



Moving into Year 9

2020

As a pupil goes through RGS, he follows three stages of educational studies:

- Years 7, 8 and 9 complete our Key stage 3 courses. Many GCSE subjects now also begin preparation in Year 9.
- Years 10 and 11 are Key Stage 4 courses and lead to GCSE examination level.
- Finally, there is the two-year A level course in the Sixth Form.

Your son is now moving into Year 9 and we thought it helpful to give you some general information about the next year. Please do contact us if you have any further enquiries.

Forms, Form Tutors and Head of Year

In Year 9, boys will stay in the same form as Year 8 and with the same Form Tutor (where possible). Mr Fossey will be your son's Head of Year for Year 9.

Parents' Meetings

The Year 9 Options Meeting will be on Thursday, 28 January 2021. The Parents' Meeting for Year 9 will be on Wednesday, 28 April 2021.

Curriculum

In Year 9 your son will continue with a similar curriculum to Year 8 but will usually be taught in slightly smaller groups. Mathematics is set in Year 9. iPads will continue to be used in lessons to enhance learning and we will be reminding Year 9 students of the User Agreement and our expectations of using iPads. The following is a brief summary of what your son will cover in each subject in Year 9.

Art

In Year 9 pupils study the following:

Unit 7: The human form: The boys explore how artists represent the human form in art, focusing on drawing within portraiture. They are informed and inspired by critical analysis and drawing techniques through a range of processes including printmaking.

Units 8 & 9: Stop Frame Animation: This collaborative project is aimed at introducing the boys to a sample of existing roles within the Creative Industry through practical group work and incorporating our Ethos of Learning. The brief entails sustained work that is made through a range of media, from 2D to 3D materials, inspired by contemporary animators. Proportion, set design, prop design and editing will all play vital roles to create their own stop frame animation.

Biology

In Year 9 students will begin their GCSE studies (Edexcel specification). Students will build upon the biological principles established in Years 7 and 8 by considering cell structure, enzymes, microscopy, cell division and the nervous system. Lessons will also have an emphasis on investigational skills in order to prepare students for experimental aspects of the Biology GCSE.

Chemistry

A good understanding and recall of Years 7 and 8 Chemistry is assumed. Year 9 finishes Key Stage 3 and is the first year of the three-year GCSE course (Exam Board Edexcel). The following topics will be studied:

- Atomic structure
- The Periodic Table
- Groups 1, 7 and 0: alkali metals, halogens, noble gases
- Earth and atmospheric science
- Obtaining and using metals
- Acids (including different methods for preparing salts)
- Writing chemical formulae and balancing equations
- Methods of separating and purifying substances

Classical Civilisation

In Year 9, pupils look at various ancient cultures; these can change from year to year, but the focus is always Greece and/or Rome. They will read extracts from Homer's Iliad to learn about Greek storytelling, beliefs about gods and heroes, and what it meant to be a warrior. The Iliad is believed to be largely fictitious; from this start, pupils move on to the real society of Sparta, and ancient society rooted in military prowess. They may also learn about the Roman Army and its development from local militia into frontier force of the whole world, the Punic Wars, Caesar's conquest of Gaul and Claudius' invasion of Britain. There is plenty of opportunity for pupils to be creative and innovative in this course, as well as to be challenged by some deep philosophical ideas. Discussion plays a key role in the teaching of Classical Civilisation and pupils should be prepared to take part in the lessons.

Design and Technology

Audio Amplifier

Over the course of two x 9-week modules, students learn how electronic circuits may be incorporated into products as well as the basic function of circuits and electronic components. The module also involves plastic forming processes to make the circuit housing including line bending acrylic and vacuum forming HIPs. During the design stage, students are taught how to use the CAD program, Solid-Works to visually present their final design in a variety of ways.

'Corporate Clocks'

Over the course of one x 9-week module, student design, develop and manufacture a clock based around the development of a corporate-style brand, or logo, of their choice. This module gives students the chance to further develop manufacturing skills such as using heat to drape form acrylic, cold forming, and pop riveting, aluminium as well as accurately measuring, marking out and cutting / shaping component parts prior to assembly. There is a big emphasis on quality control during the manufacturing stages of this module to focus on precision and accuracy. Design work is similarly of a high standard in preparation for study of DT beyond KS3.

Drama

The Year 9 Drama course is focussed on the performance of monologues and duologues working independently and in small groups. The skills addressed are building confidence, utilising rehearsal strategies, as well as refining the vocal and physical performance. Students will explore the play "Blood Brothers" by Willy Russell and develop their performance skills through playing a variety of roles.

English

Boys continue to study English through reading literature and practising their writing skills, but their major focus gradually shifts towards the physical and intellectual requirements of GCSE. Therefore, students will complete two written assessments throughout the year which equate to 50 % of their end of year grade. These assessments not only

help the students focus on the value of their work throughout the year but also exercise key written skills needed at GCSE that many students in Year 10 and 11 struggle with: narrative/descriptive writing and unseen poetry analysis. Likewise, the end of year exam is based on the study of a Shakespearean play and the paper's format emulates that of a GCSE paper with a set passages and essay question. In order to emulate the rigorous demands of GCSE examination, the exam will be closed text and students will be required to memorise key quotations; this is excellent practise for the years ahead (GCSE and A Level). Planned between these assessments and exams are units which focus on key Speaking and Listening skills, skills necessary for a well-rounded student, as well as more creative units such as imaginative writing and Drama. Year 9 explores the thematic ideas of the presentation of women and the patriarchal rule throughout historic and modern literature. Again, the study of these themes explores key knowledge the students will need to know and implement in their GCSE years.

Reading periods during Year 9 are often much more difficult to find, and Accelerated Reader quizzes are not used. However, we would still be grateful for your support in encouraging your son to read independently, and we have included a list at the end of this booklet of novels popular with Year 9. This may be helpful to you in supporting your son to read books which are popular with boys; however, please note that any form of reading is encouraged and the same level of progress can be made in one's reading through different modes such as newspapers, blogs and short stories.

French

In Year 9 we continue to build on the grammar covered in Years 7 and 8 and introduce two new tenses, the imperfect and the future. Some of the topics are revision and some are new. The topics covered include:

- Family life and friends
- Visiting Paris
- Leisure activities
- School life and the world of work
- Visiting a theme park

German

In Year 9 we follow Logo 2, but the German Department has produced a vast variety of stimulating materials, exercises and activities to meet the needs of RGS pupils. The topics covered include daily routine, travelling, health and fitness, food and drink, shopping, spending time with friends and clothes. In Year 9 we work on the key skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening in equal measure and cover many aspects of German grammar, but the perfect tense, cases, adjectival endings and word order are the focal point. We place great emphasis on teaching our pupils to use their language skills to communicate accurately and to give opinions in German, both in their written and spoken German. All pupils are also encouraged to use IT to enhance their use of the language. In November and April, all Year 9 German pupils have the opportunity to take part in the exchange programme with the Ratsgymnasium in Osnabrück.

Geography

We continue developing our geographical skills by exploring Human Geography. We use iPads and current news to look into a variety of topics, covering locations from around the world.

“Energy Issues” encompasses the creation and use of fossil fuels and renewable energy in the world. We research energy within the UK and the impact it is having on our environment and economy.

Next, we explore “Hot Deserts” in the world and how they have formed. We look at the animals and the people who live there, and how they have adapted to the harsh conditions.

When looking into the people who are “Living in the Desert”, we mainly explore Dubai and some of the controversial impacts associated with its expansion. The damage to the environment and the accusations of slavery. We explore real information and learn how news can be bias and learn how as geographers we need to be critical of information in the media.

“Emerging Economies” focuses in on India, and the disparities between rich and poor between regions. We look at squatter settlements and why they exist in cities such as Mumbai. This topic also develops our analytical skills, by looking at the strategies needed for improving living conditions.

Finally, we explore the classic topic of “Tectonics”. We discuss the causes, impacts and management of Earthquakes and Volcanoes. We create models, and really fall in love with Geography, by looking at current affairs and what is happening in our world recently.

History

In Year 9 pupils investigate the controversies surrounding the shooting of JFK. They also look at how the Industrial Revolution changed Britain, with a special case study on the development of British Sea Power. The debates of World War I and II are explored and they discover why it is important to remember the Holocaust.

ICT

This course lays the foundation for preparing boys who wish to pursue the subject to GCSE and at a more advanced level. They are exposed to skills involving the use of more complex data structures using arrays and more sophisticated techniques including the use of sequence, selection and iteration. The boys learn in part to write functions and develop custom blocks in BYOB as well as skills in text-based languages such as Visual Basic for Applications, Python and Java Script. They are also to low-level languages using assembly language and the Littleman Computer simulation.

Latin

In Year 9 pupils continue using “The Cambridge Latin Course”. Key linguistic features studied are: further uses of participles, the forms of the subjunctive, purpose and result clauses, reported commands and questions. A knowledge of approximately 600 Latin words is expected. The primary aim is an ability to comprehend and translate pages of Latin of increasing complexity.

Mathematics

The course builds on the Year 8 syllabus and extends into National Curriculum material level 8 and beyond.

Topics include:

- Number: reciprocals, reverse percentages, upper and lower bounds, HCF, LCM, prime factors, standard form, solving real-life problems, approximation, compound units, negative and fractional indices, surds.
- Algebra: linear equations with fractions, simultaneous equations, linear/quadratic and geometric sequences, straight lines, quadratic and cubic graphs, factorise and solve quadratics, solving equations graphically and algebraic fractions.
- Shape, Space and Measure: Pythagoras’ theorem, properties of polygons, tessellations, surface area and volume, arc length and area of a sector of a circle, scale drawings and bearings.
- Handling Data: statistical representation and measures, scatter diagrams, averages of grouped data, cumulative frequency curves, estimating the mean from grouped data.

The textbook is available on-line. The outline Scheme of Work is on Cloudbase. The Summer Term in Year 9 is used to introduce some GCSE topics in starting Key Stage 4. The GCSE textbook has review questions, and these are useful for revision for the end of year tests. Students are directed to on-line resources for homework tasks throughout the year, and as they prepare for the all-important End of Key Stage and End of Year tests.

Music

During two modules (out of four), we focus on the idea of layers in musical composition, looking at layers in Samba drumming, both in hands on sessions and transferring it to Garage Band, the music composing program. Then we look at the idea of “minimalism” in music, and end the year with group work, making covers of well-known pop songs, inspired by the Musical Futures initiative.

Physical Education

All great journeys start with the end in mind. This means identifying what skills & knowledge we challenge our students to master and continue to apply beyond school life. This is achieved through challenging lessons that allow for exploration & discovery within an enjoyable & inclusive environment. The level of challenge within each lesson will be appropriate to the needs of each student. This will ensure all students experience an ambitious & stimulating curriculum where they feel confident and competent to participate in all tasks within a variety of contexts.

The students will learn the following skills and knowledge:

Ethos of Learning	Health and Well being	Movement	Beat the Game	Actions
Teamwork	Sleep	Aerobic	Individual	Strike
Engagement	Nutrition	Mobility	Collaborative	Throw
Creativity	Mindset	Creative movement	Rules	Receive
Responsibility	Social	Jump & land	Tactical principles	Kick
Values	Exercise	Speed & Agility	Additional roles	Carry

Year 7-9 will follow the below pathway for PE lesson. This will be delivered through one double PE lesson and one double Sport lesson per week.

	Vessel for delivery	Examples
Term 1	Invasion Games	Handball, Aussie Rules, Basketball, Rugby, Hockey
Term 2	Net Games	Badminton, Volleyball, Tennis, Table Tennis
Term 3	Target Games	Dodgeball and derivatives
Term 4	Gym – Athletic Development	Movement and resistance training
Term 5	Athletics and Strike/Field	Track & Field, Softball, Cricket
Term 6	Athletics and Ethos of Learning	Track & Field & Variety of activities

PSHCE

The boys in Year 9 will attend regular year group assemblies and drop down days to explore the following topics:-

- Careers – Future choices
- Internet safety and social media
- Emotional well-being and mental health
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Keeping yourself safe, risk management
- Relationship and Sex Education*

*Statutory from September 2020, planned in accordance with Government guidelines, the PSHE Association and OFSTED requirements.

Physics

This year is the start of the Physics GCSE scheme of work, which is taken over Years 9 to 11 so topics covered in Year 9 will be assessed in the GCSE terminal examinations at the end of Year 11.

Topic 1: Electrical Circuits

- Connecting series & parallel circuits using circuit diagram.
- Current as flow of charge.
- Voltage as energy content of charge.
- Rules for current and voltage in circuits (Kirchhoff's 1st and 2nd laws).
- How resistance affects circuits.
- Calculating resistance using Ohm's Law.

Topic 2: Energy and Power

- Energy stores and transfers.
- Calculating efficiency.
- Power as rate of transfer of energy.
- Renewable and non-renewable energy resources.
- Advantage and disadvantages of different methods to generate electricity.

Topic 3: Waves and Sound

Wave Properties

- Types of waves and their definition
- Frequency, wavelength and amplitude
- How sound is made and detected
- How sound can be reflected/absorbed
- The structure of the ear.
- Differences and uses of ultrasound and infrasound

Topic 4: Optics

- Law of reflection, specular and diffuse reflections.
- Refraction caused by light changing speed at a boundary.
- Use of TIR in optic fibres
- Focal point of lens. Power of converging and diverging lenses.
- Use of ray drawings to find image.
- Factors affecting images produced by a converging and diverging lens

Topic 5: Moments and Gears

- Calculating and using moments
- Principle of moments
- Examples of using moments including levers
- How gears work

Topic 6: Space

Scales beyond the solar system

- Express astronomical distances in terms of light years.
- Recall the composition of the Universe and compare relative sizes.
- Evidence of the heliocentric model versus the geocentric model.
- Planets, asteroids and comets.

Religious Studies

In Year 9, students study ethical issues such as matters of life and death. Students consider whether life is sacred, whether the law should dictate when a person can choose to die and whether modifying embryos can ever be ethical. Ethos of learning skills such as empathy, respect for others and co-operation are also developed.

Spanish

In Year 9, pupils practise the four main skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening in equal measure. The topics covered include clothes, free-time, healthy living, daily routine, travelling, holidays, home life and the environment and national celebrations. We place great emphasis on teaching the pupils to communicate in the language, to give opinions and justify their answers. The present tense is revised and, pupils are introduced to the past tenses and simple future tense. Even at this early stage, all reading and listening comprehensions are designed to prepare the boys for GCSE questions. Furthermore, we encourage pupils to use IT to enhance their use of the language.

Trips and Co-Curricular Activities

Our Co-Curricular goal at RGSHW is to support students in learning to understanding the importance of tenacity, resilience & community as well as the value of your physical and emotional wellbeing.

In 2020/21, as the World emerges from maybe the most challenging time in our living history, the School will review its offering, such that all trips and co-curricular activities will be linked to aims and goals that align with global, local and personal challenges.

Educational & Development trips, Clubs and Co-curricular activities are displayed on our school website and on the notice board in the Main Corridor to the right of room 22. We update this information regularly and we invite you to check both throughout the year. All Co-Curricular information is also sent home as a collective document at the start of the year to assist planning. The RGS is an exceptional school, in large part due to the effort that is made to offer a wide variety of trips, clubs and co-curricular activities, and we strongly encourage you to participate in these as much as you can. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Clatworthy dec@rgshw.com (my door is always open to students so please stop by).

Pastoral Care

Your sons will be supported by a very well-established Pastoral Team. This includes their form tutors, Head of Year, Mr Durning, Mrs Booth and Mrs Herath. We are always very happy to hear from you, and should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Finally, we hope this information has been helpful to you and we wish your son, and you, a very relaxing and enjoyable summer. School resumes for Year 9 boys on Monday, 7 September at 8.40am.

Mr T Fossey
Head of Year 9
(2020/2021)

English Year 9 Reading List

Rank	Title	Author
1	The Dead	Charles Higson
2	One Shot Kill	Robert Muchamore
3	Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins
4	The Enemy	Charles Higson
5	Fear	Michael Grant
6	The Fellowship of the Ring: Part One of The Lord of the Rings	J. R. R. Tolkien
7	Mockingjay	Suzanne Collins
8	Noughts and Crosses	Malorie Blackman
9	The Da Vinci Code	Dan Brown
10	Violets are Blue	James Patterson
11	By Royal Command	Charlie Higson
12	Eragon	Christopher Paolini
13	The Mark of Athena	Rick Riordan
14	Mortal Coil	Derek Landy
15	Necropolis: Power of Five	Anthony Horowitz
16	The Ring of Sky	Chris Bradford
17	Cabin Fever	Jeff Kinney
18	City of Shadows	Alex Scarrow
19	Game of Thrones	George R. R. Martin
20	Digital Fortress	Dan Brown
21	Earthfall	Mark Walden
22	Firewall	Andy McNab
23	Goodnight Mister Tom	Michelle Magorian
24	Grey Wolves	Robert Muchamore

25	How to Seize a Dragon's Jewel	Cressida Cowell
26	The Third Man and the Fallen Idol	Graham Greene
27	Regeneration	Pat Barker
28	Brighton Rock	Graham Greene
29	Brave New World	Aldous Huxley
30	The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemmingway
31	War of the Worlds	HG Wells
32	Enduring Love	Ian McEwan
33	Touching the Void	Joe Simpson
34	Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe
35	A Kestrel for a Knave	Barry Hines
36	Pig-Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman
37	Brave New World	Aldous Huxley
38	Touching the Void	Joe Simpson
39	I know Why the Caged Birds Sing	Maya Angelou
40	The Hobbit	JRR Tolkien
41	The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Arthur Conan Doyle
42	The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini
43	The Knife of Never Letting Go	Patrick Ness
44	Wonder	RJ Palacio
45	The Bunker Diary	Kevin Brooks
46	The Shock of the Fall	Nathan Filer
47	Divergent	Veronica Roth
48	Gone	Michael Grant
49	Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo
50	Soldier Dog	Sam Angus