



## **Year 9 Subject Descriptions**

### **Art**

The students have been studying Surrealism and Still life and are currently working on a Machinery unit focussing on the experimentation of a variety of media. The students are working towards a final mixed media composition. The work studied introduces the students to the GCSE in Art and Design.

### **Business Studies**

Students have been studying three core units of work; two in test format and one in coursework format. The first test paper (Business and People) focuses on developing their knowledge of the different types of business, their stakeholders and the recruitment process. The second unit (Production, Finance and the External Business Environment) focuses on different production techniques and the finances of a business. The coursework unit (marketing and enterprise) allows pupils to undertake different types of market research and develop their understanding of enterprise.

### **Drama**

The curriculum at KS3 is workshop based. The students are taught skills and drama techniques that are essential for furthering their studies at GCSE and beyond. In Year 9, students learn how to master improvisation skills, study a pre GCSE play text and consider various theatrical styles. As well as this, Year 9 Drama dedicates a lot of time to the development of literacy skills. Students are taught how to recognise a range of options for action and reach an agreement to achieve aims within a group. Students learn how to speak confidently in front of an audience with great clarity showing an accurate understanding of the ideas under discussion. KS3 Drama at The John Frost School enables students to express their feelings and opinions to others during class discussions using extensive dramatic vocabulary.

### **English**

The English National Curriculum revolves around Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. This year pupils have studied a variety of texts, including novels, poetry and non-fiction. They have also studied a Shakespeare play.

### **French**

This year students have been provided with opportunities to practise and develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing and to extend their knowledge of grammatical structures. They have studied a variety of topics including: describing their personal interests, future plans and health. They have been introduced to both the past and future tenses.

### **Games**

Students have had the opportunity to take part in various activities and sports including dragon multi skills, rugby, netball, football, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, dance, swimming, athletics, striking games and health-related exercise. Students have been encouraged to develop wider skills such as leadership, working with others and communication through these practical activities.

### **Geography**

Year 9 Geography students will follow three themes as part of the geography curriculum. During the Autumn Term, students have completed various skills-based lessons based upon climatic change and tectonic hazards. Students will discover the science beneath our feet and the impacts of human activity on our environment. The Spring Term will involve the study of crime in our local and national areas, assessing the impacts and solutions to such social problems. The Summer Term will allow the students to submerge themselves in the study of coastal landscapes and erosion processes. All topics will build upon the student's ability to: explain, problem solve, analyse, examine and justify opinions and geographical concepts. An independent project has been produced as an introduction to GCSE level coursework.

### **History**

Students have been studying aspects of life in Britain at the time of the Industrial Revolution; they have looked at the issues of Chartism, poverty and social conditions and have also undertaken an in depth study of the murders of Jack the Ripper. Students then studied the First World War. This included the causes of the war, conditions in the trenches and life on the Home Front.

### **ICT**

Year 9 students follow a project, as manager of a band, which includes: preparing financial spreadsheets, a database of members and design/production of promotional materials, some of which are adapted for an alternative audience. The project culminates with the creation of a multimedia advert. Students will complete the Key Stage 3 curriculum this year.

### **Maths**

Students have studied topics relating to the WJEC Mathematics and WJEC Mathematics Numeracy linear specifications. Two external examinations will be sat in Year 11; progress will be assessed prior to this through a series of internal tests and mock examinations. Over the course of the year, students will have covered work across all four main strands of the subject, i.e. Number; Algebra; Shape, Space and Measures; and Data Handling.

## **Music**

Developing our students into independent, conscientious learners is a key aspect of Year 9 Music lessons. The Music curriculum in Year 9 focuses on developing students' skills in performing, composing and appraising. Students complete several projects over the year, including a recorded performance, an arrangement of a song, a song composed entirely by themselves and a folder of listening exercises. Being able to work effectively both in a group and independently is essential. Students are encouraged to become stylish performers, produce coherent compositions and are trained to recognise the distinguishing characteristics of, and make critical judgements about, a variety of music.

## **Religious Studies**

We have considered religious codes of behaviour- Jewish, Christian and Buddhist and reflected on how our commitments affect the way we live. We have also examined Christian teaching about prejudice, referring in detail to Martin Luther King.

## **Science**

Pupils have continued to develop their scientific skills across the strands of planning, developing and reflecting. They have carried out a number of scientific investigations using GCSE subject knowledge such as rates of reactions. Pupils have now begun studying the core topics in biology, chemistry and physics GCSE in preparation for their Year 10 science exams.

## **Technology**

Students following a year 9 course in Design and Technology are studying two of the following modules in Resistant Materials, Systems and Control, Graphic Design, Food Technology or Textiles. Design and Technology allows students to develop skills and capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

## **Welsh**

Year 9 students have started their GCSE course. They have studied topics related to tourism within Wales. They have discussed their area, and facilities and events which take place in South Wales. They have been provided with opportunities to practise and develop their skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing and to extend their knowledge of grammatical structures.