

Year 8

Options Assembly





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.

The booklet emailed to you contains details of all the courses available to you.

Some of the subjects you decide not to follow in Year 9 will not be available to you when you make your GCSE choices in February of Year 9.



Choosing subjects

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.



Languages

Each subject will have 3 periods per fortnight for the whole year.
You will choose 2 languages from the following list:

French

German

Spanish

Your language teachers will tell you more about these subjects in your lessons.



Creative subjects

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

Art – Fine Art (more information in your Art lessons)

Art – Textiles (Mrs Smith will speak to you about it in assembly today).

Design Technology (Mrs Starkie will speak to you about it in assembly today).

Drama (more information in your Drama lessons)

Music (more information in your Music lessons)

Food Preparation and Nutrition (Mrs Starkie will speak to you about it in assembly today).

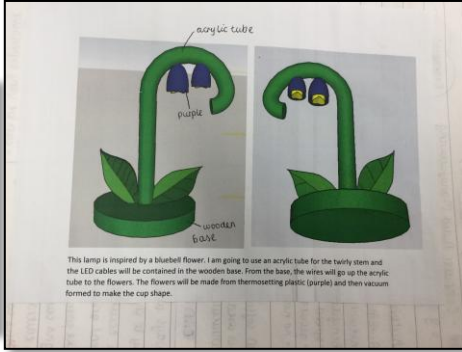
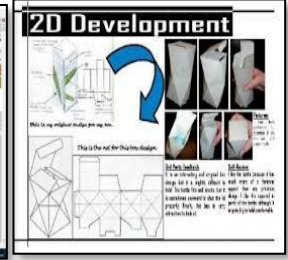
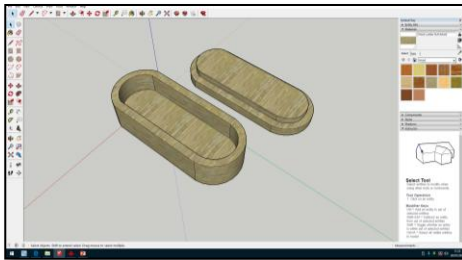
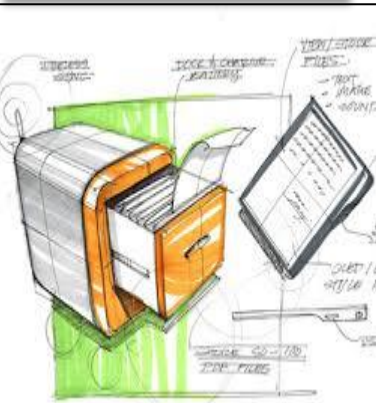
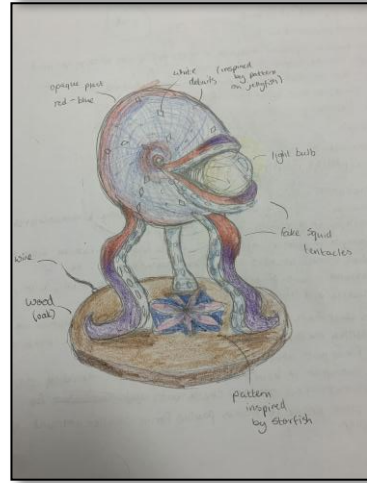
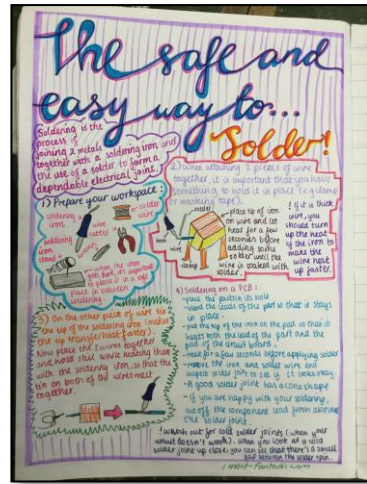
What is Design and Technology

...and why choose to study it?

What will I be doing?

In Year 9 you will undertake a range of mini design and technology projects and short focus practical tasks. These would include but not limited to;

- The development of CAD skills,
- Technical drawing skills,
- Experimentation with a range of materials and processes; for example, a design and make jewellery activity utilising polymers, timbers and metals.
- Mini electronics project,
- Graphics packaging project,
- Gain knowledge about the theory of design and manufacture, including new and emerging technologies.



What is Design and Technology

What will you be doing?

Design and Technology is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting! Studying GCSE Design and Technology will build on what you learnt about designing and making in Key Stage 3. You will use your knowledge and skills to design and make new and better solutions to real problems - on your own and with others - working with materials you choose.

What skills do I need?

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

You will be expected to take part in a range of practical lessons, design lessons and theory lessons.

Understanding users

- Who your product is for and their needs
- How the product will be used



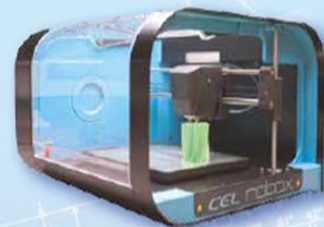
Learning about materials

- Including traditional, smart and modern materials
- Selecting the best materials for making your designs

Designing:

including Computer Aided Design (CAD)

- Taking risks to create more imaginative ideas
- Clearly communicating your design ideas to others



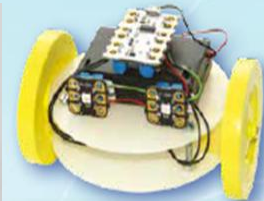
Making:

DESIGN & technology



Analysing products

- Understanding how everyday products have been designed and made
- Learning about the work of past and present designers, makers and engineers



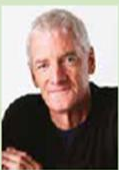
Learning how things work

- Using mechanisms, electronics and computers to control things; including robots
- Designing and making products that don't fail in use



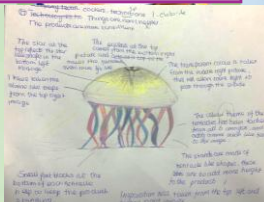
Evaluating your own and others' work

- Expressing your opinions about products and services, to inform...
- ...the development of better solutions to real-life problems



"Design and Technology is a phenomenally important subject. Logical, creative and practical, it's the only opportunity students have to apply what they learn in Maths and Science."

Sir James Dyson Founder and Chairman of Dyson and Patron to the D&T Association



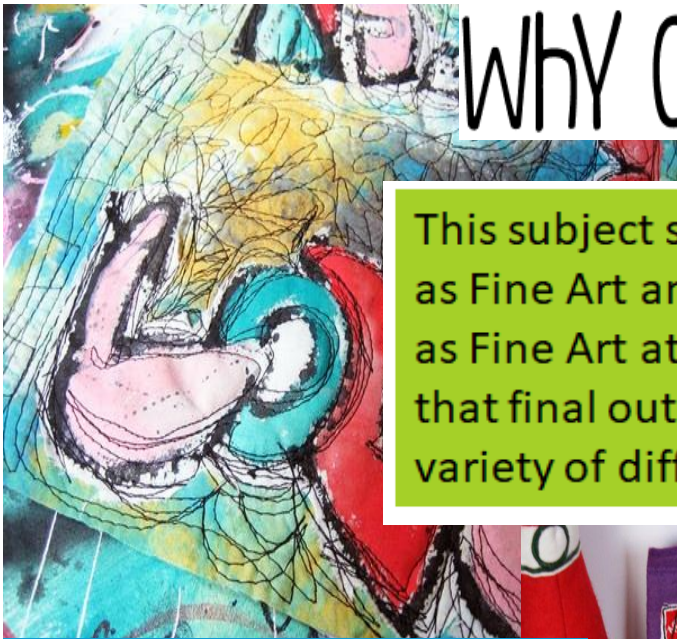
WHY CHOOSE ART TEXTILES?

This subject sits under the same subject umbrella as Fine Art and uses the same assessment criteria as Fine Art at GCSE level, the only difference being that final outcomes will be realised through a variety of different Textiles media.

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills then **Art Textiles** is a great choice.

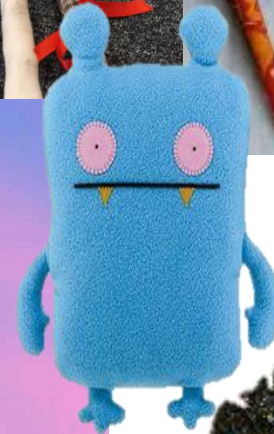
The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. **Art and Textile design** is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you.

Areas of study at GCSE level include fashion/costume design and illustration, Wearable art, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles and digital textiles.



What will I study in Year 9?

Throughout the year you will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media. Themes such as Food glorious food, Ugly Dolls and Graffiti will be covered. Building on your knowledge of textiles in preparation for the GCSE course.

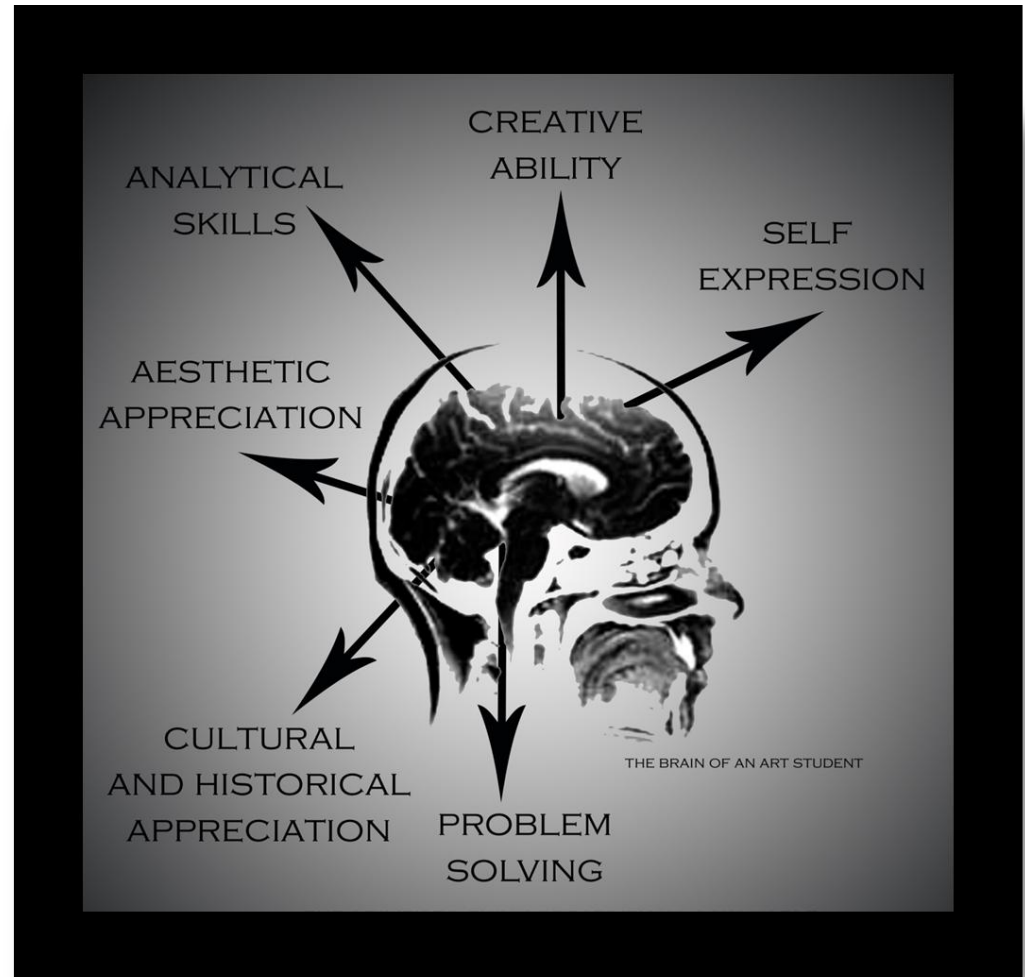


Here's a sample of what we do

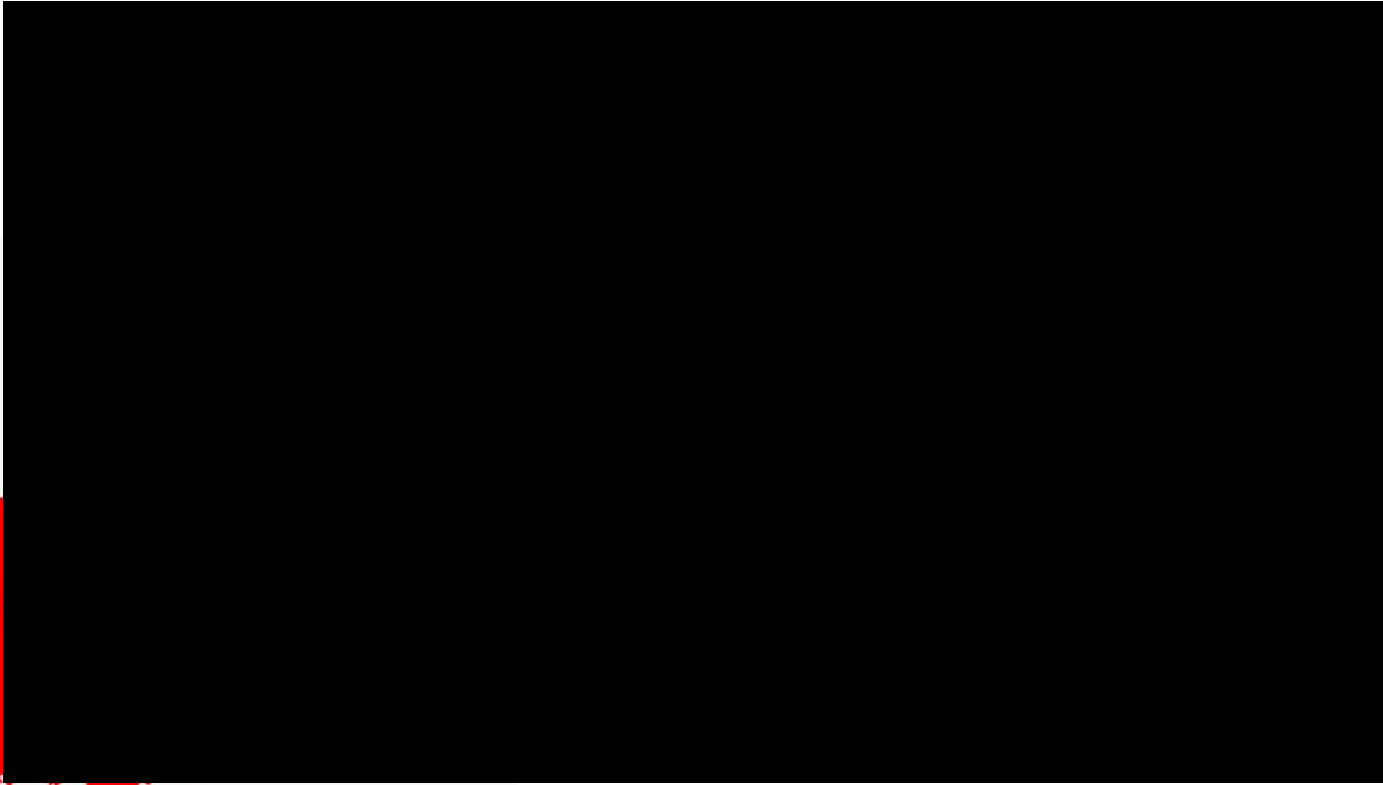
Fine Art

- Creativity
- Problem solving
- Exploration
- Ownership
- Enjoyment
- Self Expression
- Exciting Careers

The brain of an art student

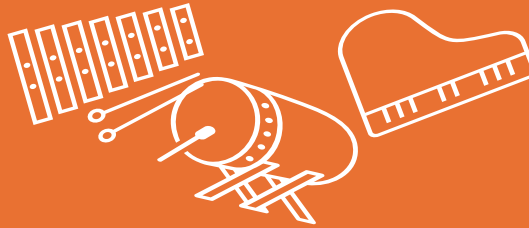


Here's a sample of what we do!



Artist, Architect, Interior Designer, Product Designer, Digital Artist, Fashion Designer, Games Designer, Stage Set Designer

Music



You do not need to have one-to-one music lessons to take Y9 Music
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.
- Apply principles of music theory during composition lessons
- Begin building your understanding of GCSE key terms
- Improve on your chosen instrument in preparation for KS4

5 Units to study:

- **Pop Music**
- **Song Writing**
- **Composing**
- **Solo Performances**
- **Student Radio**



Why study Drama?

Do you want to learn performance skills, perform plays and devised pieces, learn about stagecraft, work as part of a team and fulfil your creative potential? Then Drama is the option for you!

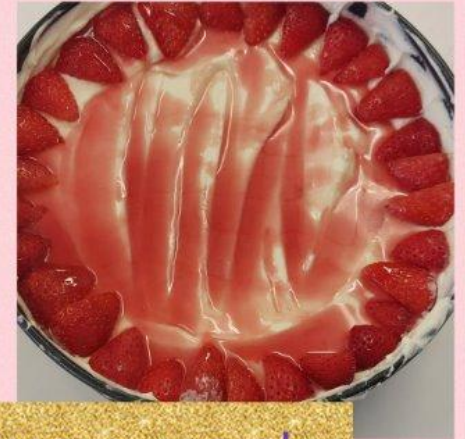
What will I study?

- Term 1: You will learn the vocal and physical acting skills to help you perform and also a range of Dramatic techniques to help you practically realise your ideas. We will work on bringing a poem to life on stage, as well as creating and performing a devised montage piece on World War One. This will include writing your own letter from the front, learning and performing this as well as extracts of script.
- Term 2: 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.
- Term 3: We will devise and perform pieces based on the context of a 'Zombie Apocalypse!' You will learn about masks, costumes and make up design as well as the use of sound and props to enhance your performance.

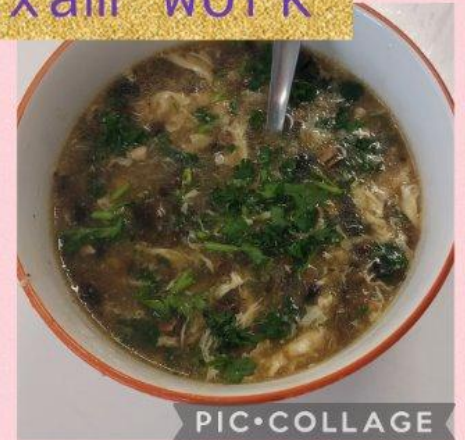
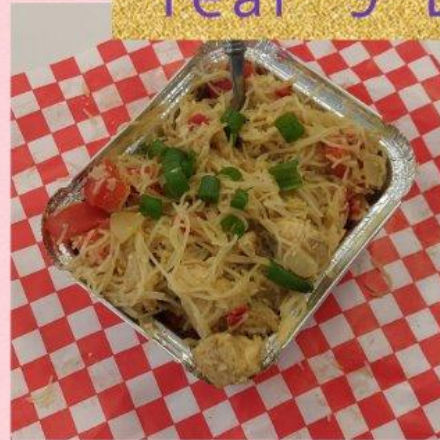


Food Preparation and Nutrition





Year 9 Exam work



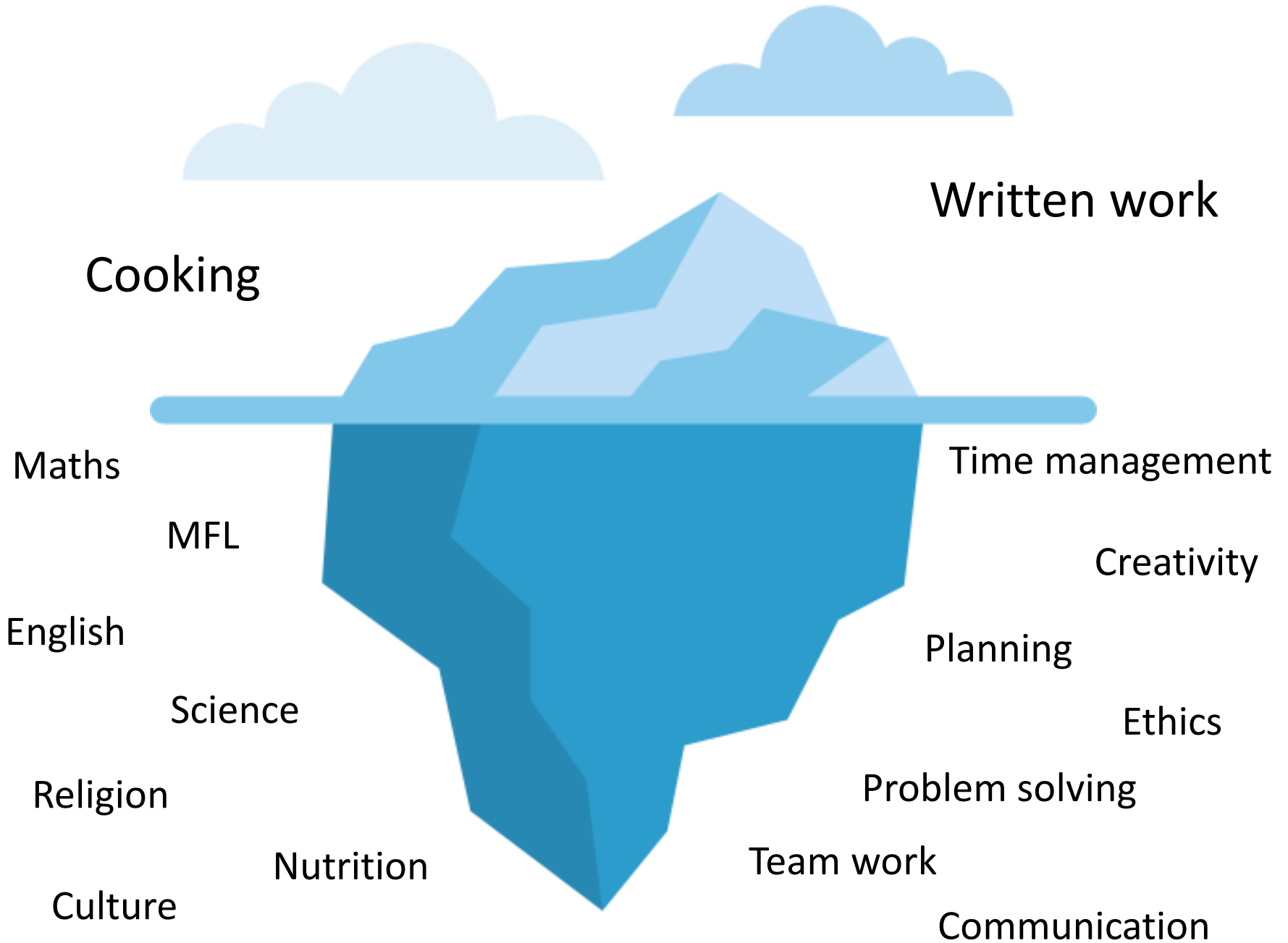
PIC•COLLAGE



Year 9 Exam work



PIC•COLLAGE





Career or life choice?

Why Study
Languages?

Language Facts Quiz

TRUE or FALSE:

- 60% of UK employers say that they aren't happy with the foreign language abilities of young people today, and 30% say that they would specifically hire people if they had better language skills.
- TRUE!



What you will learn in Year 9?

- During Year 9, whether you have chosen, French, German or Spanish - and we advise you to choose the one which you like the best! - you will continue to learn through different topic areas, increasing your level and amount of vocabulary, as well as continuing to practise the skills, which you will need to continue into GCSE.
- There is also the opportunity in Year 10 to take part in our very successful French, German and Spanish trips or exchanges in the language or languages which you have chosen. Students always really enjoy this experience.



Languages give you choices - you are global citizens!



- ❖ You might not see your chosen career path being linked with knowing a language, however...
- ❖ Did you know that most universities have links with other universities in foreign countries, and it is possible to have a year abroad as part of a degree in other subjects, not just a language course.
- ❖ You can combine your French, German and Spanish with a variety of different areas, which you might be considering for the future: For example,
- ❖ Medicine, Law, Journalism, English, History, Maths, Music, Physics, Chemistry, PE, Biochem, Physio, Accountancy, Theatre, Business Studies, Biology, Sports Science, Sociology and Psychology – and so many more.....!!😊.
- ❖ A year abroad plus a language combined with your study would make you stand out from all the other candidates!
- ❖ Or you could use your language skills, like many of our previous students, to show you are brilliant at learning a language and start a new one, such as Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Korean or Arabic!



Advice

Your subject teachers

Head of Year, Mrs Babb

Head of Main School, Miss Renold

Your form teacher

Mr Alcock

Miss Ashton

Mr Hoyle

Mr Keulemans



Deadline

- The deadline for completing the Microsoft 'Provisional Statement of Choices' form is Wednesday 25th February 2026.
- Your final choice will be confirmed at the end of June.
- We cannot guarantee your first choice.
- ***Have fun discussing this at home and with your teachers!***