



St Bernard's High School

Year 9

Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 2019



Welcome to our Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter. The departments that teach your daughter have contributed to the newsletter to give you information about what you can expect her to be studying this term at St Bernard's High School.

RE

Year 9 students will study the vocation of a priest and the Sacrament of Holy Orders including apostolic and monastic life reflecting on the different ways God calls humans to help others. They will also study the sacrament of marriage. Students will consider the reasons why people get married and the importance of marriage. Students will then study the meaning of morality, Christian morality and consider present moral issues. They will understand what is meant by conscience and know some people have acted according to their conscience.

English

LITERARY NON-FICTION: *Journeys*

In preparation for their GCSE English Language examinations, students will explore a range of travel writing, analysing and evaluating how effectively the writers use language and structure to convey their ideas. They will be assessed using an AQA GCSE English Language style question.

Students will then apply the range of techniques they have explored in their own extended descriptive response about a place or journey. This prepares them for the GCSE English Language Paper 1 writing question.

Maths

In Year 9, students start their GCSE studies and study a wide range of topics within the six areas of the GCSE Mathematics specification: Number, Algebra, Ratio, proportion and rates of change, Geometry and measures, Probability and Statistics. Problem solving is also an important aspect of their learning.

The topics studied by sets 1 and 2 include: transformations, constructions and loci, manipulating algebraic expressions, length, area and volume and linear graphs.

The topics studied by set 3 include: decimals and fractions, linear graphs, expressions and formulae and, ratio and proportion.

The topics studied by set 4 include: decimals and fractions, linear graphs, expressions and formulae and, ratio and proportion. In addition, students in set 4 are using the "Numeracy Ninjas" booklets as starter activities in lessons to help them develop their numeracy skills which are required in all areas of mathematics as well as in other subjects.

All students have login details for MyMaths and will be set homework on this website in addition to their written homework.

Students are tested at the end of each half term on the topics they have studied. Their teacher will tell them the date of the test and provide a revision list.

Sciences

Students study 2 units in the Spring Term: "Electric Circuits (Electromagnetism)" and "Air and Water (2)". Each unit is based on the first part of the section of the same name in the GCSE specification for **OCR GCSE Combined Science B** and the related specifications for separate Chemistry and Biology.

Assessment: Students will take a written test on each unit set in the final fortnight of the term.

Resources: Your daughter can find copies of worksheets and presentations used in class on the Sciences site of the VLE (<https://stbernardshighschool.sharepoint.com/sites/subjects/Sc/>) and/or in her online class notebook, which she can find via her class team on the VLE. All resources are organised by unit title.

GCSE Combined Science (OCR B) revision guides can be obtained from the school shop.

MFL – French

Unit 3: My career

Describing jobs, learning languages, saying what you used to do, discussing your future and your past, and talking about your job. Transcriptions, translations from and into English.

Grammar: agreement, modal verbs, the imperfect tense, future and imperfect tenses, using different tenses together)

Assessment: Reading - (Literary text), Writing + translations, Listening, Speaking

Unit 4: Holidays

Discussing holidays, imagining adventure holidays, talking about what you take with you on holiday, describing what happened on holiday, and visiting a tourist attraction. Transcriptions, translations from and into English.

Grammar: different types of questions, the conditional tense, reflexive verbs, combining different tenses, using emphatic pronouns.

Assessment: Reading - (Literary text), Writing + translations, Listening, Speaking

MFL – Italian

The order of the units follows the themes of the new GCSE.

Theme: Identity and culture

Unit 3- Spare time

Revising sports, saying how long I have been played my favourite sport, talking about the use of social media, describing what someone else does online, expressing opinions about books and reading, saying what I used to read and what I read now.

Grammar: Revising present tense, using comparatives, revising imperfect tense, using irregular verbs in the present tense.

Assessment: All skills.

Unit 4- Il cinema e la televisione.

Talking about TV programs, saying what are my favourite TV programs and explain why, talking about actors and movies, recommending movies to a friend.

Grammar: using superlatives, expressing opinions, using direct object pronoun.

Assessment: All skills

MFL- Spanish

Unit 3 – Keeping fit

This covers talking about diet, talking about an active lifestyle, talking about your daily routine, talking about getting fit and ailments. Transcription and translations from and into English.

Grammar: using direct object pronouns, using stem-changing verbs, using reflexive verbs and revising the imperative.

Assessment: All skills

Unit 4 – Young people in action

This covers talking about children's rights, talking about Fairtrade, talking about recycling, describing how a town has changed and reading about word issues. Transcription and translations from and into English.

Grammar: expressing your point of view, using the imperfect tense and using irregular verbs.

Assessment: All skills

Art

Year 9 will be completing their sculptures of their Surreal sea creatures that they designed during Term 1. They will be taking ideas from artists such as Edouard Martinet, Bailey Henderson and Huang Yong Ping and exploring the use of recycling in Art. On completion of this project, students will be investigating Street Art and using stencil printing skills.

Drama

Year 9 Drama students will be exploring a range of specific rehearsal techniques to aid the development of character. These techniques include hot-seating, Laban states and exploration of sub-text. The result of these rehearsal techniques will be an assessed performance of an extract from the play *Two* by Jim Cartwright in which students will demonstrate their ability to develop and sustain characterisation.

Food & Nutrition

Students learn about eggs; their uses and functions in cookery and in the diet, as well as considering the methods of production. They complete a design and make task related to foods around the world where they make a food product, of their own choice from their chosen country. On completion of this task they are awarded a Gold Award certificate.

Geography

The Spring Term begins with a unit on tropical rainforests (Unit 3.1.3, Section C - The Living World), which includes a visit to London Zoo. The latter part of the term deals with Development and Sustainability Issues. These global concerns are considered with particular reference to Low Income Countries and Newly Emerging Economies and cover different approaches to closing the development gap (Unit 3.2.2, Section B - The Changing Economic World).

History

Year 9 will start the Spring Term with a study of the First World War where they will learn about life in the Trenches, key battles and the legacy of war in European countries. The second half of the term will look at further conflict in the 20th century, including Communism, Fascism, WW2, Korea, Vietnam and Cuba.

Music

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLUES

Listening/Performing/Composing

Miles Davis All Blues

12 Bar chord sequence on the keyboard

Walking bass/Shuffle

Sibelius Blues composition piece

Assessment of Listening/Performing/Composing

FUSION

Assessment of Listening based on GCSE AOS 4

PE

The focus of the Year 9 Physical Education curriculum is 'Building aspirations and developing resilience'. During lessons, students will participate in a number of sports to develop this. In the Spring term, students will take part in Netball, Badminton, Dance, Athletics and Fitness. Alongside the development of skills and tactics in each of the sports, emphasis will also be placed on developing motivation, challenge and role models.

Furthermore, there is a wide range of extra-curricular clubs available to pupils so that they can further develop their skills in these sports. There are a number of exciting sporting competitions happening this term that through hard work in lessons and regular attendance to extra-curricular clubs, pupils might be selected to attend.

PSHE

Topics to be covered this term:

Preparation for making option choices

Healthy Relationships

Feminism

Nature of Parliament

Knife Crime

Resistant Materials & Graphic Communication

The scheme of work has been designed to introduce students to Graphic Design and to prepare and equip them with the appropriate knowledge and skills when asked to select their chosen Design & Technology subject for KS4.

A diverse range of skills and techniques, with a focus on typography have been learned thus far. These skills will now be developed further and applied through a range of differentiated, focussed tasks.

Students will work on a range of final outcomes ranging from: an analysis of the psychological and cultural implications of colour, the development of a charitable festival brand which will include a marketing campaign for a local community-based music/culture festival of their choice.

Textiles Technology

Students have chosen an art movement from a choice of Art Nouveau, Surrealism and Pop Art to inspire designing. Research has been carried out and a Mood board is made in order to explore the art of that period.

Students design aprons after making sketches of the art work incorporating applique and embroidery and will manufacture the aprons on sewing machines when the embellishment has been carried out. A more in-depth exploration of an artist's work is carried out by the writing of an essay combined with research into the career of that artist.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding the curriculum at St Bernard's High School, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bennett, Assistant Head Teacher.