



**CRGS
Year 8
Options Booklet
2026**

Introduction

In order that you can study some subjects in more depth in Year 9 we are asking you to choose 3 creative subjects and two languages to follow in Year 9. You should also talk to your parents/carers and teachers about the options available.

This booklet contains details of all the courses available to you. The details provided are correct at the time of printing.

Please also be aware that you may choose Fine Art and Textiles in Year 9 but would only be able to choose one of these for GCSE.

If you wish to study Art, Textiles or DT at GCSE you would need to study it in Year 9.

What are my options?

Creative subjects

You will choose 3 subjects from the following options list. Each subject will have 1 period per week for the whole year:

Art – Fine Art

Art – Textiles

Design Technology

Drama

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Music

Languages

You will choose 2 languages from the following list:

French

German

Spanish

You will also be asked to choose a reserve choice for each as we cannot guarantee your first choice due to timetabling constraints.

Choosing subjects

When making your choices, consider the following questions:

Do you enjoy the subject?

Students who enjoy their subjects tend to be the most successful. Remember that your decision should not be based on what your friends are choosing or who is currently teaching you – all that could change next year when there will be new teaching groups.

Do you need the subject?

Some of you may already have definite career plans. It is therefore essential that you choose your options to suit these paths. However, many of you will not have made decisions about your final choice of career so it is important that you keep your options open.

Who can advise me about my choices?

Advice

You should talk to your subject teachers and your form tutor. Miss Renold (Head of Main School) and Mrs Babb (Head of Year 8) will also be able to offer advice, as will Mr Keulemans (Headteacher), Mr Alcock (Assistant Headteacher, Main School), Miss Ashton (Senior Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Hoyle (Senior Assistant Headteacher).

Deadline for Choices

The deadline for handing your 'Provisional Statement of Choices' form to your tutor is Wednesday 25th February 2026. It is important that you meet this deadline so that we can start processing all the data and working out the best match possible.

Your final choice will be confirmed at the end of June.

FAQs

Will all of my choices be approved?

We cannot guarantee to meet all of your choices. Inevitably, due to timetabling constraints there will be a number of students who will have to study their reserve choice. Our aim is to establish the best possible fit for the whole year group. If we have to ask you to take up your reserve choice, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will discuss this with you.

Will I be able to change my options after I have completed the form?

Once we start to process all the forms it will become more difficult to change your options because the timetable will be under construction.

Art and Design – Fine Art

What will I study in Year 9?

This is an exciting course that allows you to develop your creative skills across a wide range of art disciplines including drawing, painting, three-dimensional design, mixed media and digital lens-based media (photography). You will explore new fun ways of working. You will discover new artists, and you will take inspiration from them and your work will reflect your own interests and artistic preferences. You are actively encouraged to take ownership of your work and progress it in the way that you want to.

What skills will I learn?

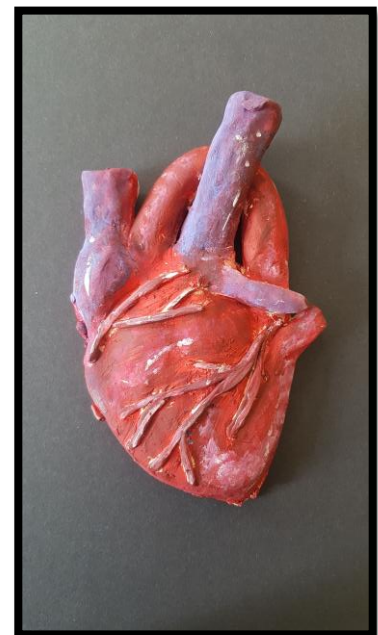
The course provides a strong basis for **GCSE Fine Art**. Art is an energetic practical subject which focusses on developing creativity and gives you the opportunity to create personal, meaningful work. In Year 9 you will experiment with a wide range of materials and techniques and in the process develop your creative skills. Art provides many transferable skills which will benefit your work in other curriculum areas; all projects will involve you in research, conceptual and creative thinking, problem solving and idea development. The course links to professions such as architecture, interior design, product design, stage set design, media, film and television, video game design and concept art as well as other professions that you might not expect to have links, such as science and medicine.

What type of person do I need to be to benefit from the course?

- A desire to be expressive
- An openness to new ideas
- An inquisitive, questioning mind
- An interest in developing a growth mind-set and divergent thinking skills (creative thinking)

The Year 9 Art course gives you a taste of what studying Art at GCSE is like.

If you would like more information on the Year 9 course, please see Mr Matthews, Head of Art.



Art and Design – Textile Design

Why choose Art – Textiles Design?

This subject provides an opportunity for students to fulfil their practical and creative potential with exciting and innovative end results through a variety of Textiles media. Art Textiles encourages students to think outside the box, using materials in ways that they would not necessarily imagine they could be used.

What will I study in year 9?

The schemes of work have been developed as a foundation course to prepare Year 9 students for **GCSE Art Textiles**. Throughout the year students will be introduced to a variety of themes exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes. Themes such as 'Wear your impact', 'Food glorious food' and Ugly Dolls and will be covered. Students will become more confident using sewing machines and other textile embellishment/manipulation techniques such as batik, printmaking, machine and hand embroidery, application of colour, fabric manipulation and many more.

Projects will be thematic, and students will have the opportunity to develop their own individual ideas based on primary and secondary research and will often refer directly to the work of other artists, designers and makers. They will also have the opportunity to work collaboratively as part of a team and there will be emphasis on drawing for purpose, similarly to fine art. Individuality is actively encouraged and a sense of ownership of work will be nurtured in students.

Taking this option will prepare you for continuing Art Textiles at GCSE level awarded by AQA. Experiences and skills learnt could be easily transferred into a variety of creative subjects and future career opportunities.

If you would like more information on the Year 9 course, please see Mrs Smith, the Art Textiles teacher.



WEAR YOUR IMPACT

UGLY DOLLS



Design and Technology

Why Design and Technology?

The ability to think creatively and to problem solve is an asset in many walks of life. This course will equip you to develop practical solutions to design problems using a range of techniques and processes. You will gain a firm grounding in design principles, which could potentially lead you towards further design-based education and ultimately a career in one of the numerous design or engineering fields. Careers include product design, architecture, graphic design and engineering.

What will I study in Year 9?

Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing, making and applying technical and practical expertise. You will be able to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment.

In Year 9 you will undertake a range of mini design and technology projects and short focus practical tasks. These would include but are not limited to the development of CAD skills and technical drawing skills, and the experimentation with a range of materials and processes; for example, a 'design and make' packaging, jewellery design and manufacture.

What skills do I need?

- * Creativity
- * Imagination
- * An enjoyment of designing and making
- * A desire to solve problems practically
- * An openness to new ideas



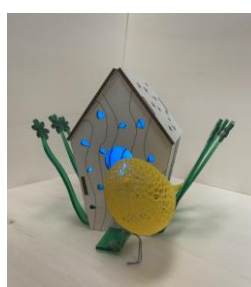
If I continued with this course in Year 10, what qualification does this course lead to?

This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Design and Technology awarded by AQA.

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

For further details please contact Mrs Starkie.

Please Note: Students can only take GCSE Design and Technology if they have studied Design and Technology in Year 9.



Drama

Why Study drama?

Do you want to learn performance skills, perform plays and devise your own pieces of theatre? Do you like to analyse and discuss acting performances you have seen from film or streamed theatre? Drama gives you the opportunity to do all of the above but it also equips you with highly employable communication and interpersonal skills; it will help you work as part of a team but it will also teach you how to be responsible for your own progress, to develop your self-discipline, to use your initiative and “think on your feet”.

What will I study in Year 9?

You will learn the vocal and physical acting skills to help you perform and a range of Dramatic techniques to help you practically realise your ideas. You will work on bringing a poem to life on stage, as well as creating and performing a devised piece on World War One. This will include writing your own letter from the front and performing this, as well as extracts of script.

In the second term we study Scripted acting and perform extracts from the play “Our Day Out”. This includes performing comedy improvisations based on school life and designing and creating your own puppets.

In the summer term we will devise pieces of drama using the context of a ‘Zombie Apocalypse.’ You will have the opportunity to develop your design skills in mask, make-up or costume. This will result in a piece of recorded performance where you will have the opportunity to use editing tools to create a movie trailer.

What skills do I need?

- Self-discipline
- Enthusiasm
- Imagination
- The ability to listen to your peers and work as a team
- A positive attitude
- The confidence to perform in front of your peers

If I continued with this course in Year 10, what qualification does this course lead to?

This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Drama awarded by AQA.

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

Speak to Mrs Richardson.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I study in Year 9?

The scheme of work has been developed as a foundation course to prepare Year 9 students for the new GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition. It is intended to be a practical and creative course which focuses on providing students with the necessary practical skills and nutritional knowledge they will need before commencing GCSE study and will also help develop them into independent workers who are able to make informed choices about their own health and well-being throughout their life.

The topics taught will link to the core topics delivered at GCSE which include Food, nutrition and health; Food science; Food safety; Food choice and Food provenance.

What skills will I learn?

The practical skills taught will include general practical skills such as preparing ingredients and equipment; weighing and measuring; knife skills; preparing fruit, vegetables and meat; using all elements of the cooker; using a variety of equipment; preparing, combining and shaping ingredients; making sauces; making dough; using raising agents and setting mixtures.

If I continued with this course in Year 10, what qualification does this course lead to?

This course leads to a GCSE qualification in Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

For further details please contact Mrs L Jones or Miss A Taylor.

Please Note: students can only take GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition if they have covered Food Preparation and Nutrition in Year 9.



Music

Why study Music?

Music nurtures creativity by offering numerous opportunities to write and perform while also stimulating the brain through the study of music theory and the fundamentals of how music works. It provides insights into diverse cultures from around the world and explores music's rich history. Choosing music in Year 9 will help you develop a range of valuable skills, including teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving, all of which will greatly benefit your future studies. Most importantly, music has the power to make us happier, more imaginative, and more inquisitive individuals.

Do I need to be able to play an instrument or have lessons?

No! All the skills you need to succeed in Year 9 music are covered in Years 7 and 8. Music is open to everyone, not just people having one-to-one music lessons.

What will I study in Year 9?

Year 9 Music lays a solid foundation for GCSE Music by focusing on the three main areas of KS4 musical study: performance, composition, and appraisal (listening to and analysing music). You will explore playing music in a variety of styles and on different instruments. Additionally, you will apply principles of music theory during composition lessons and begin building your understanding of key GCSE terms through dedicated theory lessons. There are 5 units we study across the year:

1. Pop Music
2. Song Writing
3. Composing
4. Solo Performances
5. Student Radio

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

Whether you want to find out more about Year 9 Music or are already considering GCSE Music, please do get in touch with Mr. Wheeler.



French



Many of you may have been to France on holiday and would like to know more about French life, French food, music, culture and language. Learning French will open up a wealth of opportunities both at home and abroad. It will increase your options, enable you to explore a greater variety of career paths and give you a potential advantage in the workplace. Most university courses now have links with France and give the opportunity for a study year abroad as part of the course, whatever the main subject.

Did you know?

- French is the only language other than English spoken on 5 continents.
- 125 million people in over 45 countries use French on a daily basis
- French and English are the only official languages of the United Nations, NATO, UNESCO, the European Community, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross...

The Year 9 Course

During Year 9 you will continue to study different topic areas and begin to gain the vocabulary and grammar skills which will help you at GCSE. The topic areas for study will include your hometown, school, holidays, food and going to restaurants as well as revisiting some of your previous information to help you to remember it.

Why might you consider opting for French in Year 9?

- Because you have enjoyed studying French in Year 8 and have gained a good understanding of the grammar covered and have been able to learn and use the new vocabulary
- Because you are interested in French life and feel that you are coping well with the language work.
- Because you are interested in taking part in the French Exchange to Perpignan in Year 10

What might studying French in Year 9 lead on to?

- You might decide to choose French as one of your options at GCSE
- At GCSE we study the AQA syllabus and continue to develop your Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing Skills.
- You will not be able to opt for French GCSE if you drop French in Year 9 because your language skills will no longer be sufficiently developed
- You might begin to consider a year studying abroad as part of a degree course. Did you know that you can now combine lots of different subjects like law, journalism and international business with a foreign language at almost all universities?

Other Information

French students will have the opportunity to take part in our French exchange to Perpignan, in the South of France. This brilliant and unique experience will enable you to not only practise speaking French but also to immerse yourself in the way of life and culture whilst staying in a welcoming family environment. Students who take part on this exchange always feel they have benefitted from the opportunity to use their French in an authentic French environment and often maintain their link with their partners for many years.

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

Madame Goudard (Head of MFL), Madame Banks, Madame Olek

German



Learning German is fun and rewarding. German will open up a wealth of opportunities both at home and abroad, extending your horizons and helping you become an excellent communicator. It will increase your options and enable you to explore a greater variety of career paths. Most university courses now have links with Germany and give the opportunity for a study year abroad as part of the course, whatever the main subject.

- Did you know that the German economy ranks number one in Europe, number four worldwide and that Germany is the world's second-largest exporter? Learning German could therefore give you a potential advantage in the workplace.

The Year 9 Course

During Year 9 you will continue to study different topic areas and begin to gain the vocabulary and grammar skills which will help you at GCSE. The topic areas for study will include describing holidays, where you live, using new technologies and role models. You will also be revisiting some of your previous information to help you to remember it.

Why might you consider opting for German in Year 9?

- Because you really enjoyed studying German in Years 7 & 8 and want to know more about life in Germany
- Because you gained a good understanding of the grammar covered and have been able to learn and use the new vocabulary
- Because you are interested in German life and feel that you are coping well with the language work.

What might studying German in Year 9 lead on to?

- You might decide to choose German as one of your options at GCSE
- At GCSE we study the AQA syllabus and we will study the topics of family and friends, free time, school and work and holidays and travel as well as continuing to develop your Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing skills in German.
- You will not be able to opt for German GCSE if you drop German in Year 9 because your language skills will not be sufficiently developed
- You might begin to consider a year studying abroad as part of a degree course. You can combine German with lots of other subjects like, law, international business, biochemistry and journalism at almost all universities.

Other Information

German students will have the opportunity to take part in our Year 10 exchange to Emsdetten, in northwest Germany. These unique experiences enable pupils to not only practise their spoken German but also to immerse themselves in the German way of life and culture whilst staying in a welcoming family environment. Students who take part on this exchange always feel they have benefitted from the opportunity to use their German in an authentic German environment and often maintain their link with their partners for many years.

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

Frau Goudard (Head of MFL), Frau Banks, Frau Gasser, Frau Buckley

Spanish



Learning Spanish is about much more than just learning the language. You will find out about Spanish life, the people, the music and the food. Learning Spanish will open up a wealth of opportunities both at home and abroad. It will broaden your horizons and increase your options, enabling you to explore a greater variety of career paths. Most university courses now have links with Spain and give the opportunity for a study year abroad as part of the course, whatever the main subject.

Did you know?

- With more than 330 million speakers it is the fourth most spoken language in the world.
- It is the mother tongue in more than 21 countries including most of South America.

The Year 9 Course

During Year 9 you will continue to study different topic areas such as hometown, hobbies, school and daily routine and begin to gain the vocabulary and grammar skills which will help you at GCSE. You will also be revisiting some of your previous information to help you to remember it.

Why might you consider opting for Spanish in Year 9?

- Because you really enjoyed studying Spanish in Year 7 & 8 and want to know more about life in Spain and South America
- Because you gained a good understanding of the grammar covered in Year 7 and 8 and have been able to learn and use the new vocabulary
- Because you are interested in Spanish life and feel that you are coping well with the language work.

What might studying Spanish in Year 9 lead on to?

- You might decide to choose Spanish as one of your options at GCSE
- At GCSE we study the AQA syllabus and we will study the topics of family and friends, free time, school and work and holidays and travel.
- You will not be able to opt for Spanish GCSE if you don't choose Spanish in Year 9 because your language skills will no longer be sufficiently developed
- You might begin to consider a year studying abroad as part of a degree course. You can combine Spanish with lots of other subjects like, law, international business and journalism at almost all universities.

Other Information

Spanish students will have the opportunity to take part in our Year 10 language trip to Spain. This unique experience will enable pupils not only to practise speaking Spanish but also to discover more about the culture and the country.

Who should I see if I have any questions or would like more information?

Señora Goudard (Head of MFL), Señora Banks, Señora Humphreys, Señora Pinedo-Garcia, Señora Cancelliere

Year 8 Provisional Statement of Choices Form

Surname: _____

First Names: _____

Tutor Group: _____

PLEASE NOTE: if you wish to study any subject at GCSE put it as *PRIORITY 1*

<u>Section A – 3 Creative subjects</u>	
Please put numbers in the boxes to indicate your priority for which Creative subjects you would like to follow. E.g. 1 = top priority then 2 etc. 4 = your reserve	
Art – Fine Art	
Art - Textiles	
Design Technology	
Drama	
Food Preparation and Nutrition	
Music	

<u>Section B – 2 Languages</u>	
Please put numbers in the boxes to indicate your priority for which Creative subjects you would like to follow. E.g. 1 = top priority then 2 etc. 3 = your reserve	
French	
German	
Spanish	

We will send you an online form to complete, to make your choices.