

YEAR 9 CURRICULUM GUIDE

2022-23



PUTNEY
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST

ENGLISH

We begin the year by studying a 20th-century play, such as 'An Inspector Calls' or 'Pygmalion', before moving on to explore a series of poems and poets from the First World War. In the Spring term, our focus shifts to the classic novel *Jane Eyre*, which lays the foundations for the Summer examination. Towards the end of the year, we will study a selection of poetry by former Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. We will also work on the presentation of arguments in written work and in class discussion, and you will be encouraged to extend your own reading during the year. We continue to address issues of spelling, punctuation and grammar in order to aid the effective communication of ideas.

Year 9 Book Group is currently on Thursdays from 08.00–08.30am in the Library.

MATHEMATICS

In Year 9 we build on the foundations established in Years 7 and 8, applying mathematics to practical problems. The topics covered are:

Trigonometry and advanced work on Pythagoras' Theorem

Indices and standard form

Algebra:

Expanding Brackets

Factorisation

Solving quadratic equations

Simultaneous equations

Inequalities and formulae

Areas and volumes

Percentage change

Straight line graphs ($y=mx+c$)

Similar shapes

Data handling including frequency tables

More advanced Probability

Angles in polygons

In addition to the topics above, you will also learn about the history of mathematics and how much of it has been discovered by mathematicians from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. There will also be the opportunity to take part in competitions, such as the UKMT Mathematics Challenge. In the summer term, there will be the opportunity to explore Mathematics through investigative project work. Throughout the year, you will be encouraged to read more widely around the subject, and a reading list will be provided to enable you to do this.

SCIENCE

In Year 9, we begin the AQA National GCSE qualification that will lead to three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is a rigorous course that forms an excellent foundation in the Sciences for further study at A Level, and provides the scientific literacy necessary to thrive in a technological age. The AQA Science suite has recently been revised to reflect current advances in Science ranging from gene technology to environmental chemistry and astrophysics. Students will take separate examination papers at the end of Year 11 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The AQA GCSE Science courses have a series of core practicals which must be completed throughout the course, although these will not count towards the final awarded grade.

Practical work will form an integral part of the teaching and assessment of the topics covered. There will be opportunities to develop your use of technology including science specific applications and data logging software on iPads and using the internet to deepen understanding of a range of subject areas.

Year 9s are welcome to attend our medical society on a Friday lunchtime or contribute essays towards our termly science magazine, Under the Microscope.

LANGUAGES

This year you have chosen to study three of the language subjects; Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Spanish, Latin, Italian.

FRENCH

This year you will cover the topics of House and Home, Being a Teenager, Healthy Living, Jobs and Work Experience and Future Plans, as well as consolidating and developing your linguistic ability in relation to some of the Year 8 topics. After the Easter Holiday, we start the GCSE French course. By the end of the year you should have a good knowledge of the present, future, perfect and imperfect tenses, which will enable you to express yourself with more sophistication and creativity in written and spoken French. You will have the chance to use digital resources to practise your listening and speaking skills and to research cultural topics.

GERMAN

In year 9, we embark on the GCSE course. This offers a great opportunity for you to experience GCSE German before you make your options for GCSE. We start with the topics of family and relationships, then your hometown, followed by school studies and, finally free time. We revisit and build upon the key grammar concepts we have been studying throughout years 7 and 8. You will also get the chance to visit a German Christmas Market, try lots of different food and buy your Christmas presents! You will play games which help you remember what you have learnt, and use the language lab and lots of fun apps like Quizlet, Blooket, Linguascope, Kahoot and Duolingo.

LANGUAGES *continued*

ITALIAN

This is the first year of Italian as well as preparation for GCSE. By the end of the year, you will be able to speak and write about, amongst other things, greetings, food, nationalities, places in town, physical and personality descriptions, family and home, holiday preferences, daily routine, healthy life, ordering food. The course will encompass listening, reading, writing and speaking activities. In terms of tenses, we will cover present, perfect, future and some conditional. We will use digital resources such as [Linguascope](#), [languagesonline](#), [Blooket](#), [Kahoot](#), [Duolingo](#) and [Thisislanguage.com](#). We will learn songs and engage in fun role-plays. You will get the chance to go on a five-day Italian trip to the Amalfi coast in the October half-term. You can also attend a pizza workshop in an Italian restaurant in London and eat your own pizza!

SPANISH

This one year course will follow on from what you learnt in Years 7 and 8 and is preparation for GCSE. You will learn how to talk about your friends, the activities you do together and about places in your town. You will also be able to discuss TV programmes, films and holidays. The world of work will also be taught. Finally, you will be able to talk about human rights, recycling, go shopping and talk about healthy living. There will be listening, reading, writing and speaking activities. The present tense will be revised and you will learn how to express yourself in the past and future as well. You will have further opportunities of singing songs, playing games and participating in role plays. There are plenty of fun apps to download on your iPad, such as [Quizlet](#)/[Vocab Battle](#)/[Showme](#)/[This is language.com](#)/[Babbel](#)/[Puppetpal](#)/[Duolingo](#)/[Linguascope](#), [Blooket](#), [the Language Gym](#) and [Caramba](#). There is also the option to take Beginners Spanish if you have not studied it in Year 7 and 8.

MANDARIN

This one year course will build on what you have learnt in Year 7 and 8 and prepare you for GCSE. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for a trip abroad in Year 10 (Singapore or China, depending on travel policy), which will boost your knowledge of the language and culture of China and the Mandarin speaking world. We will work further on daily conversations and expand your vocabulary associated with clothes, daily routine, rooms in a house, places in town, shopping and jobs. You will learn more complex Mandarin sentence structures, important grammar points as well as the past and future time frames. This will enable you to express yourself with more sophistication and creativity in written and spoken Mandarin. We shall continue with fun activities such as calligraphy and cultural research.

LATIN

In Year 9 we leave Pompeii and the Cambridge Latin Course behind, beginning more advanced language work using Taylor's Latin to GCSE. As well as developing the technical skills required to study the language at a higher level, we study the mythological background to Virgil's Aeneid, learning how he crafted an epic retelling of Rome's origins inspired by Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. We follow our hero Aeneas as he escapes the destruction of Troy by sea, encountering terrifying monsters and beginning a doomed love affair with the Carthaginian queen Dido before he reaches Italy. Classwork will involve a range of project work on mythology and history alongside language work: we will have covered roughly 40% of the language requirements of a Latin GCSE by the end of Year 9.



ART

The level of technical skill in the subject is pushed further and is combined with a greater independence in the resolution of the projects. The first theme, 'Portraiture', examines this strong tradition in Art history through drawing, digital art and painting. The Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square forms the basis of the second project, in which highly imaginative, hypothetical designs are created to fill the plinth and sculptural models created. The students will then be Surreal artists for the summer term, learning about the influential Surrealists and using the movement's techniques and creative games to make surreal drawings, poetry, collages and digital art.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computing in schools has undergone rapid and substantial changes, adding a much larger technical element and challenge to the subject and looking at topics from both business and engineering perspectives. In Year 9, students gain fundamental knowledge of how computers operate, covering Boolean logic and number systems in relation to storage and processing of data. We explore hardware and software components and complete practical programming projects using Microbits, testing students' logical thinking and Python skills.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In Year 9 the Design Technology course strengthens the practical skill set learnt in Year 8. You will be learning to work more collaboratively as a designer and asked to make connections within the wider context of solving a problem that benefits society and the environment. You will learn how to cast pewter and shape a copper bowl in the metalwork project whilst reflecting the theme of nature and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

TEXTILES

You will investigate and experiment with fabrics using decorative techniques. The course introduces the different markets within the fashion industry. Your A3 design portfolio will include information on the design influences for high fashion and the construction of fashion components. You will be expected to design and manufacture a functional and imaginative garment using methods that create fullness in fabrics.

DESIGN THINKING

Design Thinking is a new and exciting subject which applies problem solving strategies to a range of practical projects. Students learn key principles; how to Empathise, Define, Ideate, Prototype and test solutions. We explore how humans interact with Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence e.g. how facial recognition systems are used in security and mobile systems. There is also an opportunity to register for the First Tech UK Robotics: a team competition to design, build and code a robot capable of driving autonomously.

DRAMA

You will have Drama in half term slots, rotating with Music. You will begin to learn the explorative strategies required for GCSE Drama using a variety of texts and issue based work. We begin with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, whilst exploring the method of theatre practitioners Frantic Assembly. There will also be opportunities to devise short film pieces in the Spring Term. In the we summer will combine with Music to put on a Junior version of a musical, where you will have the opportunity to perform on stage or develop your skills of technical theatre, working behind the scenes. You will have the chance to audition for the school musical at the end of the year and to create great devised work in the House Drama Clubs.

GEOGRAPHY

You will engage with the physical and human environment. The year begins with a unit on Population, with specific reference to China's One Child Policy. This is followed by looking at the concept of development by investigating ways in which living standards vary across the globe. We will then compete a short unit of work on Extreme Environments, followed by Conflict. The final unit is on Rivers, which includes fieldwork at Juniper Hall. Throughout the year we will develop and expand geographical skills, encourage debate and the presentation of ideas in original ways, which is good preparation for the GCSE course.

HISTORY

You will find that History in Year 9 differs from the outline approach used in Years 7 and 8. We will study selected aspects of European history in the 20th century in depth; these will include the Great War and the rise to power of Hitler. Our work on the Great War will be supported by a visit to the World War One battlefields at Ypres. This will allow you to gain deeper insights into people's lives and to develop your historical skills. Your work in Year 9 will be an excellent preparation for the IGCSE course in history.

MUSIC

Year 9 explores contemporary music throughout the course of the year, starting with remixes in the Autumn term where students transform the music of a modern-day artist using their theoretical music skills on Garageband. This is followed by film music where students learn the techniques of composing in a variety of moods, including how to create a mood suitable for a film of the 'thriller' and 'action' genre. In the Summer term, students rehearse and stage their Year 9 musical. Students take responsibility for all aspects of the musical production.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

You have two periods of PE which are divided into blocks of activities. Netball, lacrosse, volleyball, badminton, trampolining, handball, tennis, rounders, cricket and athletics continue as part of the curriculum so that you can develop further both your individual skills and team play. Rowing, football, dodgeball and basketball are introduced as new sports. You will also have sessions in strength and conditioning and Wimbledon ball training. Most activities taught in Year 9 are supported by extra-curricular clubs.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The focus will be on philosophical, moral and social issues from a religious perspective. We will be exploring topics such as issues in science and religion, arguments for and against the existence of God; environmental responsibility; prejudice and discrimination and religious perspectives on these. It will provide a foundation for students opting to take the GCSE course and enable you all to develop your own values, beliefs and attitudes. We will also be studying Giants of Intellectual Change, a bespoke unit which provides the opportunity to learn about some of the great paradigm shifts of the modern world and who was behind them.

LEARNING ENRICHMENT

At Learning Enrichment, we support the students to be their personal best. We are here to improve and enrich the student life by offering workshops, small group sessions and individual sessions. We invite you, the students, to join us for workshops on the following topics:

- Time management
- Study skills
- Organisational skills
- Revision skills
- Creating a revision timetable
- Growth mindset

In addition, we can support your classroom learning by teaching learning techniques such as memorisation techniques, essay writing and proofreading, improving vocabulary, handwriting and typing skills. All of our support is based on Science of Learning techniques, to understand how we learn and become reflective learners.

PSHE

The Year 9 PSHE curriculum is designed to promote resilience through a curriculum that will equip you with the skills to challenge prejudice, promote aspiration and debate the realities of life. You will learn about the politics of identity, the power of social media, and how to maintain positive mental health. Your tutors will also be on hand to guide you in making your GCSE choices. You will have the opportunity to develop your debating skills and hear from a range of speakers throughout the year.

LIBRARY

In Year 9 you will use the library for research and private reading. You may use the library as part of a class visit to research topics or you may be set work which will require you to use the library for your own independent learning. You will have progressed from the Y7 and Y8 Fiction section to reading your way through the Young Adult Fiction section. New titles are always being added. You are encouraged to reserve books you would like to read and make suggestions for new books through the library's suggestions box. You have access to a wealth of information through the e-library, which you can access through Firefly on your iPad.

MARKING & ASSESSMENT

Your child will be involved in a variety of learning activities, including written exercises, tests and investigations; oral work and role-play; projects and reports; and practical work and performance. A reading homework is as important as a written task or learning for a test.

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) we ensure time is given to understanding the importance of feedback and acting upon it, instead of focusing unduly on just the grade given. Consequently, teachers provide comment-only marking for most of the work they mark in Key Stage 3. Comment-only marking means the teachers provide written feedback, including advice for improvement, and do not provide a grade, as these can distract students from reading and absorbing the feedback from staff.

GRADE	EXPLANATION
E	Outstanding: working well above the expected level
1	Very good: working above the expected level
2	Good: working at the expected level
3	Inconsistent: some areas need further development to get to the expected level

Numerical marks are awarded for appropriate exercises, for instance vocabulary tests.