



**RED HOUSE  
SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents

### **Year 9 Curriculum Information: Autumn Term 2021**

Welcome back to another school year. I thought that you might like to know some details about what your child will be studying during the autumn term. A brief summary follows:

#### **Art**

Pupil will begin the year by studying Surrealism. They will broaden their understanding of Art Movements and how they are connected to political and cultural movements around the world. Pupils will learn and research the main artists and themes behind Surrealism before developing their own Surrealism style portrait using digital editing techniques.

#### **Biology**

The pupils will follow topics from the new GCSE specification. They start by studying plant and animal cells and looking at the similarities and differences, they will then move on to study specialised cells. We will look at the microscope and how it is used in Biology. Following on from this we will look at diffusion and osmosis. Assessments will be taken at the end of each topic.

#### **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 half of the term we will be applying our knowledge of the types of bonding to predict the properties in a range of products. This is chapter 1, 2 and 3 in their textbooks. To enhance their understanding pupils should independently use the workbook and revision guide provided. Pupils will sit an assessment in November and end of topic assessments during the course.

#### **Computing**

In the first half term Year 9 will learn about computer game development. We will create basic platform games and learn about how to make a game interesting and how to keep the player involved. In the second half term we will follow the Duke of York iDEA award.

The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) is an international programme aiming to help address the digital skills gap. The programme provides digital skills education in the form of engaging online modules (badges). The iDEA curriculum has been curated to help inspire people all over the world to become Digital Citizens, Workers, Makers, Entrepreneurs and Gamers to enhance their employability, and also to help them become economically active. We will aim to complete the Bronze award.

#### **English Language & Literature**

In the first half term pupils will begin their GCSE English Literature studies by reading a challenging novella, or collection of short stories, with a view to producing a written essay under test conditions. In the second half term pupils will complete a unit of work titled 'An Introduction to Shakespeare'. This will introduce pupils to Shakespeare, the time in which he lived and the different plays and poetry he wrote. Assessment this half term will be research based and culminate in a presentation.

## **French**

This term pupils will study the themes of transport, entertainment, advertising and new technology. They will revise the present tense, the perfect tense, comparatives, superlatives and adjectives. They will also be introduced to direct object pronouns and impersonal structures.

## **Geography**

Pupils will study topics that form part of the GCSE course and will be introduced to the level of knowledge and skills required at Key Stage 4. Starting with 'The Challenge of Natural Hazards', they will begin by studying the causes, effects and responses to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. A written assessment will take place after half term.

## **German**

During this term pupils will focus on the topics of role models and music. Through these themes they will be encouraged to use a variety of tenses and more complex structures to talk about their own feelings and experiences. Opportunities will be given to read more challenging texts and also recognise differences in register. End of unit assessments will take place every half term covering all skill areas.

## **History**

We will start by looking at the suffragette campaign in Britain, including the life and death of Emily Wilding Davison. We then move onto the causes of the First World War and look at the early stages of the war. We will study trench warfare on the Western Front. We also look at life on the home front, conscientious objectors and the role of women in the war. We aim to be studying the end of the war by the end of the term. There will be further emphasis on history skills such as source analysis and communication.

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## **Maths**

Pupils begin their GCSE course this term. The year will begin with a review of key skills in both number and algebra, ensuring pupils have the secure base on which to develop new learning. Pupils will study bearings, maps and scales, and equations of parallel and perpendicular graphs. Within the statistics module pupils will look at more complex methods for displaying data, including box plots, cumulative frequency diagrams and histograms. Assessments will take place at the end of each half term.

## **Music**

Pupils will learn how to vary a melody by changing aspects of its rhythm, pitch and accompaniment. They will hear military band music that makes use of these techniques. An Oscar-winning film theme will be studied as another way of structuring a longer melody. Pupils also focus on music from the Caribbean. Some time will be given to learning songs for the Christmas events and this year's production.

## **Physics**

We start the GCSE Physics course this term. The topics covered will focus on energy stores and transfers, with the main emphasis on understanding the principle of conservation of energy. Pupils will also compare the value of energy stores using equations. Later in the term pupils will study thermal energy transfer in more depth. They will also complete some of the associated required practical activities that are a core aspect of the GCSE specification. Pupils can continue to use Seneca Learning to support their work, following the GCSE AQA course. They will also be offered a CGP revision guide and workbook. Pupils will sit an assessment in November and end of topic assessments during the course.

### **Religious Studies**

Year 9 will explore the question 'What is religion?'. They will study different human science approaches to this question and will be introduced to a social science view of religion from curriculum areas such as anthropology, psychology and sociology. An assessment will take place after half term.

### **Spanish**

Pupils will cover the following topics throughout the autumn term: Transport; Holidays; Technology & The Internet; TV & Cinema. We will review and consolidate the present and the future tense and introduce the past simple and imperfect tenses. Listening, reading & writing assessments will take place mid-November.

### **Design Technology**

Year 9 will complete their introduction to different 3D drawing styles, this time by drawing using an orthographic technique. They will draw increasingly complex shapes and develop these to show features such as hidden details and screw threads. Towards the end of term, pupils will then turn their attention towards promotional 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 existing products, where creativity and finished quality will be highly valued and rewarded. Assessments will take the form of 'end of unit tests' and be undertaken in the DT classroom.

### **Boys' Physical Education**

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Autumn Term and the main focus in games will be rugby. The aim within these 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 P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work involving basketball and health related fitness.

### **Girls' Physical Education**

A range of sporting activities will be covered in the Autumn Term. Pupils will be given the opportunity to play hockey, netball and football. 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 P.E. lessons, pupils will be involved in smaller units of work involving basketball and health related fitness.

### **PHSE**

Pupils will examine the topic of 'Health & Well-being' focusing on managing mental and emotional health, contraception, the importance of exercise, body image, basic first aid, substance misuse, cancer and cancer prevention.

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

Kind regards



**Lara Roberts**

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