

Year 9 Course Information

Languages - Second Language

All students will continue to study the language they started in year 7 until the end of Year 9. The option available is to start a second language, it does not replace the original language. Students opting for this course will study two languages during year 9.

We have many gifted linguists at Robert May's School, and we want to encourage students with a love and flair for languages to take up a second language. This extra course will be an accelerated 1 year KS3 course, starting from a beginner's level, to equip the students with the necessary skills to continue at GCSE with this language if they choose to.

The topics that will be covered will be a selection from the current KS3 courses - Family, Relationships, Hobbies and Freetime Activities. Students will be stretched and challenged in all 4 skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing - and all linguistic skills will be developed. Students will be able to offer and understand information in a number of tenses, offering detail and justifying opinions, as they have been doing currently in their Year 8 course.

The languages on offer for study as a second foreign language are **French, German and Spanish**.

Please be reminded that, if a student chooses to study a second foreign language, this will be ***in addition*** to the foreign language they are currently studying. The second foreign language choice must be ***different*** to that currently studied in Year 8; in Year 9 the student will study ***both*** foreign languages.

Art and Design

This is the final year of the KS3 Art and Design course. All Year 9 students work with the single theme of 'Natural Form'.

The Art skills that you'll develop and explore include drawing, painting, textiles (batik), clay, printing, photography and mixed media.

The year will be divided into roughly half term projects with a final outcome produced at the end. At the end of Year 9 there is an opportunity for you to plan and produce your own unique piece of work using any of the above methods.

Music and Drama

By choosing this option you will be following BOTH Drama and Music on a rotation. It is not possible to do Music only or Drama only.

The topics covered in Music lessons are:

1. Film Music - Studying soundtracks from films and composing suitable music for given film clips.
2. Cover Songs - Studying how to perform creative and imaginative versions of songs of your own choice.
3. Songwriting - Composing your own songs.
4. Performance - solo and group performance on an instrument of your choice.

All lessons will be practical based either performing or composing music. We will develop your understanding of music through listening activities and increase the use of technology to aid your music making.

In Drama students will study 3 topic areas:

Topic 1: Mask work explores how to communicate a story purely through movement, mime and gesture.

Topic 2: Blood Brothers explores the story of two twins separated at birth. We explore the story and characterisation including Liverpudlian accents!!

Topic 3: Melodrama, we explore the key characters and stories of this over the top style of performance. The stereotypical characters make this a comical performance style.

The aim is to provide students with a varied experience in preparation for GCSE. The students will also gain experience of practical and written assessments.

Computer Science and Information & Communications Technology

During Year 9 lessons you will:

1. Program the computer using the Python programming language. Python is a text-based language similar to SmallBasic that you used in Year 8. You will build the skills you need to complete programming challenges on the GCSE Computer Science course.
2. Develop your existing ICT skills by using more complex features of a range of software packages, in particular Microsoft Office. You will build the skills you need to develop IT systems to meet the requirements of clients on the Year 10 Information Technologies course and help you understand the crucial role played by IT systems within organisations on the GCSE Business course.
3. Learn about the important theory topics of Computer Crime and Cyber-Security.

Technology

If you wish to continue studying Technology, you have the choice of: 1. DT and Engineering for the whole year, OR 2. DT/Engineering and Food for half a year each OR 3. Food Technology for the whole year. This means you can do more than one of the Technology subjects.

Design & Technology

You will learn about why things need to be made and how to create a range of products. Some of the main skills you will be dealing with are: CAD (Computer Aided Design), micro-electronics and soldering, programming, branding (graphics). This course is for those that like designing, creating and making.

The course is called 'The Light Project'. You will firstly design and make a programmable LED torch. This will be followed with a small team challenge called 'Fireball' where you and a small team will be tasked with designing, making and demonstrating a desktop trebuchet. This module leads directly on to the GCSE Design & Technology GCSE and Engineering.

Engineering

In learning about the many engineering pathways, you will be actively involved in the planning and making of accurate engineered products. There is lots of precision, planning and problem solving on this course and all the manufacturing is small, and precise. This course is for those that like being accurate and correct in planning and making.

The course is split into two overlapping parts. Firstly, you will make an engineering hammer from steel and aluminium on the centre lathes (the large machines in DT1). This is like the box or lamp projects but more technical and precise. Secondly you will be learning how to produce technical drawings. These drawings are again precise and accurate - they are not creative or artistic.

Finally, for the homework assignment you will be asked to solve a problem. This year students were asked to design, make and test a water pump. the winner of that challenge successfully pumped over 50L of water in under two minutes.

This module leads directly on to the popular GCSE and BTEC Engineering courses as well as D&T GCSE.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

The Year 9 Food option course is perfect for anyone who loves to cook and wants to continue learning new food preparation skills and cooking methods. There is no design work in the Year 9 Food option; this is all about learning skills through practical work. You will develop your baking skills by making a variety of bread products, pastries, cakes and biscuits.

There is also an opportunity to learn how to make challenging speciality items from UK regions and different countries.

You will learn how ingredients work and how food gets from the farm to your fork, helping you to become a skilled cook and increase your appreciation of the food that you eat. If you have enjoyed making and eating the foods you have prepared in Years 7 and 8 or are considering GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, then the Year 9 Food option is a good choice for you.

If you want to do Technology, you must also indicate which technology you want to do.

GCSE Triple Science

This is an excellent opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of scientific concepts and theories studied at GCSE. The higher demand of the course requires you to meet the following criteria where possible.

- Aptitude and enthusiasm for Science coupled with excellent behaviour in Science lessons
- Strong academic performance in Science throughout Year 8
- Strong independent study skills
- A desire to potentially follow a scientific education pathway at college or university

To check whether this course is the correct course for you, please speak to your Science teacher.

If you do not choose Triple Science then you will automatically begin the GCSE Combined Science course halfway into year 9.

Details of the separate courses are below.

	Triple Science (GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	GCSE Combined Science
Qualifications Gained	1 x Biology GCSE 1 x Chemistry GCSE 1 x Physics GCSE	2 x Combined Science GCSE
Assessment as GCSE	There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas <i>in greater depth and breadth than combined science.</i>	There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

	<p>Each written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Tier only • 100 marks per exam 	<p>Each written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation and Higher Tier • 70 marks per exam
Further information	<p>GCSE Biology</p> <p>GCSE Chemistry</p> <p>GCSE Physics</p>	<p>GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy</p>