we will look at identity and culture. In this unit we will focus on relationships with family and friends, marriage and partnerships. Through these themes pupils will be encouraged to use a variety of tenses and more complex structures to talk about their own personal views and experiences. Opportunities will be given to read more challenging texts with the aim of developing comprehension skills.

## **History**

Pupils continue to study elements of 20th Century history. Our study of World War One is brought to a close. We will look at how and why the war ended, and the arguments over the subsequent Treaty of Versailles Peace Treaty. We will then look at the rise of Hitler and take a look at certain features of life in Nazi Germany. We continue our focus on history skills such as source analysis and communication.

## **Computing**

This term we will learn the basics of web development. Pupils will learn about HTML and CSS and will design and create a website using Microsoft Expression.

## **Maths**

Pupils in both sets will study percentages by looking at multipliers, percentage change, reverse percentages and compound interest. Work on perimeter and area will cover common 2D shapes with a greater emphasis on circles, arcs and sectors. From the algebra strand, pupils will have their first introduction to simultaneous equations. In addition to these topics, set one will also learn and apply the laws of indices, and study similarity and congruence.

## **Music**

Pupils will learn how to vary a melody by changing aspects of its rhythm, pitch and accompaniment. They will listen to military band music by Gustav Holst that is composed making use of these techniques. An Oscar-winning film theme will be used as another way of structuring a longer melody. Pupils will sing in a variety of popular styles and also learn some musical pieces in preparation for our Christmas events.

## **Physics**

We continue with the GCSE specification. The focus this term will be on methods of thermal energy transfer, specific heat capacity and how to insulate buildings. Pupils will also complete a number of required practical activities which are part of the GCSE specification. In the latter part of the term pupils will study energy resources and their uses.

## **Religious Studies**

Pupils will be examining the questions: 'Why is there suffering? Are there any good solutions?' They will explore this question from a Christian, Buddhist and non-religious perspective. In the

assessment this term pupils will consider and evaluate how far religious answers to the question of suffering are universally useful.

### **Spanish**

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the spring term: Going on holiday; describing events in the past; talking about what you did when you were younger and talking about days out. Within these contexts we will use a variety of present, past and future tenses. The Past Simple tense and the Imperfect tense will be studied in more detail.

### **Design Technology**

Year 9 will complete the unit covering electricity and electronics. They will relate technical knowledge to the practical project that was completed last term. Pupils will then turn their attention towards promotion and packaging in readiness for Year 10. Pupils will be encouraged to use their creativity as well as taught skills, to repackage and promote a range of products, where creativity and finished quality will be highly valued and rewarded.

### **Boys' Physical Education**

Pupils will be given the opportunity to play hockey, rugby and badminton. The aim within these games lessons will be to refine skills taught in the previous academic year and to engage in activities with an enhanced level of understanding. During single PE lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work involving hockey, basketball and health related fitness.

### **Girls' Physical Education**

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Spring term. Pupils will be given the opportunity to play hockey and netball, aiming to refine skills taught in the previous academic year and to engage in activities with an enhanced level of understanding. Taster activity sessions in squash and football will also be included as part of the programme. During single P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work including basketball and badminton.

### **PHSE**

Pupils will focus on the core theme 'Living in the Wider World. They will explore identify skills and qualities needed for employment, research careers and consider their GCSE options choices.

I hope that this information will be useful to you so that you might support your child in their studies.

Yours sincerely



Lara Roberts  
Head of Teaching & Learning