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# Year 9 Curriculum Information Booklet

## Pentecost Term 2024



# Faculty of RE, Geography and History

## Religious Education:

Pupils will continue studying GCSE Edexcel Religious Studies course. They will first study Judaism: Beliefs and Teachings from Paper 2. This will include the following aspects:

- The Almighty
- The Shekinah
- The Covenant with Abraham
- The Covenant at Sinai with Moses
- The Sanctity of Life and Pikuach Nefesh
- Jewish beliefs about the afterlife

In the second half term, pupils will continue paper 2. They will complete Judaism beliefs and Practices. The unit will include the following aspects:

- Key Jewish texts: The Tenakh and the Talmud
- Key Jewish prayers: The Shema and the Amidah
- Rituals and Ceremonies
- Key Festivals, including Shabbat.
- Places of Worship: The synagogue

## Geography:

Students start the term by studying deserts. They investigate the challenges and opportunities that deserts present. In addition they study how animals/plants adapt to this extreme environment and the problem of desertification.

After half term, students revisit the topic of resources (from Year 7) and consider food, water and energy provision in the UK. They then focus on how to improve food resources at a global scale.

## History:

This half term, Year 9 will be starting a new unit, Conflict and Tension in Asia 1945 – 1975, as part of the AQA specification. This will explore how the origins of the Cold War led to physical fighting within Asia. They will firstly look at Korea and how it came to be divided today, before looking at Vietnam and the involvement of America in a full scale conflict. This topic has a lot of cross over with the American unit that they have just completed.

Independent learning will be based on consolidating and acquiring new knowledge to deepen their understanding in lessons. Some of these tasks will reflect back to their previous unit on America 1920-1975. A detailed schedule of students' home learning can be found on [itslearning](#).

## Faculty of Languages

### English:

During the Pentecost term, there will be a specific focus on viewpoints and perspectives through the classical novel, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell in preparation for the GCSE specification for English Language and Literature study. As an introduction, rhetoric will be explored through various speeches made by the characters. The emphasis will be on developing the skills and confidence of the students to offer a personal response based on imaginative interpretation and careful analysis of the language and techniques that writers use to create meaning. In the second half of the term, they will be exploring the text in detail. They will consolidate key skills required in the analysis of the text and explore character and thematic development. Through this unit of work, students will be introduced to exploring the writer's intention in creating meaning.

### Languages:

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

Between now and the end of Year 11, students will be learning and practising the language they will need to perform well in their exams. At home, you can help your child to embed their learning by testing vocabulary, whether formally, or at other times such as when in the car. The more often students practise, even if in short bursts, the more confident they will become! Your child will be using 'Language Gym' to help them learn key vocabulary. Please do check that your child has created a free account and has joined their class group.

#### **What will your child be learning?**

This term Year 9 students will be talking about holidays, including destinations, travel, accommodation and possible activities. They will learn more about verbs in different tenses and using time phrases. Finally, they will learn how to describe their ideal holiday. Pupils will have a listening and reading assessment later in the term to show what they have learnt this year, based on all the topics that have been studied since September.

# Faculty of Mathematics and Science

## Biology

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Specification:** Gateway Suite of Sciences A

**Qualifications:** GCSE Biology, GCSE Combined Science

**Head of Biology:** Samantha Jones, email address [Samantha.Jones@stpauls.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.Jones@stpauls.org.uk)

**How can I find out more?** [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk) We follow the Gateway Suite of Sciences.

Topic	Topic	Incorporating Lessons on...
<b>B2 Scaling Up</b>	B2.1 Supplying the cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport through cells</li><li>• Mitosis and Meiosis</li><li>• The cell cycle</li><li>• Specialised vs Stem cells</li></ul>
	B2.2 The challenges of size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Size of cells and SA:Vol ratio</li><li>• Blood vessels</li><li>• The Heart</li><li>• The Heart and Double Circulation</li><li>• Components of blood</li><li>• Plant specialised cells</li><li>• Transpiration and translocation</li></ul>

## Chemistry

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Specification:** Gateway Suite of Sciences A

**Qualifications:** GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Combined Science

**Head of Chemistry:** Naomi De Steunder, email address [Naomi.DeSteunder@stpauls.org.uk](mailto:Naomi.DeSteunder@stpauls.org.uk)

**How can I find out more?** [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk) We follow the Gateway Suite of Sciences.

Topic	Incorporating Lessons on...
<b>C4: The Periodic Table</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical and chemical properties of the group 1, 7 and 0 elements.</li><li>• Properties of the transition metals (Separate Science only).</li><li>• Reactivity of metals.</li></ul>

<b>C3: Chemical Reactions and Equations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing the chemical formulae of elements and simple compounds.</li> <li>• Conservation of mass and balancing chemical equations.</li> <li>• Ionic equations and half equations.</li> </ul>

## Physics

Course title: OCR Gateway Physics A

Head of physics: Naadu Lawson, email address [Naadu.Lawson@st-pauls.org.uk](mailto:Naadu.Lawson@st-pauls.org.uk)

	Module Contents	Assessment Points in Lessons
<b>P3: Electricity and Magnetism</b>	<p><b>1. Simple circuits</b> You will be introduced to the measurement of conventional current and potential difference in circuits. You will develop a fundamental understanding of how to assemble series and parallel circuits and of how they differ with respect to conventional current and potential difference.</p> <p><b>2. Magnets and Magnetic fields</b> Having an understanding of how charge can be generated and its effects, you will now consider the link between movement of charge and magnetism. To begin, you will investigate magnets and magnetic fields around magnets and current-carrying wires.</p> <p><b>3. Powering the Earth</b> This topic explores the production of electricity. Consideration will be given to the use of non-renewable and renewable sources and the problems that are faced in the efficient transportation of electricity to homes and businesses. Safe use of electricity</p>	<p><b>You will sit a six mark question and a multiple choice quiz each half term to assess your understanding of the content covered in lessons. These assessments will be synoptic, including previous content covered.</b></p> <p><b>Your practical skills will be assessed in Practical Assessment Group tasks, completed in lessons. You will also be given examination questions based on the practical's you conduct in order to assess your understanding. These may happen more often than once per half term</b></p>

	in the home will also be covered in this topic	
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## Mathematics:

In the Pentecost term, Year 9 will be studying Maths in the contexts of Expressive Arts, PE and Magic. These will include topics from the following range:

- Number Tricks in Magic to allow students to see algebra and number rules being applied and to apply them themselves.
- Sport where we analyse and use graphs.
- Mathematics of Design
- How artists use Mathematics in their work

Short assessments for this year group will take place at the end of each module. These will take place in the classroom. The pupils will also have an examination-style assessment at the beginning of the term in the classroom.

Some websites which may be of interest in helping them to further develop their understanding:

- ItsLearning
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize)
- [www.mathswatch.co.uk](http://www.mathswatch.co.uk)
- [www.connect.collins.co.uk](http://www.connect.collins.co.uk)
- [www.mathsbot.com](http://www.mathsbot.com)
- [www.corbettmaths.com](http://www.corbettmaths.com)

# 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. They can only study one of the subject areas already covered in Year 7 and Year 8. This allows pupils to achieve a depth of knowledge, understanding and a wide ranging skill base in preparation for study towards GCSE D&T, GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition or OCR National (Engineering Design/Manufacture) in their subject area.

As in previous years all Design and Technology courses are based around the principals of Designing.



1. CAD/CAM with Electronics.
2. Food Preparation and Nutrition.
3. Graphics.
4. Engineering Design
5. Engineering Manufacture
6. Textiles, Fibres and Fabrics
7. Timber, Metals and Polymers.

## Computer Science

### **Networks and programming project**

During this unit, pupils will learn the importance of Networks in today's world. They will learn the fundamentals of Networks which include:

- What a Network is.
- Different types of Networks. LAN vs WAN vs Peer to Peer vs Client server
- Hardware needed to set up a network.
- Factors that affect network performance
- Network topologies – star vs mesh.
- Encryption
- Threats and security on a network and how to overcome them.
- Common Network Protocols (for example TCP/IP, FTP, IMAP)

These lessons will also review and revise topics covered earlier in the year. In the summer term a small programming project will be undertaken to consolidate the programming and problem solving skills developed earlier in the year.

All resources will be on itslearning and so can be accessed at home as well as in school. If a student misses the lesson they can easily catch up through itslearning.



## Faculty of Expressive Arts

### Art:

This term Year 9 will be working on an extended unit that explores the work of the contemporary artist Christopher Meecham. Developing ideas and skills will be explored using a range of materials. This will prepare students for their GCSE portfolio where the expectation is to work on sustained projects. Students will continue to broaden their knowledge of Art History as well as increasing their understanding of techniques and processes.

### Drama:

Pupils in Year 9 will be continuing their exploration of live theatre and will be exploring the play *Noughts and Crosses* in a practical, creative and collaborative way. They will be applying stylistic and established techniques to the text whilst also learning lines and highlighting key themes and ideas for an audience.

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

- Analysis and textual understanding
- Interpretation of theme, style and character
- Line learning and delivery
- Application of stylistic techniques to realistic text
- Flashbacks and cross cutting
- Physical theatre e.g. chair duets, mirroring and leader/follower
- Evaluation of their own work and the work of others
- Writing as a director and a performer

### Music:

**Term 1:** In the first half of the Pentecost term, students will continue to study Baroque period music, with the focus on Bach's famous work, *Badinerie*. Students will further develop their understanding of the history of music through listening, composing and performing. Students will have the opportunity to use software such as Sibelius, GarageBand and Logic Pro.

**Term 2:** In the second half of the Pentecost term, students will focus on Film Music. They will become familiar with famous film soundtracks and composers and will compose, perform and arrange pieces of film music.

## Physical Education:

During the Pentecost term the pupils will follow a programme of study which will include team games, as well as athletics and striking and fielding. Throughout Key Stage 3 the pupils will work in mixed and single gender groups to develop their communication, thinking, analysis and evaluation skills. During Year 9, students focus on developing three key concepts through their PE lessons, these include Competence, Determination and Knowledge and Understanding. Within physical education, the pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal organisation, perseverance and development of care and concern for others.

This term there will be lots of different opportunities for the students to extend their skills outside normal school hours, through the extra-curricular programme which includes athletics, cricket, softball and rounders. Inter form fixtures also take place through the Burditt Cup Inter-form Competition which includes rounders, cricket and softball and our annual sports day.

All pupils should be encouraged to attend at least one club session in at least one sport.

For those pupils who have chosen PE in year 9 they will have an extra triple lesson per week. If they are studying GCSE PE they will focus on both the theory and practical content, which is assessed 70% theory and coursework and 30% practical sport. The theory aspect of the course will cover anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, the respiratory and cardiovascular systems as well as training and fitness and contemporary issues. The other option is the vocational course, OCR Sports Studies, which consists of coursework units, a sports leadership unit (practical) and a practical unit in a sport of their choice, a unit of sports media and external examination on contemporary issues in sport which is worth 25%.