

Upton Hall School FCJ

Year 9 Curriculum Booklet 2020-2021



Introduction

Dear Parents

Year 9 is an exciting and challenging school year for your daughter. The year concludes the work of Key Stage 3 in some subjects and begins GCSE courses in others.

We want to offer you information which will enable you to work with us to support your daughter and help her to enjoy the year and make the most of her academic progress.

This year your daughter will establish patterns of learning and study that will promote her future success. Focus on study skills will be introduced early to enable her to be a confident and purposeful learner.

Please keep this booklet safe as we hope it will provide you with information that you will find helpful in the future.

We hope that you enjoy reading this booklet and if you have any suggestions for its improvement please pass them to Ms A Murphy, Deputy Head.

Mrs A Gaunt
HEADMISTRESS

Vision Statement FCJ Schools

Inspired by the Gospel and true to Marie Madeleine's founding ideal, our vision is that FCJ schools are communities of personal and academic excellence.

Strong in companionship, the unique giftedness of every person in these faith communities is recognised, nourished and celebrated.

Our hope and expectation is that, through God's grace working in us all, each young person grows into their best self, with zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.

This vision is encapsulated in our six key FCJ values:

Excellence is an inclusive value in an FCJ school, incorporated in every aspect of school life and living. The ideal of excellence 'for God's greater glory and salvation of souls' pervades Marie Madeleine's writings and recommendations.

Companionship is an all-pervading quality present when we work together in an atmosphere of support and love. Companionship is breaking the bread of life together.

Dignity: It is of the essence that the dignity of each person is recognised, as that of a human being made in the image of God. Everyone is genuinely listened to and what they say is heard.

Justice: being in right relationship with God, self, others and creation.

Hope is a faith-based attitude of mind and heart which enables us to think, speak and act in accordance with Gospel beliefs and FCJ values. Hope inspires and enables us to persevere in the face of difficulties and disillusionment.

Gentleness: Above all, through God's grace, the whole is marked by gentleness, the gentle strength that comes from 'the fruit of quiet self-possession that has been gained through daily growth in self-understanding through the light of grace'.

School Motto

Age quod agis
Whatever you do - do well!

Assessment of Progress

We aim "high" to ensure that all of our pupils make outstanding progress

We believe that by having high aspirations we are able to secure the best possible outcomes for our pupils. Ability is not fixed or innate, and we firmly believe that ability can be enhanced through the adoption of a growth mindset. Your daughter must work extremely hard in the knowledge that human qualities and intellectual skills are cultivated through hard work, effort and having the character to overcome setbacks and utilise constructive criticism. Your daughter must display tenacity and persistence when confronting challenges, see failure as a valuable part of the learning process and display a readiness and passion for learning and self-improvement. She has the potential to grow and succeed, and in order to do this your daughter must take charge of her own learning. Your daughter has clear goals and aims, and must take the appropriate steps to make sure they happen. Some pupils may feel that meeting their targets is very difficult and it is important that we encourage them to be resilient. We must work in partnership with parents to ensure that we praise the effort that pupils make and celebrate achievements in all aspects of their work.

Assessment without Levels

Following the removal of levels by the DfE, across all subjects at KS3, Upton has its own assessment processes. In Years 7 & 8, pupils will be assessed regularly in all subject areas. Their assessments will take on a variety of formats including self, peer and teacher assessed tasks. After these assessments, the pupils will be categorised as 'Excellent', 'Secure' or 'Developing' in that particular topic. We will refer to these as grades. Some subjects have also chosen to provide parents with information about percentage scores alongside that of the year group. Our assessments will focus on the pupils' developing skills. Their feedback following on from each assessment will be formative and will be focussed on what they need to do to improve.

How will my daughter know which grade she is working at?

In English and Mathematics, our pupils undergo literacy and numeracy screening on entry to Upton Hall. Parents will receive information about how they did in these tests and you will be given some strategies to support them to progress from there. In all subjects your daughter will regularly discuss which grade she is working at and this information can also be found in her exercise books. She should be able to describe her grade and will know what she needs to do in order to progress. Your daughter will have opportunities to act upon advice received and if she is unsure of her current grade or what she needs to do in order to progress she should speak to her subject teacher.

What happens if my daughter isn't making the progress that we would expect?

If your daughter is not making expected progress, we will ensure that she is provided with the opportunities to improve. Intervention happens predominantly in the classroom, but staff may also offer additional support which takes place outside of lessons, uses student mentors or requires attendance at a study group. If your daughter is receiving extra intervention, it will be indicated on her progress report. Information will also be available through annual reports and at parents' evenings. It is really important that as parents, you discuss the information with your daughter as it is often helpful for pupils to verbalise how they are progressing.

Tracking of Progress

Your daughter will receive 2 Progress Sheets and an Annual Report throughout the course of the academic year. These documents will give the following information for each subject she is studying: -

Current Attainment:

This is the grade that your daughter is currently working at, as identified by the subject teacher.

Effort:

An effort grade is awarded based on the following criteria:

- 1 Outstanding
- 2 Good
- 3 Need to improve
- 4 Cause for concern

"Thorough! No matter what she undertook it was always the same, heart and soul"

Philomena Skiffen FCJ (1840 – 1898)

The curriculum that is taught and the assessments that take place throughout KS3 are designed to equip all of our pupils with the skills that they will need to be successful in the GCSE examinations. Over the past four years, GCSEs have been reformed. By the time that your daughter completes her GCSE exams in 2023, she will be awarded grades 9 - 1. The table below shows how the new and old grading compare.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

English

In the third year of English, students will fine tune their reading and writing skills in preparation for the transition to Key Stage 4. In English Literature, set texts have been carefully selected to prepare them for the academic rigor of studying pre-1914 prose and Shakespeare at GCSE. More important than this, is the opportunity that the literature provides to help students to understand themselves, as the characters depicted struggle with their own identity, love and relationships with their families. Technical accuracy and features of Standard English will continue to be taught explicitly in English Language, and students will be exposed to more advanced authorial techniques to help them to craft their creative and non-fiction writing.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Fiction Reading A collection of short stories from the Victorian period in 'The Sherlock Holmes' canon by Arthur Conan-Doyle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Literary essay on character. ◆ Detective fiction writing. Stretch and Challenge Literary essay on the conventions of the detective fiction genre.
Autumn 2	Shakespeare: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> This is Shakespeare's most well-known tragic tale of illicit love, with spectacular dramatic scenes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Literary essay on character and illicit love. ◆ Character study set design and costume task. Stretch and challenge: Extended discussion of the theme of love in the opening of the play and elsewhere.
Spring 1	Parent and Child Poetry A selection of pre and post 1914 poetry on the theme is taught, with on contemporary poets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Creative writing response to a poem. ◆ Literary essay on the representation of maternal love. Stretch and challenge: Comparative essay discussing two poems of their choice.
Spring 2	Fiction Writing <i>Bildungsroman</i> or <i>rites of passage</i> genre [transition from childhood to adulthood]. A range of pre-1914 and 20 th Century African-American female writers from the genre are taught.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Rites of passage short story. Stretch and challenge: Setting their story against the backdrop of a specific social or historical event.
Summer 1	GCSE English Language WJEC/Eduqas English Language non-fiction travel writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Write a travel article in the journalistic style of their choice.
Summer 2	GCSE English Literature WJEC/Eduqas English Literature Poetry Anthology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Short literary essay on one poem from the anthology.

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

The English Department assesses students in a classroom context in an Assessment Booklet [this remains in school but is available to be viewed at Parent's Evening or by appointment]. Here the class teacher will determine whether your daughter's skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening tasks are developing, secure or excellent. Detailed diagnostic feedback is given, which celebrates achievement and explains the next steps to be taken. Feedback will address both content and technical accuracy in spelling, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary. Your daughter is expected to read and act on these recommendations and to take responsibility to make progress towards meeting them on their next piece of work.

The class teacher will also monitor your daughter's draft book, to check that the school's expectations for presentation and technical accuracy are being adhered to. The *Progress Guide* at the front of their draft book provides a record of your daughter's academic progress in their Assessment Booklet.

Finally, at the beginning of each academic year, your daughter will undertake literacy screening in spelling, reading and free writing to monitor their progression against national standardised attainment in these core English skills. You will receive a record of their results by letter in October of each year. If your daughter is not making expected progress, a place on the Literacy Intervention cohort will be offered.

How can I help my daughter?

Promoting reading for pleasure is the most vital form of parental support the department continues for. At this age, many parents agree that their daughters are no longer reading. If you help your daughter to regulate their social media usage, and be good role models yourselves, she will find that there is still time to read every day and that it enhances her well-being. All students in Year 9 are expected to read at least one novel at home in the 'rites of passage' genre as part of the creative writing unit and worldbookday.com has an excellent list of 50 recommendations. A link to this PDF can be found on the 'Literacy Page' on Virtual Learning Environment [VLE]. Please click the Year 9 tab on the home page.

Your daughter will also have a spelling test every fortnight, which you can help her to prepare for. Please see the VLE to access both the recommended reading lists and spelling tests for each year group in Key Stage 3. Here you will also find links to useful websites. If your daughter continues to struggle with technical accuracy, encourage her to access and work through the 'Boardworks' grammar resources.

Finally, increasing your daughter's cultural experiences through theatre, cinema, book festivals or author trips is a wonderful way to enhance their love of literature. The Royal Shakespeare Company, The National Theatre and The Royal Ballet and Opera stream their current performances live throughout the year, which offers world class theatre experiences for a fraction of the cost at *The Light Cinema* in New Brighton or *Picturehouse at Fact* in Liverpool.

Enrichment opportunities

- ◆ Wirral Paperback of the Year Reading Group
- ◆ World Book Day Art Exhibition and competition
- ◆ National Poetry Day workshops and poetry competitions
- ◆ Usbourne Sponsored Read – Christmas Holidays

Maths

The pupils will continue to develop the key skills required to start GCSE Mathematics after the Spring Break in Year 9.

This is achieved through a variety of activities including group work, rich tasks and challenge questions. They will become more familiar with exam style questions and take the lead on their own learning by identifying areas they need to work on and doing this independently of their lesson and their teacher.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1 Speed Distance Time Percentages	Speed Distance / Time graphs Use multipliers Repeated increase and decrease. Reverse percentages	Unit test on SDT Unit test on Percentages
Autumn 2 Algebra Probability	Solving linear equations Construct and solve non-linear equations Solve simultaneous equations Simple linear inequalities Factorisation Square a linear expression Tree diagrams for conditional events Relative Frequency	Unit test on Algebra Unit test on Probability
Spring 1 Constructions Trigonometry Enlargements	Constructions – triangles, perpendicular bisector, angle bisector. 60, 30 and 45 degree angles. Define the trigonometric ratios. Use trigonometry to find sides and angles Trigonometry and bearings Negative scale factors Similar area & volume	Unit test on Constructions Unit test on Trigonometry Unit test on Enlargements
Spring 2 Handling Data Rounding and Standard Form	Range and modal class Bar charts, line graphs and pie charts Scatter graphs Construct frequency tables and find the mode, mean, median and range. Interpret tables, graphs and diagrams Multiply and divide by any integer power of 10 Write numbers in standard form Use rounding to make estimates Understand upper and lower bounds Multiplying and dividing by numbers between 0 and 1	Unit test on Handling Data Unit test on Rounding and Standard Form End of Year Exam
Summer 1 & 2	Start of GCSE course	

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

Your daughter will have a folder of unit tests that will include a progress guide. The tests will have been marked by the teacher with an overall percentage awarded. Pupils are expected to work in groups to make corrections, with the class teacher going through questions the majority of the class found difficult. The pupils will have recorded their score and areas for improvement on the progress guides. Their homework books will also contain feedback and your daughter will have acted on this feedback in the form of corrections.

If your daughter has not made expected progress they will be asked to attend an intervention session that will revisit the content of that unit test. Their tracking will report on their achievements being excellent, secure or developing according to their unit test scores.

How can I help my daughter?

Encourage your daughter to use www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk. This is a fantastic website that encourages our pupils to take responsibility for their own learning. It contains videos for each topic and provides plenty of practice questions to accompany the work taking place in lessons. A list of suitable clips will be inside the cover of your daughter's exercise book.

Please encourage your daughter to attend study support for help with homework and any other areas of confusion from lessons. Please see the extra-curricular timetable for details.

Enrichment opportunities

Your daughter could have the opportunity to take part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. The Team Maths Challenge is a competition giving students the opportunity to tackle a variety of engaging mathematical activities while developing teamwork and communication skills.

Biology

Biology is a subject that is full of excitement, wonder and beauty. Everyone has an interest in how their own body functions and in Year 9 students gain a greater insight into the fundamental topics of cells and cell transport and how this knowledge can be applied to the complex internal systems that keep us alive.

During Year 9, your daughter will start the 3 year linear AQA GCSE Biology course. She will build upon the knowledge acquired in Year 7 on cells, reproduction, digestion and respiration and in Year 8 on photosynthesis, ecology, variation and inheritance.

Practical skills are developed throughout the course and the required practical work embedded in the GCSE schemes of work. These practical skills are, also, assessed in the examinations at the end of the linear course.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Cell biology Animal and plant cells	Weekly homework Interim assessment
Autumn 2	Eukaryotes and prokaryotes Principles of organization Differentiation and specialized cells Microscopy Transport in cells Diffusion Osmosis Active transport	Weekly homework Interim assessment Cumulative test
Spring 1	The Human Digestive System Structure of the human digestive system Enzymes Enzyme action	Weekly homework Interim assessment Cumulative test
Spring 2	The Circulatory System Blood Blood vessels The heart	Weekly homework Interim assessment Cumulative test
Summer 1	Non-Communicable Diseases Coronary heart disease Health issues The effect of lifestyle on non-communicable diseases Cancer	Weekly homework Interim assessment Cumulative test
Summer 2	Plant structure and function Structure of plant tissues and organs Transpiration and translocation Introduction to photosynthesis	Weekly homework Interim assessment Cumulative test

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

Throughout Year 9 your daughter's assessments (interim and end of unit) will be marked by her teacher and graded using the GCSE 9-1 grading system. Feedback is provided for each assessment and this will allow your daughter to identify topics she has mastered in addition to identifying those areas requiring further attention. She will be asked to set herself targets for improvement and this might include completing an additional intervention task. All assessment data is recorded in a Progress Guide which is secured to the inside cover of her exercise book. This also allows your daughter to track her own progress using her individual baseline grade.

Individual support is offered by each class teacher, in addition to a fortnightly intervention session which is supervised by staff. During this 'drop in' session, students are encouraged to seek help and support on specific topics.

Throughout the year tracking information is sent home to reflect current attainment in the subject and once a year a full written report is sent to parents.

The Year 9 Parents' evening in the year allows teachers to discuss progress with parents and students.

How can I help my daughter?

Teachers record homework tasks on SIMS and parents can help by encouraging their daughter to complete their work to the best of their ability and submit it on time. By looking through your daughter's book and initiating discussions about the topics being covered and responding to the feedback being offered by teachers, you can help students to take more responsibility for their own learning and promote independence.

At the start of Year 9 there is the opportunity to buy a revision guide to support the course. This revision guide can also be used throughout Year 10 and 11. Materials are also available on the school's VLE which can be accessed via the school website.

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

Background reading is an ideal way for students to expand upon their knowledge. Students are encouraged to access <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9ddmp3> and <https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/> to support their learning in class.

They are also encouraged to watch scientific programmes e.g. any of David Attenborough series or Countryfile and share their discoveries.

Physics

Physics is concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy. The subject matter of physics, distinguished from that of chemistry and biology, includes mechanics, heat, light and other radiation, sound, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of atoms.

During Year 9, your daughter will start the AQA GCSE Physics course. This is a 3-year linear course, with students examined at the end of the course. Students will build on the knowledge acquired in Years 7 and 8 on energy, electricity, light, forces and investigative work. Practical skills are developed throughout the course and the required practical work is embedded in the GCSE schemes of work. These practical skills are, also, assessed in the examinations at the end of the linear course.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	<p>Energy Energy stores and transfers Calculating energy Efficiency</p> <p>Transferring energy Part 1 Energy changes in a system Work and power</p>	<p>Cumulative tests, one every half term Focused marking tasks, one every half term. Weekly homework (which may sometimes be set on Google classroom)</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Transferring energy Part 2 Specific heat capacity Required practical 1 Heat transfer Insulation Required practical 2</p> <p>National and global energy resources Renewable and non-renewable resources Environmental impact of using different resources</p>	<p>Cumulative tests, one every half term Focused marking tasks, one every half term. Weekly homework (which may sometimes be set on Google classroom)</p>
Spring 1	<p>Electricity Current, potential difference and resistance Circuit symbols Electric current and charge Ohm's Law Required practical 3 Ohmic and non ohmic conductors Required practical 4</p>	<p>Cumulative tests, one every half term Focused marking tasks, one every half term. Weekly homework (which may sometimes be set on Google classroom)</p>
Spring 2	<p>Circuits Series and parallel circuits AC and DC Mains electricity Electrical power and energy transfers National Grid Static electricity Static charge Electric fields</p>	<p>Cumulative tests, one every half term Focused marking tasks, one every half term. Weekly homework (which may be sometimes set on Google classroom)</p>

Summer 1	Particle Model of Matter Changes of state and the particle model. Density Required practical 5 Changes of state Internal energy and energy transfers. Internal energy Specific heat capacity	1 hour summer examination paper, covering all the content from the year 9 course.
Summer 2	Internal energy and energy transfers Changes of state Specific latent heat Particle model and pressure Particle motion in gases Pressure in fluids Atmospheric pressure	Cumulative tests, one every half term Focused marking tasks, one every half term. Weekly homework (which may sometimes be set on Google classroom)

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this? How will work be assessed? What feedback might they get? What support might they get if they are not mastering the curriculum?

Throughout Year 9 your daughter's mid and end of unit assessments will be marked by her teacher and a grade provided. Feedback will be provided which will allow your daughter to see topics she has understood well and topics that require attention. She will be asked to review her assessment and set her own targets for improvement; an intervention task may also be provided. All assessment data is recorded in a Progress Guide which is secured to the inside cover of her exercise book. This also allows your daughter to track her own progress using her individual baseline grade. Focused marking tasks are set throughout the year and applicable targets given to the students; these may be extended writing tasks which will also be assessed for spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Intervention to help support students includes lunchtime support and one to one guidance.

Throughout the year tracking information is sent home to reflect current attainment in the subject and once a year, a full written report is sent to parents.

The Year 9 Parents' evening in the year allows teachers to discuss progress with parents and students.

How can I help my daughter?

At the start of Year 9 there is the opportunity to buy a revision guide which supports the course. Materials are also available on the school's VLE which can be accessed via the school website and on Google classroom. Teachers record homework details on SIMS and parents are encouraged to help their daughter to complete these tasks to the best of their ability and submit them on time.

Parents could also look through their daughter's book and encourage them to act upon feedback from their teacher to encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

Background reading is an ideal way for a student to expand their knowledge. Suitable websites include <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3> and <https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/>. The latter has past paper questions and videos so they can familiarise themselves with a wider range of concepts.

We will be running an astrophysics STEM club which will allow your daughter to enjoy Physics outside of the curriculum content.

Chemistry

Chemistry is the science of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of matter, understood in terms of atoms, atomic particles and the way they are arranged and link together. It is concerned with the synthesis, formulation, analysis and characteristic properties of substances and materials of all kinds.

During Year 9, your daughter will start the AQA GCSE Chemistry course. This is a 3-year linear course, with students examined at the end of the course. The content starts with fundamental aspects of chemistry such as atomic structure, bonding and the periodic table, and builds to topics in which the fundamentals are applied such as quantitative chemistry and equilibria, which are taught in year 11. Students will build on the knowledge acquired in Years 7 and 8 on elements, mixtures and compounds and chemical reactions and investigative work. Practical skills are developed throughout the course and the required practical work embedded in the GCSE schemes of work. These practical skills are, also, assessed in the examinations at the end of the linear course. During Year 9, your daughter will start the 3 year linear AQA GCSE Biology course. She will build upon the skills she has acquired in Year 7 and 8 and expand upon her knowledge.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Atomic Structure Atomic Structure and size of atoms Electronic structure Isotopes and calculating relative atomic mass Calculating relative formula mass Calculating percentage composition Bonding Chemical bonds including ionic and covalent bonding Chemical Equations Conservation of mass Balancing equations	Cumulative test Focused marking task Weekly homework
Autumn 2	The Periodic Table The periodic table Development of the periodic table Metals and non-metals Groups in the Periodic Table Group 1, group 7 and group 0 Properties of transition metals States of Matter The three states of matter and state symbols	Cumulative test Focused marking task Weekly homework
Spring 1	Reactivity of metals Metal oxides The reactivity series Extraction of metals and reduction	Cumulative test Focused marking task Weekly homework
Spring 2	Corrosion Corrosion and its prevention Alloys as useful materials Using the Earth's resources and sustainable development Potable water/Waste water treatment	Cumulative test Focused marking task Weekly homework

Summer 1	<p>Alternative methods of extracting metals Life cycle assessment Ways of reducing the use of resources</p> <p>The composition and evolution of the Earth's atmosphere The proportions of different gases in the atmosphere The Earth's early atmosphere How oxygen increased and carbon dioxide decreased</p>	<p>Cumulative test Focused marking task Weekly homework</p>
Summer 2	<p>Greenhouse Gases Human activities which contribute to an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere Global climate change The carbon footprint and its reduction Atmospheric pollutants from fuels Properties and effects of atmospheric pollutants</p>	<p>Cumulative test Focused marking task Weekly homework</p>

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

Throughout year 9 there are regular cumulative tests and the grades and percentages put into a progress guide. These are compared, on the bar chart, with the baseline for the year. Written targets are produced and stuck in their exercise books. Focused marking tasks are set throughout the year, answered in their exercise books and applicable targets given to the students.

Intervention to help support students includes lunchtime support, topic based question booklets, and one to one guidance.

Throughout the year tracking information is sent home to reflect current attainment in the subject and once a year a full written report is sent to parents.

The Year 9 Parents' evening in the year allows teachers to discuss progress with parents and students.

How can I help my daughter?

At the start of year 9 there will be an opportunity to buy revision guides, which are an excellent resource for the course. The school VLE can be accessed from the school website and this has lots of valuable information to help support learning. Online a valuable website is <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

It would be helpful if parents look through their daughter's chemistry book and check that she has actioned all the feedback supplied by teachers. Teachers record homework details on SIMS and therefore parents can keep a track of homework and when it is due and encourage their daughter to organise her time efficiently.

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

The Royal Society of Chemistry hold an annual Chemistry competition, called Top of the bench, at Liverpool University. There are usually three activities in the competition: a 2hrs lab task, a 1hr exam and a poster presentation and the team consists of two students from year 9, one from year 10 and one from year 11.

Background reading is an ideal way for a student to expand their knowledge. Suitable websites include <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3> and <https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/>.

The latter has past paper questions and videos so they can familiarise themselves with a wider range of concepts.

Religious Education

A strong emphasis will be placed on ensuring students are prepared for the rigor of the Religious Education GCSE which all students will undertake in the summer of Year 11 during Y9. In many cases the Year 9 curriculum lays a strong foundation in students understanding of religion and religious life which can then be built upon in the GCSE course. The curriculum culminates with students formally beginning their GCSE studies in the final term of the year.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Students will study reasons why people do and do not believe in God. A study of some of the key logical arguments for the existence of God will be explored alongside reasons why people may doubt the existence of the divine. Students will also evaluate the strength of these arguments and the Catholic responses to them.	Students will be assessed by summative assessment this half term.
Autumn 2	Students will study Catholic, Christian and others beliefs about life after death. Students will be able to identify a range of beliefs concerning what happens when we die and will evaluate their own position on the issue.	Students will be assessed by summative assessment this half term.
Spring 1	Students will study Catholic beliefs concerning the Sacraments. Students will explore the features, significance and issues around each of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.	Students will be assessed by summative assessment this half term.
Spring 2	Students will study how morals decisions are made including an examination of religious scripture, conscience, situation ethics and the teachings of the Church.	Formative assessment and class tests are used to assess progress this half term.
Summer 1	Students will begin their study of the GCSE course with an exploration of Jewish belief. Students will study Religious Studies: Route A with the Edexcel Exam board.	Formative assessment and class tests are used to assess progress this half term.
Summer 2	Students will continue their study of the GCSE course with a further exploration of Jewish belief. Students will study Religious Studies: Route A with the Edexcel Exam board.	End of year assessment

How can I help my daughter?

Students are given a learning program which outlines each area covered in a specific module. This allows students and parents to clearly see the information students should have gained an understanding of during Religious Education lessons.

Websites which may aid students to consolidate or extend their learning include:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/religious-studies.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

The Religious Education Virtual Learning Environment contains numerous resources to aid students with their studies at GCSE and can be found at www.uptonhallschool.co.uk

The Religious Education Department at Upton Hall can be followed on twitter: @REUptonFcj

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

Work is assessed in Religious Education throughout the year and through various methods. The assessment style used in Key Stage Three (Years 7-9) is in line with the criteria for assessment outlined by the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Summative assessments are conducted at key points throughout the year and teacher's will use formative assessment to ensure students clarity of understanding and progress.

Students are given progress books in Year 7 which track their progress throughout Key Stage Three and allows students, parents and teachers to see the learning journey the student has undertaken throughout Years 7,8 & 9.

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

There are multiple opportunities for Key stage three students to take their learning beyond the classroom:

- ◆ A regular philosophy film club is held
- ◆ Students are invited to participate in a pilgrimage to Lourdes
- ◆ All students get the opportunity to participate in a multi-faith day which involves the opportunity to speak with members of different faith communities

Art and Design

Art and Design in Year 9 consists of two lessons per week. Pupils will follow a course preparing them for the demands of the further study at GCSE.

Pupils are introduced to a variety of media, processes and techniques that develop their awareness and understanding of colour, tone, texture, shape and form. Pupils can create responses using a combination of methods including;

- ◆ Painting, drawing, mixed-media and collage
- ◆ Sculpture and relief work
- ◆ Textiles

Pupils are set practical tasks that encourage an investigative approach to a given theme. To support the creative work they produce in school, pupils are set homework tasks that encourage independent study. Underpinning all the units of work is the use of sketchbooks and the study of artists, crafts people and designers.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Becky Adams Textiles A unit of work based on the textile Artist Becky Adams. Pupils will create a detailed and informative research project based on the artist. This will stimulate written and practical responses in class.	Diagnostic drawing tests will link to the unit theme at the beginning and end of each unit of work.
Autumn 2	Becky Adams Textiles A unit of work based on the textile Artist Becky Adams. Pupils will create a detailed and informative research project based on the artist. This will stimulate written and practical responses in class.	Diagnostic drawing tests will link to the unit theme at the beginning and end of each unit of work.
Spring 1	Sweet Things During this term pupils will explore and respond to the artist Claes Oldenburg and Wayne Thiebaud, producing a number of observational drawings, paintings and collage.	Diagnostic drawing tests will link to the unit theme at the beginning and end of each unit of work.
Spring 2	Sweet Things The work produced during spring term 1 will then be developed into a 3-dimensional outcome in mixed media or ceramics.	Diagnostic drawing tests will link to the unit theme at the beginning and end of each unit of work.
Summer 1	Natural Forms/Birds During this unit pupils will investigate natural forms with a focus on birds. This will involve a series of experimental observational drawing tasks that will extend and build upon pupils existing drawing skills and also introduce them to new techniques preparing them for GCSE art and beyond.	Diagnostic drawing tests will link to the unit theme at the beginning and end of each unit of work.
Summer 2	Natural forms/Birds The observational drawing tasks completed in summer term 1 will then be developed into a series of 3-dimensional outcomes including; mixed media, paper, plastic and textiles.	Summer drawing exam

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

At the beginning and end of each term all pupils will have a diagnostic drawing test. This helps us to monitor the progress of each pupil, allowing us to quickly identify and target the areas of strength or weakness of each pupil.

Pupils will receive written or verbal feedback on each piece of work they produce. All pupils must act upon any feedback or advice given to ensure they are working to their full potential.

How can I help my daughter?

Regular visits to Art Galleries and Exhibitions are always encouraged. Throughout Wirral and Liverpool there are excellent Galleries that are free to enter.

- ◆ The Williamson Art Gallery - Birkenhead
- ◆ Lady Lever Art Gallery - Port Sunlight
- ◆ Tate Gallery - Albert Dock, Liverpool

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

There are a number of creative magazines available to read in the library as such as 'Molly Makes' and 'Creative Review'.

There is also a large selection of Art & Design and Fashion books in the school library. These range from Renaissance and Impressionism to more contemporary artists. This is an invaluable learning resource for all of our pupils

Design and Technology

As citizens of the twenty-first century, pupils are faced with an uncertain future. A future of energy and material shortages, the effects of climate change, an increased reliance on technology, the Internet of Things and a manufacturing revolution are just some of the issues today's society faces. Design and Technology aims to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the technological age; they will develop a wide range of problem solving, mathematical and technical skills that are underpinned by a deep knowledge of materials, components and systems along with how and why products are manufactured in particular ways. The work of past and present designers influence pupils as they learn from their successes and failures. There is an acute focus on environmental impacts and meeting the needs and wants of a wide variety of consumers, including inclusive design for the less able or for those with different cultures or faiths. In addition to the demands of this rigorous curriculum, there is also an emphasis on building resilience in pupils as mistakes are encouraged, as well an emphasis on collaboration and companionship.

The aim of the Design and Technology curriculum at Key Stage 3 is to introduce pupils to solving problems through practical skills. By developing a foundation knowledge of materials, components, systems and processes, pupils are then able to create functioning prototypes to solve a range of problems. As pupils progress through Key Stage 3, the problems they solve become more complex and demand an increased knowledge of materials, components, systems, processes and their impacts on the environment.

Year 9's develop the skills built in Year 7 and Year 8 by spending more time on design communication, practical skills and problem solving. As there is more curriculum time in Year 9, pupils are able to explore projects in more depth. There is an explicit focus on developing applied maths skills within each focus.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	<p>Translating engineering drawings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Orthographic drawings ◆ Manufacturing aids ◆ Use of hand tools ◆ Use of CAD/CAM ◆ Vacuum forming <p>◆ Design communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sketching in a range of ways, including isometric drawing. ◆ Using the DTDot® to support isometric sketching. ◆ Use of shading, line weight and coloured blocks to make sketches look more realistic. 	<p>Pupils are assessed on how well they are able to translate an orthographic drawing to create a prototype of a car body.</p> <p>Pupils use all of the skills they have developed to sketch three different products. These act as the assessed pieces.</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Smart product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Analysis of a range of 'smart products'. ◆ Development of an idea for a new smart product. ◆ Use of the Crumble to make products more functional. ◆ Card modelling. ◆ Presentation skills. 	<p>Pupils are assessed on how well they have used the Crumble to improve their prototype and make it more functional.</p>

Spring 1	Practical skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Traditional wood joints ◆ Metal forming ◆ Riveting ◆ Laser cutting and plastic forming ◆ Lamination ◆ Shaping woods ◆ Adding surface finishes. 	Pupils receive regular feedback on their practical skills.
Spring 2	Animal Lamp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Metals, their properties and applications. ◆ Making a template. ◆ Reducing waste and cutting metals safely. ◆ Electronics ◆ Soldering ◆ Evaluating Biomechanics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inclusive design ◆ Prototyping ◆ Measuring and anthropometrics ◆ Links to biology 	<p>The template produced and final product is assessed.</p> <p>Pupils are assessed on how well they can communicate technical information.</p>
Summer 1	Architectural: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Creation of mood board ◆ Research methods ◆ Designing ◆ One and two-point perspective drawing ◆ Model making ◆ Presentation skills 	One and two-point perspective drawings are assessed.
Summer 2	Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Research methods ◆ Iterative design ◆ Orthographic drawing ◆ Manufacture 	Orthographic drawing and final prototype are assessed.

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

As with all Key Stage 3 subjects; developing, secure and excellent grades are given for assessments. Your daughter will be assessed on key tasks as outlined above and will receive detailed feedback on these.

Your daughter will complete homework in an exercise book, which will also contain notes taken in lessons.

Your daughter will receive regular feedback on her work and she will have the opportunity to reflect on this and ensure she makes further progress. If she is struggling with any of the concepts, then she will receive additional support in lessons and may be invited to some additional sessions at lunch time.

How can I help my daughter?

You can help your daughter by encouraging the use of the VLE. The Product Design VLE is full of useful resources, including, documents, videos and animations. Your daughter is encouraged to use the search function at the top right of the page to search any topics she is unsure of, or as part of her homework tasks.

There are a number of other websites that are useful, that will support your daughter:

- ◆ BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zfr9wmn>
- ◆ Technology Student <http://www.technologystudent.com/>
- ◆ National Geographic <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

Please encourage your daughter to complete 'excellence' tasks, which feature in lessons and in homework. These tasks are designed to extend her thinking and stretch and challenge her.

Enrichment opportunities

STEM Club is an excellent opportunity for your daughter to work with other pupils on activities and competitions relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Design and Technology as a subject encompasses all four of these, therefore if your daughter enjoys the subject she should get involved in any STEM activity she can, both inside and outside of school.

Watching 'How It's Made' on TV or Youtube is a great way of seeing manufacture in action, it gives a much greater understanding of the scale involved in making a range of different products as well as exploring individual processes.

The Smallpeice Trust is a charitable organisation that aims to increase the number of young people entering engineering-based careers. They offer a range of residential visits from Year 8 endorsed by the school which may be of interest. <http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk>

Looking ahead, your daughter could apply for an Arkwright Scholarship in Year 11, a prestigious award that is recognised by many universities and top employers in the field of engineering. Upton supports Year 11 pupils with all aspects of the application and interview process. <http://www.arkwright.org.uk>

Drama

Pupils in Year 9 have 2 drama lessons every week. Year 9 pupils have chosen to study Drama so we expect them to be confident, creative and committed to the subject. At the end of the Year 9 pupils will be able to:

- ◆ Be **confident** and **communicate and co-operate effectively** with others when working as part of a team.
- ◆ **Devise drama** in various forms, based on a range of creative stimuli, challenging issues and themes.
- ◆ **Interpret scripts** in order to **present clearly defined characters** in both group and solo performances.
- ◆ **Organise themselves and present performances to a range of audiences** for different purposes and styles.
- ◆ Select, use and control **appropriate acting and/or design skills** with enthusiasm and develop these in rehearsals.
- ◆ **Use appropriate Drama terminology** to describe and evaluate their own and others work and **analyse how actors, technicians and directors** communicate ideas, emotions and feelings, or have achieved special effects in performance.
- ◆ **Evaluate their own progress, strive to improve and set themselves meaningful targets for GCSE Drama.**

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1 & Autumn 2	<p>Scripted Performance</p> <p>Pupils explore extracts from a range of scripts of varying styles.</p> <p>Pupils apply rehearsal or design techniques in order to interpret characters from both realist and non-naturalistic plays.</p> <p>Pupils participate in a performance of one play studied.</p>	<p>Formative assessment task</p> <p>Pupils are assessed on their practical application of acting or design skills & their ability to interpret characters, roles & texts for performance. Pupils receive both verbal and written feedback from their teacher & peers.</p>
Autumn 2 & Spring 1	<p>Soap Opera</p> <p>Pupils explore realism and naturalism through the medium of Soap Opera.</p> <p>Pupils create and apply realist designs and naturalistic acting techniques in rehearsal.</p> <p>Pupils devise and create believable characters and well designed and staged situations for a group devised and scripted Soap Opera style performance.</p>	<p>Pupils complete self & peer assessment, set targets for improvement and celebrate their achievement. Pupils are assessed on their practical, design & performance skills in formative and summative assessment tasks They receive an effort level (1-4) and attainment grade from their teacher which is noted in whole school tracking data as either, <i>Developing, Secure or Excellent</i>.</p>
Spring 1	<p>Improvisation Pupils participate in group and solo improvisation workshops which enable them to build their confidence in rehearsals and in spontaneous, rehearsed and polished improvised performance.</p>	<p>Pupils complete formative assessment tasks and receive teacher and peer feedback based on their skills' progression in improvisation & imaginative ideas.</p> <p>Pupils set targets for improvement</p>

Spring 2	<p>Theatre in Education</p> <p>Pupils are introduced to <i>Theatre in Education</i> through exploring contemporary themes and issues E.g. Internet safety, making significant links with PSHE. They experience the different staging, design and acting techniques used in this didactic drama form & performance style.</p> <p>Pupils explore how to devise, structure and rehearse a TIE performance using a range of Brechtian theatrical conventions in order to create a piece of theatre which educates a target audience about a particular subject.</p>	<p>Pupils complete a summative assessment. They also complete self and peer assessment and write targets for improvement. Pupils receive a full report including their effort level and attainment grade. Pupils progress is noted in whole school tracking data as either <i>Developing, Secure or Excellent</i> based on their overall skills level and progression in year 9.</p>
Summer 1	<p>Polished Performance</p> <p>Pupils work creatively with peers to interpret characters and rehearse chosen scenes from one of the plays explored (in Spring 1) in order to present a polished performance with a focus on learning lines, blocking and rehearsing scenes, developing characters and sustaining their roles.</p>	<p>Pupils complete formative assessment tasks.</p> <p>They complete self and peer assessment.</p> <p>They set targets for improvement</p>
Summer 2	<p>Devised Performance</p> <p>Pupils work in groups to devise, stage rehearse, polish and present an original TIE style performance based on creative stimuli.</p> <p>Pupils produce a written log and evaluation of their creative process & performance. Pupils perform to a chosen target audience.</p>	<p>Pupils are assessed on their creative process as seen in their written log book. They are also marked on their evaluation & final performance/contribution. Pupils complete a summative assessment for Whole School Tracking.</p>

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

- ◆ Pupil effort (1-4) and attainment marks (Developing, Secure and Excellent) are recorded four times a year in whole school tracking and reporting documents.
- ◆ Verbal and written feedback will be offered to students during formative and summative assessment tasks.
- ◆ Written homework tasks including research, line learning, self & peer assessment will be completed in pupil assessment booklets.
- ◆ Pupils and parents will attend one parent - teacher evening a year to discuss pupil progress and agree targets for improvement.
- ◆ Pupils will receive a detailed Drama report.

How will work be assessed?

- ◆ Pupils participate in regular **formative assessments** and termly **summative assessments**.
- ◆ **Formative assessment** includes activities such as; discussions with teachers about the drama work being created, observed rehearsals of group and solo work, presentations to other groups and script, booklet and creative log checking. **Summative assessment** is completed during polished performances of student work to the teacher and the class audience.
- ◆ The curriculum content, of the year 9 Drama course is based on National Drama Level Descriptors and the delivery and assessment format is aimed at securing the acquisition of skills for the Eduqas GCSE Drama Course.
- ◆ Pupils reflect on their own and others progress through **self, peer and teacher assessment**.
- ◆ **Summative assessments** take place at the end of each unit of work.

What feedback might they get? / What support might they get if they are not mastering the curriculum?

- ◆ Pupils receive personalized feedback in lessons in order to know and understand how to improve practical performance skills, including voice, movement and design skills.
- ◆ Pupils are offered personalized targets in order to develop their knowledge and understand how to use Drama and Theatre vocabulary during verbal and written responses.
- ◆ Pupils are observed and supported in group work in order to develop their confidence.

Pupils will record their effort and progress in their assessment booklets and will actively engage in consolidating their learning, whilst targeting areas for improvement

Enrichment opportunities:

- ◆ Year 9 pupils are invited to audition and participate in the whole school (Musical) production.
- ◆ Year 9 Drama club takes place once a week in the Spring and Summer Term.
- ◆ Year 9 pupils have been invited to audition and participate in local and national Drama festivals e.g. Shakespeare in Schools at The Floral Pavilion Theatre and at The Unity Theatre, Liverpool.
- ◆ Year 9 pupils are encouraged to watch drama performances in school e.g. GCSE and A' Level assessed work, and the Drama Department arranges regular theatre visits in school and to local theatres e.g. The Everyman Theatre, Liverpool Empire and The Royal Exchange Manchester, to watch a range of full scale touring plays and Musical Theatre productions.

Modern Foreign Languages - French

Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in this country and around the world. We aim that by year 9, all of our pupils will be confident in French, having consolidated their knowledge gained in year 8. During this year, we aim to lay down good foundations for their GCSE course. As year 9 is the preparation stage for the start for the start of the GCSE studies, it is important to emphasize that personal study and learning vocabulary and grammar are vital elements of pupils' work.

Above all, we would like our students to become confident speakers of French, to have fun, to work cooperatively with other members of the class and to develop a fascination to learn about other languages and cultures.

Aimez apprendre!

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Autumn 1: In town Key vocabulary and structures Grammar: revision from Y7 and 8 (regular verbs/ key irregular verbs/ prepositions and gender)	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Reading and Translation
Autumn 2	Autumn 2: ordering food/Healthy eating/health and illnesses Key vocabulary and structures Grammar: Translation of "some"/ il faut/on peut+infinitive/ j'ai mal à....	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Listening, Reading and Writing
Spring 1	Spring 1: Technology Key vocabulary and structures Grammar: perfect tense/ Revision of present tense	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Listening and Reading
Spring 2	Spring 2: Environment/Holidays and tourism Key vocabulary and structures Grammar: Perfect tense and present tense continued/Essential verbs: must and can	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Writing and Translation
Summer 1 & Summer 2	Summer 1 and 2: Jobs and careers Key vocabulary and structures. Discuss future plans. Grammar: future tense: aller+infinitive/ Simple future/ Revision of the 3 tenses	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Listening and Reading

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

During the course of the academic year, you will be informed about your daughter's progress. An attainment of Excellent, Secure and outstanding will be given to each of the girls. Please find below the description for each of them:

Excellent – Excellent - In the skills of listening, reading, writing, speaking and / or translation I have produced very accurate and outstanding work and answers.

Secure – solide - In the skills of listening, reading, writing, speaking and / or translation I have produced accurate work and answers which show a sound understanding of the topics and grammar taught.

Developing – En progrès - In the skills of listening, reading, writing, speaking and / or translation I show some understanding of the topics and grammar taught. To progress further I need to work on my targets and regularly review my work.

Support is provided through intervention strategies that we have as a Department. These include: Lunchtime Sessions, One to One Extra Support, Extra Work Given, Summer Work Given and Revision Sessions.

How can I help my daughter?

There is a number of ways students can practise their language skills interactively. Have a look at the following websites:

Quizlet

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z4dqxnb>

www.linguascope.com

www.languagesonline.com

www.zut.org

www.funwithlanguages.org

Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish

Learning a foreign language provides an opening to other cultures. At Upton we believe that a high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. Pupils should have the opportunity to express their ideas and thoughts in Spanish and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. Our aim is to encourage students to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. We would like to provide our students with the foundation for learning further languages, equipping them to study and work in other countries. In this second year of their Spanish studies, students build on the key foundations laid in Year 7 and are introduced to new topic areas and more challenging grammatical content. We would like our students to become confident speakers of Spanish, to have fun, to work cooperatively with other members of the class and to develop a fascination to learn about other languages and cultures.

A disfrutar aprendiendo!

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Describing the place where you live, describing your home and giving opinions Grammar: Present Tense of Vivir, Plural and Singular Opinions School: opinions of subjects, time and timetable, lunch time activities Grammar: Revision of Present Simple and Immediate Future, radical changing verbs (empezar), se puede + infinitive ,time + a la/ a las	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Listening and Reading
Autumn 2	Food and mealtimes, healthy diet, school meals and cultural differences in eating habits, describing your school Christmas traditions in Spanish-speaking countries Grammar: Revision of gustar and adjective agreement, a+el=al, revision of definite and indefinite articles	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Writing and Translation
Spring 1	Describing your school uniform in past, present and future, giving opinion of clothes/uniform Grammar: Adjectives and comparisons, introduction to Imperfect tense, revision of Present and Immediate Future	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Listening and Reading
Spring 2	Holidays: destinations, transport, past destinations, holiday activities past and present, weather Grammar: Revision of se puede, a/en + modes of transport, verb IR in Preterite tense, regular AR/ER/IR verbs in Preterite tense	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of unit assessment in Writing and Translation

Summer 1	Future holidays, ideal holidays Grammar: Revision of Immediate Future, introduction of Future Simple, introduction of Conditional tense REVISION FOR END OF YEAR EXAMS	Weekly vocabulary tests Weekly translation tests End of year exam assessing skills of reading, listening, writing and translation.
Summer 2	Review of Year 8 vocabulary and grammar Focus on speaking skills Preparation for end of year speaking exam	Speaking Assessment

Making Progress

During the course of the academic year, you will be informed about your daughter's progress. An attainment of Excellent, Secure and outstanding will be given to each of the girls. Please find below the description for each of them:

Excellent – Excelente - In the skills of listening, reading, writing, speaking and / or translation I have produced very accurate and outstanding work and answers.

Secure – Firme - In the skills of listening, reading, writing, speaking and / or translation I have produced accurate work and answers which show a sound understanding of the topics and grammar taught.

Developing – En desarrollo - In the skills of listening, reading, writing, speaking and / or translation I show some understanding of the topics and grammar taught. To progress further I need to work on my targets and regularly review my work.

Support is provided through intervention strategies that we have as a Department. These include: Lunchtime Sessions, One to One Extra Support, Extra Work Given, Summer Work Given and Revision Sessions

Practising the Language

There is a number of ways students can practise their language skills interactively. Have a look at the following websites:

<https://www.educationquizzes.com/spanish>
<http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk/ks3/index.htm>
<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zfckjxs>
www.linguascope.com

Enrichment opportunities

- ◆ International Film Club
- ◆ Spanish Language Club
- ◆ Annual European Week of Languages
- ◆ Cultural Project about Spain/Spanish Speaking Countries

Mandarin Chinese

Through the study of Mandarin Chinese in Year 9, pupils will not only develop their linguistic competence in writing, reading, speaking, listening and translation, but also develop their study skills and general grammatical awareness at the GCSE Chinese Foundation level. Pupils will be able to express their ideas and thoughts and demonstrate their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers. At the end of Year 9, pupils will attain Grades 5 - 6.

Year 8 Chinese class pupils will have four lessons every two weeks on the curriculum timetable. The MEP pupils, in addition to timetables lessons, will have two more lessons in the after-school (Mondays and Tuesdays) sessions, including cultural activities and a residential learning course in a UK top university in June.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Jinbu 2 Unit 4 Shopping At a supermarket Buying clothes At a department store Online shopping Shopping in China	Dictation exercise Unit test: four skills Interviewing underperforming pupils
Autumn 2	Jinbu 2 Unit 5 Travel in China Travel plan Talking about visiting Beijing Understanding tourist information Buying souvenirs Culture: Chinese New Year Culture: Chinese festivals	Dictation exercise Unit test: four skills Evaluation and target setting
Spring 1	GCSE Chinese Chapter 1 My life Likes and dislikes Chinese families My friends Hobbies When I was young	Dictation exercise Assessment: four skills Interviewing underperforming pupils
Spring 2	GCSE Chinese Chapter 2 School My school My school day Comparing schools in China and the UK School activities China Week Celebration of the Chinese New Year and various Chinese culture activities	Dictation exercise Assessment: four skills Research: education in China Evaluation and target setting
Summer 1	GCSE Chinese Chapter 3 Leisure Talking about sports facilities Outside school activities Leisure activities with family and friends	Dictation exercise Assessment: four skills Report Evaluation and target setting

Summer 2	GCSE Chinese Chapter 3 Leisure (continued) Healthy lifestyle Talking about keeping fit	Dictation exercise learning course in a UK university
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How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

Vocabulary is crucial in learning Chinese language. It will be continually assessed on a regular basis in Year 9. Pupils' progress on the four language skills will be assessed at the end of each topic/unit. Pupils will receive either verbal or written feedback from teachers and peers regarding their performance in learning. Pupils will be required to analyse their own learning and set up new targets at the end of each term.

Regular homework is required for Year 9 pupils. Completion and timely submission of homework are expected. Homework could be in any skill areas: speaking, listening, reading, writing or translation. It will also include some research about China or Chinese culture to stimulate pupils' interest.

Lunchtime and afterschool tutorial sessions will be allocated to Year 9 pupils to help them to meet their potential and improve their performance in learning.

How can I help my daughter?

(Websites, places they can visit, extension material to read, viewing lists, questions parents can ask their children)

Pupils can use the websites below for their learning:

www.quizlet.com/subject.chinese
www.chinese-tools.com/tools/pinyin.htm/

Writing Chinese character: www.mdbg.net

Chinese grammar: <http://www.hackingchinese.com/how-to-approach-chinese-grammar/>
<http://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/>

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

- ◆ MEP residential intensive learning course in a UK top university in June.
- ◆ Chinese drama group
- ◆ Pupils will participate in various Chinese cultural activities within the school and the local community.
- ◆ Pupils will be encouraged to participate in regional and national Chinese speaking competitions organized by the British Council.
- ◆ Pupils will have opportunities to visit Chinese departments in prestigious UK universities.
- ◆ Pupils will have opportunities to visit other prestigious UK schools where Chinese has been successfully introduced.

Geography

Geography provides young people with opportunities to develop a wide range of skills that will contribute to their employability, whatever their chosen career. The wide variety of transferable skills, abilities and attitudes to independent learning developed through geographical study make geographers attractive to employers.

Year 9 Geography enables students to complete the Key Stage Three course and gain a flavour of what GCSE Geography might be like so they are well prepared for further study. Content is organised around key questions and learners should develop an ability to pose geographical questions of their own.

We follow the Eduqas GCSE Geography A specification which develops an enquiry approach to the study of geographical information, issues and concepts. It is based on the principle that geographical education should enable learners to become critical and reflective thinkers by engaging them actively in the enquiry process. Content is organised around key questions and learners should develop an ability to pose geographical questions of their own. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-a/>

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Core Theme 1: Landscapes and Physical Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The UK and it's landscapes ◆ Coastlines – physical landscape features and their formation. How coastline are protected. 	Summative assessment
Autumn 2	Core theme 2: Urban issues in contrasting global cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Where does the world live? ◆ Mumbai – a global city in a NIC. ◆ Mumbai – ways of life, challenges and possible solutions with a focus on Dharavi. 	Group presentation and summative assessment.
Spring	Core theme 2: Urban issues in contrasting global cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Liverpool - a global city. Liverpool in the world. How and why is Liverpool connected? ◆ Liverpool – How has Liverpool changed? Decline and regeneration. ◆ Liverpool One – changes to retail (out of town vs city centre regeneration). 	Summer exam
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Core theme 2: The urban-rural continuum in the UK ◆ Where do people live in the UK? How is the population of the UK changing? ◆ What is the rural-urban continuum? Counter-urbanisation: causes and effects local case studies ◆ Egan's wheel – sustainable communities in the UK 	

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

A variety of assessment opportunities are provided, from traditional exam style question papers to more creative group assessed presentations. The assessments are planned for at least one a term.

Pupils are encouraged to take more responsibility for their own learning. This includes monitoring their own progress using a 'passport' which is issued at the beginning of the year. They can track their own progress against assessment criteria and syllabus content.

Exam board websites provide plenty of resources to support pupils. We encourage them to use the EUQAS website for learning and assessment materials.

How can I help my daughter?

Websites, places they can visit, extension material to read, viewing lists, questions parents can ask their children

Enrichment opportunities

Upton Hall's eco environment group is run by the geography department. This extra-curricular group provides opportunities for pupils to get involved with local eco based projects. We are also very lucky to have amazing school grounds with our own solar dome, allotment and orchard.

We enter a team of pupils for the annual Worldwise Geography Quiz hosted by Chester University.

There is also the geography graduates programme, encouraging pupils to investigate an issues or topic of their own choice.

History

Students will build on the substantive and disciplinary knowledge acquired in Years 7 and 8. Following on from their study of the causes and effects of World War I in Year 8, they will focus on its impact on Russia, Italy and Germany in particular, studying the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini. They will study World War II, considering who fought on Britain's behalf in that war, leading to an exploration of decolonization and the Windrush generation. Students will complete an in-depth study of the Holocaust. They will learn a number of key concepts, such as Communism, Capitalism and Fascism, laying a firm foundation for their further study of History, literature and culture beyond Key Stage 3.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	The Rise of the Dictators Why did Russians kill the Tsar? How did Stalin rise to power? How did Stalin keep control? How did the son of a blacksmith come to rule Italy? How did a 'chaotic loser' come to lead Germany into World War II? How are the dictators remembered?	Regular knowledge tests. Essay questions and shorter questions and exercises.
Autumn 2	World War II Who fought in World War II and how was it won? Was Truman right to bomb Hiroshima?	
Spring 1	The Holocaust An in-depth study of the people and events involved in Nazi persecutions of minorities in Nazi-occupied territory.	As Above
Spring 2	Post-War Britain What happened to the Windrush generation?	
Summer 1 & Summer 2	Crime and Punishment Through Time The Nature and Changing Definitions of Criminal Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crimes against the person, property and authority. ● Changing definitions of crime as a result of changes in society. The Nature of Law Enforcement and Punishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The role of the authorities and local communities in law enforcement ● The changing emphasis on deterrence, retribution and rehabilitation through time. 	Summer Exam Some short questions to test knowledge of key concepts. Timelines. Essay questions and shorter questions and exercises.

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this? How will work be assessed? What feedback might they get? What support might they get if they are not mastering the curriculum?

Regular tests will measure understanding. Additional questions, guidance and feedback will be given where any pupil is not mastering the curriculum.

How can I help my daughter?

We will post relevant links and work on Google Classroom throughout the year.

Relevant information is also available at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/joseph-stalin-national-hero-or-cold-blooded-murderer/zhv747h>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/mussolini_benito.shtml

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/>

<https://www.migrationmuseum.org/explore-our-online-resources/>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/american-bomber-drops-atomic-bomb-on-hiroshima>

Enrichment opportunities (Reading/Clubs)

Please see above.

Pupils will have the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the Holocaust, through attending a live webcast of a Holocaust survivor speaking about their experiences.

Computer Science (Core)

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with mathematics and science.

The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

In Year 9, pupils build on their programming prior knowledge from Years 7 and 8. They are also introduced to spreadsheet modelling applications and learn how binary digits can be used to represent text and numbers and how computers handle large quantities of data.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Pupils have one lesson per fortnight taught in forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Python Programming ◆ Spreadsheet Modelling ◆ Data Representation 	<p>Self, peer and teacher marking throughout the series of lessons.</p> <p>There are end of topic assessments throughout.</p>

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

As with all Key Stage 3 subjects; developing, secure and excellent grades are given for assessments. In addition to end-of-topic tests, your daughter will be assessed through the use of rubrics in order to holistically view her understanding. Feedback can be found in the online classwork booklet and homework booklet via her Google Classroom.

Your daughter will receive regular feedback on her work and she will have the opportunity to reflect on this and ensure she makes further progress. If she is struggling with any of the concepts, then she will receive additional support in lessons and may be invited to some additional sessions at lunch time.

How can I support my daughter?

You can help your daughter by encouraging the use of the Google Classroom which contains many useful resources, including, documents, videos and animations.

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f> is an excellent resource that your daughter can use to support her learning.

Please encourage your daughter to complete 'excellence' tasks, which feature in lessons and in homework. These tasks are designed to extend her thinking and stretch and challenge her.

Computer Science (Optional)

“Every girl deserves to take part in creating the technology that will change our world.” Malala Yousafzai

The most important aspect of Computer Science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Pupils who opt to study Computer Science during year 9, will have a basic introduction to GCSE Computer Science including developing their practical programming skills and completing some theory topics.

Programming is a satisfying experience, and certainly useful, but computer science is about much more than just programming. Even pupils who never program again outside of school will have plenty of encounters with computational thinking later in life. Computer science is everywhere in society today. It is primarily grounded in logic and mathematics, however, archaeologists write programs to piece together fragments of ancient ruins, economists apply deep learning models to financial data, linguists write programs to study statistical properties of literary works, physicists study computational models of the universe to analyse its origins, musicians work with synthesized sound, geologists study the evolution of landscapes, artists work with digital images, etc.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Pupils have two lessons per week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Python Programming ◆ Cybersecurity ◆ Networks and The Internet ◆ Using BBC Micro:bits ◆ Data Representation ◆ The World of Work including cloud computing ◆ Online Safety (fake news and online reputations) 	<p>Self, peer and teacher marking throughout the series of lessons.</p> <p>There are end of topic assessments throughout.</p>

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

As with all Key Stage 3 subjects; developing, secure and excellent grades are given for assessments. In addition to end-of-topic tests, your daughter will be assessed via practical and theory work submitted online. Feedback can be found in the online classwork and homework tasks set via her Google Classroom.

Your daughter will receive regular feedback on her work and she will have the opportunity to reflect on this and ensure she makes further progress. If she is struggling with any of the concepts, then she will receive additional support in lessons and may be invited to some additional sessions at lunch time.

How can I help my daughter?

You can help your daughter by encouraging the use of the Google Classroom which contains many useful resources, including, documents, videos and animations.

BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zvc9q6f> is an excellent resource that your daughter can use to support her learning.

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. In Year 9, your daughter's music education will continue to engage and inspire her to develop a love of music and her talent as a musician, and so increase her self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As she progresses and builds upon the skills introduced in Years 7 and 8, she will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing her to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the music of the great composers through history, and a range of music from different places, styles and cultures. Many of the topics covered in Year 9 appear on the GCSE Music syllabus, thus providing your daughter with a solid foundation for further study.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	Jazz Improvisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Exploring Improvisation and The Blues ◆ 12 Bar Blues ◆ Chords (inc. 7ths), Blues Scale, Walking Bass ◆ Line ◆ Chord Vamps ◆ Jazz and Blues Songs ◆ Scat singing ◆ Swing rhythm ◆ Lyric writing 	Self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher-led formative assessment through verbal feedback. Summative assessment in the form of a final performance, composition and/or a listening examination at the end of each unit.
Autumn 2	Musical Theatre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Exploring Shows and Songs from the Stage ◆ Performance and Analysis of songs and music from "Chicago" ◆ Chords & Chord Vamps ◆ Jazz (cont.) ◆ Tango ◆ Part-Singing ◆ Composition of a scene from a Musical 	Self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher-led formative assessment through verbal feedback. Summative assessment in the form of a final performance, composition and/or a listening examination at the end of each unit.
Spring 1	Film Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Exploring Film Music ◆ Through listening to and performing examples of film music, pupils will study how: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ composers use musical elements appropriately to respond to a specific commission ◆ composers use leitmotifs and thematic transformation to develop thematic material ◆ to respond to a given stimulus or commission such as words or pictures ◆ musical features are adopted by composers to create a mood in descriptive music ◆ instrumental and/or vocal timbres are used to create colour/mood ◆ dynamics and contrast are used for the creation of special effects 	Self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher-led formative assessment through verbal feedback. Summative assessment in the form of a final performance, composition and/or a listening examination at the end of each unit.

Spring 1 (Cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ music technology may be used to further enhance sonority ◆ minimalistic techniques are used in film music 	
Spring 2	<p>Minimalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Exploring motifs, polyrhythms and repetition ◆ Cyclic Rhythms ◆ Polyrhythms ◆ Phase Shift ◆ Structure ◆ Rhythmic and Melodic motivic transformation ◆ Textures & Layers ◆ Mood ◆ New directions in music ◆ Links with music and Art 	<p>Self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher-led formative assessment through verbal feedback.</p> <p>Summative assessment in the form of a final performance, composition and/or a listening examination at the end of each unit.</p>
Summer	<p>Composition Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pupils will compose and/or arrange a song and/or an instrumental piece individually and/or as part of a group, drawing upon the knowledge gained/techniques studied throughout the key stage. ◆ Pupils can choose whether to compose using acoustic instruments, music technology, or a combination of both. 	<p>Self-assessment, peer assessment and teacher-led formative assessment through verbal feedback.</p> <p>Summative assessment in the form of a final performance, composition and/or a listening examination at the end of each unit.</p>

How will I know if my daughter is achieving this?

Formative assessment (i.e. assessment *for* learning) is to help pupils themselves understand what they need to do next in order to improve. It entails a dialogue with pupils, giving feedback which is personalised, so that pupils know what steps they need to take next and what a quality outcome will look like in the topic they are working on.

Summative assessment (i.e. assessment *of* learning) focuses on the product or the outcome of learning. Pupils will be awarded a grade of Developing, Secure or Excellent for each summative assessment.

How can I support my daughter?

Encourage your daughter to attend extra-curricular activities, for reasons of personal fulfilment, companionship with like-minded pupils, and the challenge of extending her performing skills and experience. Involvement in extra-curricular music can generate a greater sense of self-worth and motivation, and could lay the foundation for the enjoyment of music in later life. In addition, encourage your daughter to listen to as much music as possible, preferably music and genres that she doesn't normally listen to, in order to broaden her musical experience. If your daughter has instrumental/vocal lessons, ensure that she is regularly practising effectively at home, in accordance with the guidance of her teacher.

Enrichment opportunities

Senior Choir – open to all pupils in Year 9 and above

Senior Orchestra – open to pupils of at least Grade 3 standard on their instruments

Flute Ensemble/Samba Band/Rock Band – contact peripatetic staff for entry requirements

Physical Education – Core

The Physical Education curriculum is broad and balanced allowing students to develop the knowledge and skills to be physically active and promote a healthy balanced active lifestyle now and in later life. Our curriculum will promote a love and passion for physical activity and the confidence to participate in a variety of sports. In addition, students will learn to evaluate their own health and fitness levels using data effectively.

By working in a variety of contexts of their own, in groups and teams, pupils learn to work both independently and collaboratively. By participating as performers, leaders and official's pupils develop the ability to communicate effectively in a range of ways both verbally and non-verbally.

PE encourages learners to be enterprising and work cooperatively and effectively with others. Taking on the roles of the leader or official develops a sense of respect for others and the ability to apply rules fairly.

	Content to be studied	Method of assessment
Autumn 1	<p>Practical - Pupils will be expected to work on specific skills within the sport, paying attention to detail to the techniques involved and learning to analyse and evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses to improve on them. In addition to the skills pupils will also be assessed in their ability to use the skills correctly in a competitive situation.</p> <p>Theory - Muscular-Skeletal System – Pupils will acquire knowledge of the muscular-skeletal system. Focusing on gaining knowledge of: bones, structure of the skeleton, functions of the skeleton, muscles of the body, synovial joints, freely moveable joints, types of movement at a joint and the how muscles work in antagonistic pairs.</p>	<p>Self, peer and teacher assessment throughout lessons.</p> <p>Each topic taught a set task will be set.</p> <p>A level descriptor of Excellent, Secure and Developing will be recorded.</p>
Autumn 2	<p>Badminton – Developing skills, tactics and implementing them into a game.</p> <p>Hockey - Pupils will develop knowledge of principles of games and outwitting opponents. Pupils will focus on developing skills, tactics and implementation into a game.</p> <p>Dance – Developing creativity, refine phrases and precision, developing and applying own choreography ideas and concepts to form a dance</p>	<p>Self, peer and teacher assessment throughout lessons. Each topic taught a set task will be set. A level descriptor of Excellent, Secure and Developing will be recorded in school planner.</p>
Spring 1	<p>Basketball- Pupils will focus on developing basic skills and implementation into a game. Pupils will develop links to other games to enhance knowledge of game principles and outwitting an opponent.</p> <p>Lacrosse- Pupils will focus on developing basic skills and implementation into a game. Pupils will develop links to other games to enhance knowledge of game principles and outwitting an opponent.</p> <p>Fitness– Further develop an understanding of different fitness methods of training.</p>	<p>Self, peer and teacher assessment throughout lessons. Each topic taught a set task will be set. A level descriptor of Excellent, Secure and Developing will be recorded in school planner.</p>

Spring 2	<p>Athletics- Pupils will develop knowledge of running jumping and throwing</p> <p>Football- Pupils will develop knowledge of principles of games and outwitting opponents. Pupils will focus on developing skills, tactics and implementation into a game.</p> <p>Handball– Pupils will focus on developing basic skills and implementation into a game. Pupils will develop links to other games to enhance knowledge of game principles and outwitting an opponent.</p>	Self, peer and teacher assessment throughout lessons. Each topic taught a set task will be set. A level descriptor of Excellent, Secure and Developing will be recorded in planner.
Summer 1	<p>Tennis- Pupils will develop knowledge and principles of net games</p> <p>Cricket – Pupils will develop knowledge of batting, fielding and bowling</p> <p>Athletics - Pupils will develop knowledge of running jumping and throwing</p> <p>Rounder's – Pupils will develop knowledge of striking and fielding games</p>	Self, peer and teacher assessment throughout lessons. Each topic taught a set task will be set. A level descriptor of Excellent, Secure and Developing will be recorded in school planner.
Summer 2	<p>Tennis- Pupils will develop knowledge and principles of net games</p> <p>Cricket – Pupils will develop knowledge of batting, fielding and bowling</p> <p>Athletics – Pupils will develop knowledge of running jumping and throwing</p> <p>Rounder's- Pupils will develop knowledge of striking and fielding games</p>	Self, peer and teacher assessment throughout lessons. Each topic taught a set task will be set. A level descriptor of Excellent, Secure and Developing will be recorded in school planner.

How will my daughter be assessed?

Competence in Physical activity and the sense of enjoyment brought about by being active and successful engenders a sense of confidence and self – esteem in pupils and enables them to become increasingly independent. This confidence encourages them to get involved in physical activity for its own sake and as part of a healthy active lifestyles.

In Autumn term pupils will be base lined and encouraged to join certain clubs based on their ability. Moderated equipment/tasks will enable all pupils to achieve success.

Opportunities for assessing progress are built into each lesson/unit. Personal and peer observations/evaluations are constantly used, including self-assessment sheet completed in their planner every half term. A teacher assessment with level descriptors and comments/targets are reported to parents through the school tracking system.

How can I help my daughter?

We look for your support in the recognition that purposeful engagement in activity out of lessons enhances pupils' skill levels, confidence self-esteem and feelings of competence. We encourage girls to watch sport and read news articles with regards to sport. This enhances their knowledge of competitive play and rules.

You can help your daughter by encouraging them to use the VLE

Enrichment opportunities

Students will be given the opportunity to experience competitive sport by representing their house in regular house events once a half term. All students have the opportunity to engage in our extensive extra-curricular programme that is delivered by us PE staff and specialist sports coaches. Clubs happen at lunchtime and after school. Pupils have the chance to play against other schools locally and regionally. In addition to this, students have the opportunity to attend trials for county and national representation in various sports.

Personal, Social and Health Education



PSHE and RSE Curriculum Map

- Rights, Responsibilities and British Values
- Staying Safe, Online and Offline
- Celebrating Diversity and Equality
- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Life Beyond School



Year 9 Team

Miss S Butterworth	Head of Year
Mrs J Pell	9U
Mrs A Wood	9H
Ms H Boyham	9C
Mr P Pearson	9S
Miss R Marriott	9J

Homework and the Pupil Planner

Homework is set according to the homework timetable, a copy of which can be found on the school website www.uptonhall.wirral.sch.uk. Pupils should either purchase a planner from school or bring a notebook to record homework.

The following points outline how teachers of pupils in Year 8 support the use of pupil planners in their classes as part of establishing good homework habits.

When homework is given, instructions are clear and pupils are given time in class to write these requirements in their planner. Homework is checked regularly. Pupils who do not complete homework will expect to be asked to do missed work during lunch time at school. For pupils who have difficulty in establishing a regular homework routine, contact will be made with parents or guardians. This may be via a phone call, a message in the pupil planner or by a more formal letter. Support to establish better study habits can take different forms but in general involves collaboration between the pupil, Form Tutor, Head of Year, teachers and parents. If you feel that your child needs extra support to use her planner, please get a message to your child's Form Tutor at school.

How You Can Help at Home

It is very useful if pupils plan what time each evening they are going to sit down to do homework. These may be different times on different days depending on other commitments. Year 9 pupils are expected to set aside approximately 90-100 minutes per night for homework.

It is easier for pupils to focus on their homework if the house is relatively quiet during this designated homework time. It also helps to have the TV off during this time.

If possible, encourage your daughter to complete homework on the night that it is set. This avoids having lots of homework piling up and too much to do on a particular evening.

Establishing a regular homework routine in Year 9 is a major contributing factor to successful study techniques further up the school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

One of the great strengths at Upton is the range and quality of the extra-curricular activities that are on offer. The staff at the school are generous with their time and totally committed to developing the all-round education of every pupil.

At lunchtimes and after school, clubs, societies, groups and teams meet to work together. These activities are valued by staff as a chance to work with the pupils outside the constraints of the curriculum.

Many of these activities revolve around music and sport. However, for those who are not musical or athletic there is still much on offer. We strongly encourage all pupils to participate in at least two of the activities each week. Of course there are many pupils who find themselves doing something every day. Active and committed involvement in extra-curricular work has so many benefits. The few pupils who do not get involved are missing a valuable opportunity.

The list of activities change from time to time as new activities are added to the programme. Pupils are kept informed of these developments as and when they happen.

Transport difficulties can be a barrier to participation in the after school activities, particularly if pupils live some distance from the school. Usually a solution can be found especially if parents are able to co-operate with each other over lifts.

We place a high value on these activities at Upton. They provide your daughter with a fantastic opportunity to work with a different group of people and to develop new sets of skills. Pupils must show commitment to at least two of these activities each week and note them down in your planner.



Extra Curricular Timetable 2020-2021 Year 9

17/09/2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Maths Study Support H14 12:45-1:15pm	Dance 1-1:30pm	Maths Study Support H14 12:45-1:15pm	Changel Faith in Action Chapel 12:45-1:15pm	Senior Choir Week A Only MU1 1:15-1:50pm
GLUE Club U3 1pm	Gymnastics 1-1:30pm	Library 12:45-1:15pm		Orchestra/Ensemble Week B Only MU1 1:15-1:50pm
	Handball 1-1:30pm	Creative Writing Week A Only D11-1:30pm		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After School	After School	After School	After School	After School
Basketball 3:45-4:45pm		Library 3:45-5pm		
Rounders 3:45-4:45pm				
Football 3:45-4:45pm				

Dates 2020 - 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Tuesday 1 September	School Development Day
Wednesday 2 September	School Development Day
Thursday 3 September	Year 7, 12 and 13 return
Friday 4 September	All pupils
<i>Mon 26 - Fri 30 October</i>	<i>Autumn Half-term</i>
Monday 2 November	School Development Day
Friday 18 December	Term ends 1.15pm

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January	Pupils return
Wednesday 27 January	Year 9 Parents Evening 4.30-7.30pm
Friday 12 February	School Development Day
<i>Mon 15 - Fri 19 February</i>	<i>Spring Half-term</i>
Monday 22 February	Year 9 Option Form Submission Deadline
Friday 26 March	Term ends 3.45pm

Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April	Pupils return
Monday 3 May	Bank Holiday
<i>Mon 31 - Fri 4 June</i>	<i>Summer Half-term</i>
Monday 7 June	School Development Day
Tuesday 8 June	Pupils return
Friday 17 July	Term ends 1.15pm

The School Day

8.30am	Pupils arrive
8.35am	Warning bell
8.40 – 8.45am	Registration and prayer
8.45 – 9.40am	Lesson 1
9.40 – 10.35am	Lesson 2
10.35 – 10.55am	Break
10.55 - 11.50am	Lesson 3
11.50am-12.45pm	Lesson 4
12.45-1.50pm	Lunch
1.50 – 1.55pm	Registration and prayer
1.55 – 2.50pm	Lesson 5
2.50 – 3.45pm	Lesson 6

NB: Timetable for Wednesday mornings (Week A and Week B)

8.40 – 8.55am Form Period

8.55 – 9.45am Lesson 1

9.45 – 10.35am Lesson 2

The rest of the day will follow the usual schedule

School opening times

The Library and School Dining Room is open to pupils from 8.00am. Breakfast Club begins serving food shortly after opening from the Pod on the school grounds.

Parental Contact with School

Parents are welcome to telephone or call to the school if they have a message to convey or an enquiry to make. If a parent has a concern he or she is invited to telephone the school to make an appointment to see the Form Teacher or the Head of Year. Parents should expect a call back in 48 hours if the query is not urgent or otherwise, 24 hours. Please do not turn up to school and expect to be seen immediately by a member of staff as it is likely that this may not be possible.

The **email address** for parents of Year 9 pupils to contact the school office is yearnine@uptonhall.org

To protect the health and safety of all the pupils, parents are asked NOT to drive vehicles into the grounds or stop outside the gates.

Online Safety

The Internet can be a wonderful tool but can also pose challenges to young people's safety and wellbeing.

Conduct: children may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information or spending too long online

Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers. Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.

When children feel anonymous online sometimes this can tempt them to use social media in unkind ways, often saying things they would never say face-to-face. It is important your child understands how hurtful this conduct can be and that posting or liking unkind messages or images is potentially bullying.

Some young people's use of social media or games can affect their wellbeing, especially if it prevents them getting a good night's sleep.

Content: age-inappropriate or unreliable content can be available to children

Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites.

Contact: children can be contacted by bullies or people who groom or seek to abuse them

It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them. Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access. If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk). If your child is the victim of cyberbullying, this can also be reported online and offline. Reinforce with your child the importance of telling a trusted adult straight away if someone is bullying them or making them feel uncomfortable, or if one of their friends is being bullied online.

Commercialism: young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites

Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within applications. Encourage your children to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms.

Tips for online safety

It is vital that you know what your children are doing online and who they are talking to. Ask them to teach you to use any applications you have never used.

Keeping the computer in a family room means that you can share your child's online experience – and that they are less likely to act inappropriately (i.e. via webcam). Be aware of how they are using their phones.

Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends – personal information includes their messenger ID, email address, mobile number and any pictures of themselves, their family or friends. If your child publishes a picture or video online, anyone can change it or share it. Remind them that anyone may be looking at their images and one day a future employer could!

If your child receives spam/junk email texts, remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them. It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain – it could be a virus, or worse – an inappropriate image or film. Help your child to understand that some people lie online and therefore it's better to keep online friends online. They should never meet with any strangers.

Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable. Teach young people how to block someone online and how to report them if they feel uncomfortable. The Thinkuknow website offers a range of useful videos which it may be helpful to watch with your child.

Set an online 'curfew' to ensure your child's use of the internet is not interfering with their sleep. Consider buying them an alarm clock so that they can leave their phone downstairs for the night.

Further advice and information is available from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). A link to this agency can be found on the school website.

Helpful Websites:

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Attendance

Simply put – if your daughter does not attend Upton Hall she will not achieve. We want all pupils and Sixth Form students to achieve high levels of attendance and give themselves the very best chance in life. There are 175 non-school days per year for holidays, shopping and appointments. There is no need, except in extreme circumstances to miss a day's education. If your daughter misses one session in a week (remember, there are two sessions per day) her attendance will be 90%. This may look acceptable but it means she will miss 19 days of education in a year and risk dropping one grade in each of her GCSE exams (DfE research statistics)

We take absence seriously. We target intervention with students whose attendance falls below our target of 97% or better. We use "truancy call" which is an automated message system that will keep ringing parents to request explanations for absence. If a response is not received letters are sent home to resolve reasons for absence and reduce likelihood of future absence.

Absence to be granted only under exceptional circumstances

From September 2013, schools may **not** grant leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. **Therefore, the Headmistress can no longer authorise holidays or extended leave.**

This is the result of amendments that have been made to the 2006 pupil registration regulations in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, which will come into force on 1 September 2013. The 2013 amendments to the 2006 regulations remove references to family holidays and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days.

Upton Hall School will pursue penalty notices with parent(s)/guardian(s) where a pupils' school attendance is at an unacceptable level. This is in line with amendments that have been made to the 2007 penalty notices regulations in the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013. These amendments came into force on 1 September 2013. Furthermore, if the absence is not authorised then the pupil may be deleted from the roll after 20 school days. In such an event the parent/guardian(s) would have to re-apply for a place at the school.

Punctuality

We want to work closely with you to make clear to all our pupils the message that attending punctually will mean higher levels of attainment. Arriving just 5 minutes late every day equals 3 days of education lost over the whole year. Arriving half an hour late every day is equivalent to 18 days' absence. No employer would tolerate this.

It is vital we work to teach our pupils the value of attending Upton Hall at 8.30am each day.

We do understand that on some occasions children may be ill and unable to attend school.

Please make sure you call the school's absence line on 0151 641 8133 on every day of absence and follow this up with a note or letter explaining the reason for absence.

Charging Policy

Except in the case of activities which fulfil any requirement of a syllabus for a prescribed public examination or of the National Curriculum, the cost of activities which take place wholly or mainly outside normal school hours must be met in full by parents. From time to time, the cost may be reduced by fund-raising or by subsidy from school funds.

It is the policy of the Governing Body:

- ◆ to ask for the sum of £40.00 per pupil each year and this is collected during the first weeks of the autumn term. The money is used for activities and events including: retreat days, study skills workshop, the running of the school minibus and transport to the Wirral Way walk which takes place in the Summer term and an Art sketchbook.
- ◆ to make the appropriate charge to parents for all board and lodging requirements on residential visits;
- ◆ to charge for activities wholly or mainly outside school hours, where appropriate;
- ◆ to ensure that, on occasions where charges may be made, no pupil is disadvantaged solely by her inability to pay;
- ◆ to leave to the Head's discretion the proportion of costs for an activity which can properly be charged to public or non-public funds;
- ◆ to encourage and support:
 - ◆ the work of the Friends of Upton Association which sustains and subsidises a wide range of school activities and resources, and
 - ◆ the maintenance of the voluntary School Fund;
- ◆ to ask parents of pupils who do practical subjects such as Technology or Art to provide their own ingredients and/or materials for the finished products which they will take home;
- ◆ to charge pupils travel expenses for work experience and to refund excess costs over normal daily travel;
- ◆ to charge the entry fee for examination of any pupil who, in the Head's judgement, has not prepared herself adequately by effort or study, or of any pupil who, without adequate reason, does not sit an examination for which she has been entered. A charge will be made for re-sits;
- ◆ to submit to the Headmistress and Chairman any issue which may require a decision over implementation of the policy in any particular circumstance.

General Regulations

- ◆ Pupils are expected to behave in a responsible and courteous manner, showing respect to their teachers, fellow pupils and all members of the school community. Considerate and appropriate behaviour is expected at all times, including the journey to and from school. Any behaviour which demeans another through bullying will not be tolerated.
- ◆ Pupils are expected to obey the health and safety rules of the school and of each departmental area. Pupils may not leave the school premises without permission. All absences must be authorised by the school.
- ◆ **Uniform rules are strictly enforced.** Skirts must be of knee length. Shoes must have a heel of no more than 1½” and be appropriate for a day’s movement around school. They must be black leather or leather look that can be polished. All items of clothing and personal belongings must be marked with the owner’s name. Make-up and nail varnish are not allowed for Years 7 – 11.
- ◆ **School Bags:** All pupils should have a plain black waterproof bag for their school books. Logos, flashes of colour or brand names are not acceptable. It must have handles and be large enough to carry and protect large text books and files. Plastic carrier bags and bags with drawstring ties are not acceptable and will not be allowed.
- ◆ Jewellery and other valuable objects should not be brought to school. The only permitted jewellery is a watch. Expensive watches (including smart watches) should not be worn for school. Money should be kept in a blazer pocket and never left in cloakrooms or in school bags. Each pupil has a locker which must be kept locked. Padlocks are purchased in Year 7.
- ◆ PE Kit should be brought to school on the days of PE lessons and taken home when appropriate.
- ◆ The school accepts no responsibility for pupils’ money or effects lost or damaged on school premises.
- ◆ Pupils are **NOT** permitted to bring the following items into school:
 - ◆ Magazines
 - ◆ Radios
 - ◆ MP3 players
 - ◆ Playing cards
- ◆ Chewing gum and any sort of aerosol are strictly forbidden in school.

Study Hall will be attended during the lunch break by any pupil who has not completed homework. School detention is held for pupils where behaviour needs to improve.

Mobile phones are an integral accessory for life in the 21st century. Pupils are allowed to bring their mobile phone to school. As soon as pupils get into school their phone must be switched off. If a pupil is found using a mobile phone around the school or in a lesson, the phone will be confiscated and handed to the school administrative office. Mobile phones will be returned when a parent comes into school to collect them between the hours of 3.45pm and 4.30pm daily.

Anti Bullying Policy (extract)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY BULLYING?

Bullying can take many forms:

- ◆ physically hurting someone
- ◆ verbally threatening someone
- ◆ making a person feel isolated and alone by encouraging others to exclude or ignore them
- ◆ calling someone names or commenting on their race, sexuality, family, clothes, appearance or ability
- ◆ interfering with or destroying another's property
- ◆ intimidation through the use of social media or mobile phone texting

Bullying is a repeated attack which causes distress not only at the time of each attack, but also by the threat of future attacks.

Definitions of bullying written by pupils at Upton:

- ◆ A bully is someone who picks on you and hurts you physically or with what they say or how they behave online
- ◆ A bully is someone who threatens or mocks another person and gets pleasure out of making fun of them
- ◆ A bully is someone who makes your life very unhappy
- ◆ A bully is someone who goes out of their way to upset and depress others for their own enjoyment
- ◆ A bully makes you feel afraid

What should we do if we think bullying is happening?

If I feel I am being bullied, I should:

- ◆ talk to someone I trust: my Form Teacher or Head of Year, a member of staff, a Senior Prefect or one of the Well-Being Champions
- ◆ tell my parents/carers about what is happening
- ◆ be prepared to write down what has happened and my feelings about it
- ◆ try to remain calm and avoid retaliation

If I think someone else is being bullied I should:

- ◆ offer support and companionship in a gentle manner
- ◆ be prepared to tell my Form Teacher, my Head of Year, a member of staff, a Senior Prefect or one of the Well-Being Champions
- ◆ refuse to be drawn into any group situation in which one person is feeling isolated or mocked

If I am bullying someone, I should:

- ◆ stop the behaviour immediately
- ◆ try to put myself in the shoes of the other person and treat them as I would want to be treated myself
- ◆ behave in a kind and courteous manner to the person I have bullied
- ◆ apologise

A full copy of these policies including the Complaints procedure are available on the school website www.uptonhallschool.co.uk

Notes
