



St Bernard's High School

Year 9

Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 2020



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

GCSE English Literature: AQA Anthology Poetry

Students are introduced to a range of poems, exploring the ways in which the poets use language, structure and form to convey their ideas about relationships. Students are explicitly taught how to deconstruct an unseen poem and how to write an extended analytical comparison of two poems.

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 during January of this term. Their teacher will tell them the date of the test and provide a revision list.

Science

Students study 2 units in the Spring Term: "Air and Water 1" and "Sustainable Energy". These are based on part of the unit "Air and Water" and the full unit "Sustainable Energy" in the GCSE specification for **OCR GCSE Combined Science B** and the related specifications for separate **Chemistry** and **Physics**. They also complete a project on "The Language of Measurement".

Homework: Students are expected to complete a daily homework task for approximately 15min using the **Tassomai** application. Other tasks will be set as required to support learning for a lesson.

Assessment: Each unit lasts approximately 5 weeks and students will take a written test on each unit set in the final week of the unit.

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.

*Revision guides for **GCSE Combined Science (OCR B)** and those for the related optional separate **Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE** courses 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- At home

Talking about your own home town, expressing opinions about your town or area, describing your house from outside and inside, saying what rooms there are in your house and saying where things are.

Grammar: Revising present tense of irregular verbs, using prepositions and revising the position of the adjectives.

Assessment: All skills

Unit 4- Everyday life.

Talking about what you do every day, saying what jobs you do in the house, revising times of the day and talking about setting the tables and mealtimes.

Grammar: revising reflexive verbs, asking questions and using the present tense of stare and the gerund.

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 students will be coming to the end of their Development topic studies, which included a case study of the China one child policy. The students will then begin their studies of the Antarctica topic. This will include studying the importance of Antarctica to scientists and their understanding of the Earth's atmosphere. They will also understand why Antarctica is so unique as a continent, as well as the threats that it faces from human activities.

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

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 in preparation for their chosen Design & Technology subject in 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.