



PAIGNTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS ACADEMY

Believe and Achieve



WELCOME back to all of our Year 9 students. I hope they had a fantastic summer break and are ready to get back into our learning culture.

This is a very important year for our students who will be starting their journey towards their GCSEs, which will be here before too long. With this in mind it is vital pupils try their best in every subject area and attendance this year and take advantage of the extra help on offer from staff to provide a strong platform from which to achieve the best for themselves.

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum or any pastoral issues please feel free to contact myself or Mr Stacey on 403005

Jodie Brown, Head of Year 9

IMPORTANT DATES

2017

- 16-27th Oct Half Term
- 30th Oct Return from Half Term
- 8th nov Social Science Trip to Plymouth University
- 14th Nov Royal Marines Activity Day
- 15th Dec Last day of Autumn Term

2018

- 2nd January First Day of Spring Term

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2017

YEAR
9

ENGLISH

The focus of this final Key Stage 3 year is to ensure that students have all the skills needed for their GCSEs. Students will be engaging with GCSE texts and developing their skills in information retrieval, inference and deduction and language analysis. The Autumn term begins with a study of Gothic fiction, exploring a range of different texts including *Twilight*, *Frankenstein* and *Dracula* and students will complete a reading assessment to identify areas for improvement focussing on the new GCSE 9 – 1 specification. The second half of the term is a study of the GCSE text *Rani and Sukh*, a contemporary text mirroring *Romeo and Juliet*. Students will explore cultural expectations, language analysis and theme before an assessment on transactional writing based on the text. Students will continue with the Accelerated Reader programme and are expected to spend 20 minutes reading at home 3 times per week. Regular homework will be set to develop students' skills and understanding. These can include Doddle homework, research projects or extended writing.



MATHS

Year 9 students begin the first year of their GCSE Math course. Students will utilise a variety of resources which include GCSE textbooks, Google Classroom, Kerboodle and Mymaths. There will be an end of unit topic assessment which incorporates current and past EdExcel questions to familiarise students with the goal they are working towards. Teachers will use question level analysis towards each topic to accurately identify areas for development.

Topics to be taught this term will include algebra and angles. Students will learn the laws of indices, expanding and factorising into brackets, angles between parallel lines and angles within polygons. There will be an emphasis on problem solving maths and building cross-topic and cross-curricular links to best prepare for the new 9-1 GCSE specification.



SCIENCE

This term students are beginning their GCSE AQA trilogy specification. All students will be following AQA Trilogy Science in preparation for taking the exam at the end of Year 11. GCSE Science has an emphasis on scientific literacy – the knowledge and understanding that learners need to recognise the impact of science and technology on everyday life. This term pupils will complete unit 1 of Biology which will include looking at cell biology. Students will also cover unit 1 of Chemistry: Periodic table and the atom, as well as unit 6 of Physics: The particle model. Assessment will take place on a regular basis and will include traditional end of unit exams with questions taken from past papers. There will be a formal end of unit exam in January, the results of which will be shared with parents later in the year. Further information is available on the AQA website:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>



PSHE

As part of the PSHE programme at PCSA, Year 9 will receive 6 dedicated Sex and Relationship Education lessons. We will continue to look at some of the changes that take place during puberty, with separate sessions for boys and girls. We will continue with 'Who Influences Us?' which looks at how the media may influence us to have unrealistic expectations about how we should look and behave, and how this in turn can affect our relationships. We will explore some of the different types of relationships we have, for example, friends, parents and partners, and appropriate behaviour in these relationships. This will lead into looking at ways of keeping safe in a variety of social situations and age related laws. As part of the healthy lifestyles and personal well-being we will be looking at personal hygiene and 'Getting Help', where we can go to get help and advice.



FRENCH

In Year 9 students start the GCSE course, which is differentiated and can be taught from EXPO GCSE Vert (foundation), or Rouge (higher).

This term students will be learning how to talk about themselves, their family and their relationships and exploring the themes of marriage and partnership.



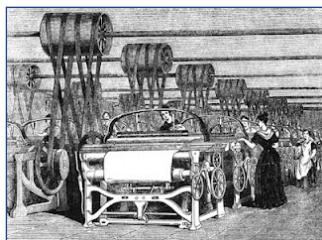
FRENCH - How parents can help your child.

French - How parents can help.

We would love you to support your child with their home learning by regularly helping them to learn vocabulary in preparation for their vocabulary tests. Allow them to explore fun ways of learning from home, e.g. sticking post-its on the fridge, get them to teach you, rap it, sing it, dance along to it, record it ("podcasting" as it's now referred to) watch it on "Paignton Online" and use the "look, cover, check" method. Only by experimenting will they discover which method works best for them. They will be issued with vocabulary lists and any other homeworks will be either on worksheets, in their yellow book or on Linguascope. Thank you for supporting us with your child's learning. Merci et Bon Courage!

HISTORY

The Year 9 students begin the new academic year by investigating the impact of the Industrial Revolution. They study changing attitudes to child labour and act as an 'undercover boss' to explain the problems with working conditions in factories and coal mines. The course moves forward by addressing the question 'What did the Victorians ever do for us?'. This is a study of major developments in technology, medicine and transport in the Victorian era. This module is assessed through the creation of an annotated timeline.



ETHICS

Year 9 will start the term by examining the issue of *Child Soldiers*. They will be encouraged to formulate opinions and examine things from a different perspective.

This will be followed by examining Buddhism. Throughout study there will be several assessments, which are designed to mimic GCSE style exams. This is to ensure students are prepared for GCSE study at the start of Year 10. During Ethics lessons students will be encouraged to examine ethical, cultural and religious issues and learn to express opinion and empathise with others.

GEOGRAPHY

Year 9 will be studying 'Shake, Rattle and Roll'. Our main focus will be to investigate the differences between a natural hazard and a natural disaster. We will then consider the causes and effects of tectonic hazards on people and their property.

Recent case studies such as the volcanic eruptions on the island of Montserrat, the earthquake in Haiti and the tsunami in Japan will be studied.

Finally, students will consider how people can reduce and manage hazard risk by forward planning. This will be followed by the module *Is there more to development than money?* Students will begin to look at the inequality between countries around the world. Students' progress will be assessed by a written assessment and tests which will be completed under examination conditions.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 9 will begin looking at the key theoretical concepts for GCSE computing including the key hardware and their function, the uses of software and the need for an operating system and the different types of memory needed of an effective working computer. Alongside this students will develop their Python programming skills - looking at lists and file handling, advanced skills needed for the GCSE curriculum.

ICT

Year 9 students will begin preparing for the BTEC ICT qualification, looking at spreadsheet development, a unit that will be studied by our students in Year 10. This involves students creating a spreadsheet solution for one of two scenarios – either for a professional sport club or for a Google Maps style journey across a country of their choice. This will involve the use of advanced skills like data validation, conditional formatting, cell protection and macro development.



FOOD

Students will participate in Food and Nutrition lessons for the duration of the year. They will receive 2 lessons per week. One week's lessons will be theory based to further develop knowledge and create a foundation of knowledge that can be extended within practical activities; this will also be used to consolidate literacy skills and allow students to implement them in to written, speaking and listening activities.



Students will get the opportunity to practise more advanced cooking methods to provide them with the confidence and skills needed to produce high level dishes in Years 10 & 11. It will also be further developing the confidence of the learners to produce a wide range of dishes independently and so will support them in achieving a healthy and balanced diet. As part of their work with food this term, students will be taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating when making dishes predominately with fruit and vegetables.

ART

Students will be researching British and American Pop Art artists. Observational drawings focus on portraiture. Students will be using a range of 2D and 3D materials techniques and processes. They will learn about popular culture and social influences during the 1960s and how this influenced and impacted on the Artist's work. Students have to develop their own Pop Art style portrait of a popular celebrity, taking influences from the artists researched. Students then experiment with a variety of collage materials of iconic images to create their own individual background for their final outcome. They will then use their portrait as inspiration to develop a wire sculpture.

During this project students use their sketchbooks to develop their ideas, drawings, research and experiments which will be self-evaluated, peer assessed and marked by the class teacher. Targets are regularly set and reviewed to help students to progress. Students will be concentrating on the formal elements; proportion and colour. Homework consists of research, collating information and drawings. KS3 Art Club runs on Wednesday lunchtimes where students have the opportunity to take part in competitions and complete any unfinished work. It would be beneficial for students to have basic art equipment at home to help complete homework and encourage independent learning.



PE

Welcome back! All the PE staff hope you are excited and ready for the start of a new academic year.

At KS3 we have four blocks of work offering twelve different activities throughout the year, with even more available during lunchtimes and after school.

Parents – Please encourage your son/daughter to attend our sports clubs. Look out for the clubs list that will appear soon.

Pupils - Please ensure you have all the correct kit for your lessons:

- Academy Blue PE shirt
- Academy Blue rugby top
- Academy Black shorts
- Academy Blue socks
- Suitable footwear: Studded boots for rugby/football. Supportive trainers (NO pumps).
- Gum shield and shin pads for football, rugby and hockey.

No hoodies or uniform will be allowed.

In very cold weather it is good practice to wear a number of layers: under armour (or alternative) is great, with the polo shirt and/or rugby top.

Please remember: If students do have PE lessons in the morning, we strongly advise they have a good breakfast.

The table below shows the sports the students will be covering in the Autumn term.

GIRLS	BOYS
Netball	Rugby
Multi-skills	Multi-skills
Football	Gymnastics

DANCE

This course began with basic skills and knowledge input at the end of the Summer term, where students learned about the 'Four Components of Dance'; actions, space, dynamics and relationships. In the Autumn term they will begin an intensive contemporary dance technique scheme of learning where they will learn about technical and expressive skills used and develop their level of performance in this style. Students will also learn about the origins of contemporary dance and famous practitioners and use professional dance works in their learning. In the second half of the term, Dance students will work towards a performance in the Winter Dance Show and will also have the opportunity to visit the theatre to see live professional dance.

MUSIC

Students in Year 9 have 2 hours of music each a week. Homework is set fortnightly and it is essential that this is completed to reinforce key skills learnt within the lessons. This term students will be working within groups to develop band, instrumental and vocal skills including singing and rap. They'll also be exploring blues/jazz scales and chords and looking at music for special occasions, exploring festival music and the Fanfare. Performance, composition and improvisation techniques are embedded into all aspects of the Year 9 music curriculum.

Students are encouraged to attend one of the many extra-curricular music clubs such as guitar and keyboard club on Tuesday lunchtime, choir on Wednesday lunchtime, band on Wednesdays after school and karaoke club on Thursday lunchtime. There is a Stretch and Challenge group held on Wednesday mornings before school where students can work towards music theory grades.

Instrumental lessons are offered by visiting teachers and students can sign up by collecting a letter from the Music department.

This term there will be a Christmas concert on the 13th December at Paignton Parish Church and students can audition for a performance slot.

DRAMA

Students have 2 hours of drama per week throughout the academic year. Drama is delivered through half-termly projects. The Autumn term focuses on developing skills in text based work in preparation for GCSE.

Autumn Term

Project 1 -What Makes Good Theatre

Project 2 - Script Work

Students continue to build upon the work of Year 8 and extend and develop their understanding of drama language and terminology. A key focus is the work of practitioners and understanding drama conventions. Written work is a key element in Year 9. Students will be set homework every two weeks. Theatre trips will be offered to support learning and for the experience of live theatre.

Drama kit: plain black T-shirt and black trousers/leggings.

MULTI MEDIA - PRODUCT DESIGN

Within this new course students will learn how to:

- design and make a product for a client
- use a range of specialist materials, techniques, equipment and processes.

The aim for the first term will be to explore the following units:

- methods of recording - drawing, sampling, modelling, annotation, digital photography, ICT
- design skills - drawing, sampling, modelling, image manipulation and materials – paper, card, textiles, digital, metal, plastic.

We will be entering the very exciting 'Ventura' Design Museum competition, an award winning national competition where emphasis is placed on imagination, experimentation and working in teams. This enterprise challenge places design skills in a real world context, developing student creativity and enterprise capabilities. All preparation work will be done in sketchbooks to support the final outcomes that they make.

Homework will be set fortnightly. All work will be assessed against the assessment criteria for Product Design and students will be given targets for improvement.

ENGINEERING STUDIES

Students studying engineering in Year 9 have opted to take this course which prepares them for the NCFE Level 2 in Engineering Studies, which can be taken in Year 10. The course serves as an introduction to the Engineering profession. Year 9 students have been developing Computer Aided Design skills through the generation of various engineering drawings, including a range of bridge structures. The students have been given the opportunity to investigate, through modelling, the construction of the main bridge types; beam, cantilever, suspension and cable stayed.



ClassCharts

NEW "REAL TIME" - PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER APP CLASSCHARTS!

From September 2017 ClassCharts will become available to all Pupils and Parents to record and track student homework and behaviour within Academy. There is a ClassCharts App for Parents and Students which allows you to view for example, all homework behaviour points. More features will become available as the package is expanded.

The ClassCharts Apps are available for both Mobile and Tablets from your Apple or Google App Store.

Parental codes and instructions will be made available by email so please ensure we have your most up to date email. Further assistance will be available at year group open evenings.

To update your email address please email debbie.hill@paigntonacademy.org stating the name of your son/daughter, tutor group and your new email address.