

AUTUMN TERM, 2025

YEAR 9 NEWSLETTER 1



YEAR TEAM MESSAGE

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your families had a wonderful and restful summer break.

As we enter the first few weeks of the term, I am pleased to share that our Year 9 students have returned to school with a strong sense of focus and enthusiasm. They have settled in quickly, demonstrating great engagement in their lessons and a real commitment to their studies. It's wonderful to see them starting the year with such determination.

Later in the year, students will begin the important process of selecting their options for Key Stage 4. This is a significant decision in their academic journey, and we are committed to guiding them through this process to ensure they make informed choices based on their strengths and interests. We will be providing plenty of support and advice, and I encourage you to have open conversations with your child to help them make the best decisions for their future.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that Year 9 is a year of growth, achievement, and success for all our students.

Mr Patrick, Miss Tatters and the Tutor Team

KEY DATES

- Monday 6th - Friday 17th Oct: Synoptic Assessments 1
- Friday 14th Nov: Staff Training Day
- Monday 24th Nov: Progress Report 1
- Thursday 4th December: Parents Evening
- Thursday 29th January: Options Evening
- Friday 6h March: Dimensions Day
- Monday 20th April - Friday 1st May: Synoptic Assessments 2
- Monday 15th June: Progress Report 2
- Friday 26th June: Staff Training Day



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WHAT WILL YEAR 9 STUDY THIS TERM?

English: Students are exploring the genre of Crime and Detective Fiction. They are understanding the conventions by looking at various extracts and will eventually apply these conventions to their own piece of imaginative writing.

Maths: Students will use prime factorisation and Venn diagrams to problem solve, students will organise and interpret data using frequency trees. Students will also develop fluency with powers, roots, and surds by applying index laws.

Science: Students will be establishing the fundamental principles and skills taught last year, beginning with deepening their understanding of microbiology, Earth and our atmosphere, as well as forces and energy.

Art: Our theme this term is Architecture. Students will begin this project by looking at the work of Ian Murphy and developing skills in observational drawing and explore a variety of making techniques.

Computing: Students are developing their Python programming skills using Turing Lab's Farmbot and exploring digital forensics through an e-safety case study on a fictional missing girl.

Design Technology: Students will begin the term focusing on Textiles Technology and will explore the theme of Maps. They will develop their practical based skills through mixed media and embroidery design techniques.

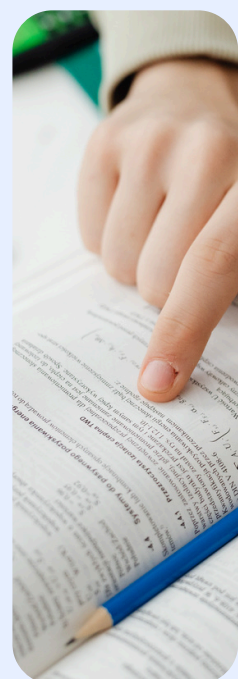
Drama: We will be exploring the genre Theatre in Education, developing further knowledge of key drama techniques to support devising work.

French: Our topic is School and students will learn about the French education system. We will practice vocabulary and grammar developing all four skills; reading, listening, speaking and writing. We will also revise Family and Region.

Geography: We will explore India and Natural Hazards, linking human and physical processes to real world examples.

Health Education: Students will focus on Online Safety, they will identify key features of blackmail and grooming online, understand the impact it can have, and the support available.

History: Students will be studying the reasons for the rise of Fascism in Germany, Italy and Spain as well as the consequences of those political regimes. The concept behind this is that students can then link the similarities within the three dictatorships.



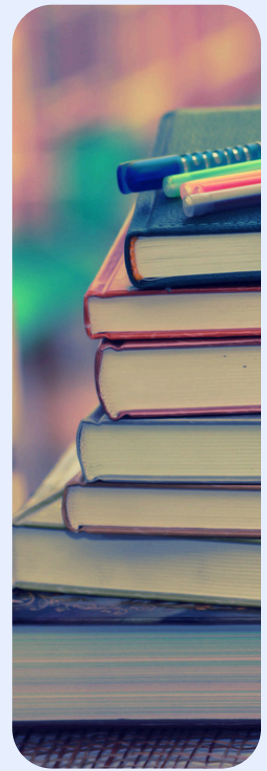
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Music: Students will explore different musical genres using key knowledge to develop their own compositions in their chosen style.

Physical Education: Students will be taking part in team sports with a focus on Rugby, Netball, Football and Basketball as well as Orienteering and Leadership Activities, Fitness and Dance.

Religious Education: Students will explore the concept of covenant in Judaism, examining how it influences the interpretation of sacred texts and shapes ethical decision-making.

Spanish: Our topic is Family Relationships and will practice vocabulary and grammar developing all four skills; reading, listening, speaking and writing. We will also revisit topics of Free Time & Hobbies (Y8) and Town & Family (Y7).



YEAR 9 SYNOPTIC ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Year 9 students will be taking synoptic assessments in all subjects between Monday 6th - Friday 17th October. These assessments are designed to evaluate students' understanding of the key content taught throughout Key Stage 3, content that is essential as they progress into Key Stage 4.

The results of these assessments will be shared with you as part of your child's first progress report (24th November) . For each subject, this report will include their assessment score out of 40, an average assessment score for students with a similar starting point for comparison, a subject-specific target for improvement and their effort score.

These assessments will help us as a school to identify any gaps in learning and provide targeted support to ensure every student is well-prepared for the next stage of their education.

To support students in preparing for these assessments, teachers will post on ClassCharts the dates of both the revision lessons and the assessments.

Revision materials will also be shared with students via ClassCharts.



PARENT SURVEY FORM

Our partnership with parents and carers is very important to us and we value your input into continuing school improvement. Please complete the 2025/26 Parent Survey using the QR code or via <https://tinyurl.com/v7bje9>





24/25 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The School library opening hours are:

Monday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Tuesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Wednesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Thursday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Friday: 8.00am - 4pm

Students can attend Book Club and/or Manga Club which run weekly, use the facility for independent study or home learning. Also, look out for themed events throughout the year!



HARRY POTTER THEMED EVENT



EXTRA CURRICULAR

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Half Term 1 Timetable:

Monday: Boy's Football

Monday: Netball

Wednesday: Basketball

Thursday: Girl's Football

All clubs run from 3:00 - 4:00pm. For more information speak to Mr O'Dea.

YOUNG CIVIC AWARD

We will be launching the Young Civic Award this term with Year 9. If your child is interested and wants to be involved they should speak to their Form Tutor.

The Young Civic Award:

- gives a sense of achievement
- builds confidence
- increases skill levels in your chosen activities



NEW SCHOOL COURTYARD

