

## Year 9 Curriculum 2020-21

The purpose of this document is to give you an overview of some of the materials available to support your child's learning during the first year of his three year GCSE course, and to remind you of some key dates. It also explains how the curriculum develops higher up the school, how you will be kept informed about your child's progress and what other support is available. The following comments summarise more lengthy explanations that are available on the school website ([www.ermysteds.co.uk](http://www.ermysteds.co.uk)). The relevant source documents are listed in **bold-type** at the end of each section.

### GCSE courses:

All pupils follow a compulsory programme of six GCSEs in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and select four optional subjects from a choice of twelve. This selection must include a language (French, German or Latin) and a humanities (Geography or History). Classes are set by ability in mathematics but are mixed ability everywhere else.

In addition, pupils will follow compulsory non-examined in subjects such as Art, Careers, Computing, Ecology, Drama, and Music via a carousel and receive regular lessons in Personal Development, Physical Education and Religious Education. All external examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.

See the **GCSE Options Booklet** on the school website.

### How can I support my child in these subjects?

In many subject areas, CGP guides are available. Where these are mentioned, School can buy them at a discounted rate and they are made available to parents to purchase on ParentPay.

### Art

The focus of year 9 is to become more proficient in drawing, painting, collage and other art, craft and design technique. Pupils have further opportunities to produce creative work, explore their ideas and record their experience. They will also evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design. The NEA portfolio and final piece is due to be completed by December 2021. The externally set exam information is released in January 2022. The external exam (10 hour exam) is sat in April/May 2022.

Useful websites: [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org) [www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk) [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org) [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org) [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk) [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk) [www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com) [www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk](http://www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk) [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org) [www.thisiscolossal.com](http://www.thisiscolossal.com) [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk) [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk) [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org) [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk) [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk) [www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk) [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk) [www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org) [www.ysp.co.uk](http://www.ysp.co.uk)

### Biology, Chemistry, Physics

In Biology, pupils will be studying Cell Structure and Microscopy, Cell Transport, Digestion and Enzymes, The Circulatory System, Respiration, Ecology including factors affecting the distribution of organisms and energy transfers. In Chemistry, pupils will be studying Particles and Separating Techniques, Metal Reactivity and Reactions of Acids, Working Scientifically and Rates of Reaction, Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table and Bonding. In Physics, pupils will be studying Atomic Structure & Nuclear Radiation, Energy Stores and Transfers, The Particle Model of Matter and Pressure. In all three sciences, pupils will be undertaking practical work including the GCSE Required Practicals.

### Support materials:

- CGP GCSE revision guides will be available to purchase on Parent Pay at the end of the autumn term to support the Year 9 curriculum. In Year 10, the CGP Exam Practice Workbooks, for each of the sciences, will be available in January. Parents should contact Mr Herring with any queries.

- We recommend that pupils base their revision around the relevant AQA specification and keep referring back to it, rather than just relying on a CGP revision guide. Many past questions are available online, for example <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>
- Packs of revision questions will be provided on Classcharts to help pupils to revisit topics and remind them about the required practical.
- BBC Bitesize and Seneca Learning provide free online resources. Many pupils who have since moved on to study A-level Science have found Seneca Learning to provide a useful resource.

### Computing

Pupils will start to study towards the OCR exam board syllabus for GCSE Computing. In year 9, pupils will study enrichment topics that are beyond the GCSE syllabus including The History of Computer and Games Programming in Pygame.

#### Support materials:

In year 11 we will lend pupils a textbook for the course and they will be able to purchase revision materials including past papers, and a revision guide.

### Design Technology

The aim of the Design and Technology course in Year 9 is to quickly bridge the gap between KS3 and KS4 with a series of projects that increase in content and challenge to prepare for the Non-Exam Assessment in Year 10. The projects focus on processes and materials, including wood, metal, plastic, casting and forming. Exam topics are taught alongside the projects to build on technical skills and ensure a strong knowledge base for future theory work leading to the examination.

#### Support materials:

- A CGP revision guide will be available on ParentPay.
- A useful website: [http://www.technologystudent.com/despro\\_flash/NEW\\_GCSE3.html](http://www.technologystudent.com/despro_flash/NEW_GCSE3.html)

### English Language

Mirroring the components of the AQA GCSE examinations, units of work are divided into Reading and Writing. In the Reading section, skills of language selection, retrieval, interpretation, explanation, inference, analysis and comparison are practised. A variety of text extracts, both fiction and non-fiction from the C19th onwards, stimulate and challenge to promote thoughtful and engaging responses from pupils. The Writing section consists of both creative, narrative and non-fiction forms. Pupils develop their skills of planning before producing structured, developed, controlled, re-drafted and crafted pieces. There is an emphasis on technical accuracy and varied vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structure. As there is a compulsory non-examined component of *Spoken Language*, in year 10, speaking and listening skills are developed through the use of regular discussion, debate, presentations and the reading of drama texts.

#### Support materials:

- AQA Oxford University Press GCSE English Language textbook (provided in class)
- BBC Bitesize is a free on-line resources that provides skills-based help and information.
- A fortnightly Library lesson promotes continuing engagement with reading.

### English Literature:

The Year 9 Literature areas of study reflect the components of the AQA GCSE examination which consists of a poetry anthology; unseen poetry; a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel; a Shakespeare play and a modern play. The Year 9 texts have been chosen to provide depth, breadth, interest and engagement. They are:

Modern Novel: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; Modern Drama: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* based on the novel by Mark Haddon; Modern Novel: *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill; Shakespeare: *Macbeth*; AQA board Poetry Anthology: a selection of poems from *Power and Conflict*; 19th Century Novel topic: two stories of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle.

### Support materials:

- Some texts include pupil notes, glossaries and prompt questions. All are provided in class.
- BBC Bitesize, a free on-line resource, offers detail of plot, character and theme.
- York and Letts study guides can provide useful notes on the texts.

### Food and Nutrition

NEA1 and NEA2 are externally set exams, which are completed in class as follows:

NEA 1 - *Food Science Investigation*, worth 15% of the final GCSE grade. Task information is released 1st September, 2022 and completed in autumn half term 1.

NEA 2 - Food Practical, worth 35% of the final GCSE Grade. Task information is released 1st November, 2022 aiming to complete by February half term 2023.

The external exam (105 minutes) in June 2023 is worth 50% of the final GCSE Grade.

### Support materials:

- Collins Eduqas GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision - GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. Complete Practice and Revision Guide with free online Q&A flashcard download (£4.50 if ordered through ParentPay)
- Collins Eduqas GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision - WJEC Eduqas GCSE 9-1 Food Preparation and Nutrition Workbook (£3 if ordered through ParentPay)
- Pupils have access to an online student Eduqas textbook via the link [www.illuminate.digital/eduqasfood](http://www.illuminate.digital/eduqasfood). The username and password is available on class charts.
- Seneca Learning – [www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com) - a free online Food Preparation and Nutrition revision tool. Highly interactive created by senior examiners that will teach you all you need to know.

### French and German

Within the internal exam process in Year 10, your son will sit a GCSE-level Listening, Reading and Writing paper based on the topics covered up to that point. In June, he will also sit an abridged Speaking exam, covering all three components of a role-play, photo card and general conversation from a past paper. The third component will cover just one theme, rather than two. In French, topics covered in Year 9 are personality and relationships, the past tense and holidays, the future tense and jobs, health and the environment. In German, topics covered in Year 9 are where you live, my studies, describing school, food and eating out, home-life, regions of Austria and Germany.

### Support materials:

- As part of the revision process, pupils will receive a digital copy of typical Speaking exam questions, relating to the Learning Objectives for each unit.
- CGP revision guides will be advertised for purchase in the spring term of Year 11.

### Geography

The course follows the AQA syllabus, covering a range of physical and human topics. In addition, enrichment activities have been developed to extend pupil's skills and knowledge beyond the set GCSE content. Fieldwork is carried out in June of Year 10 and all pupils must write this up as directed by their class teacher. The Humanities faculty will organise the purchase of the revision guides, at a discounted rate.

### Support materials:

- CGP revision guides- GCSE Geography AQA and CGP exam past paper question packs.
- Cool Geography revision site <http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/>
- Revision lists for each unit on the central school network drive.

### History

The course follows the Edexcel syllabus: GCSE Warfare through time, c1250-present (Paper 1), *Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588* (Paper 2) Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-41 (Paper 3) and Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91.

#### Support materials:

- CGP/ Pearson revision guides. Three books are needed to cover all the options.
- Tutor2u website

#### Latin

The Cambridge Latin Course materials for GCSE are the key resources for this subject, using Books 1-4. These support the Eduqas Latin GCSE. In Year 9 we will cover up to stage 22 in Book 3. Pupils will read Latin passages, which are set in Roman Britain and Alexandria. We will begin to look at the civilisation topics for this specification. The theme is Roman Family Life.

#### Support materials:

- The Cambridge Latin Course books one to four are the main resources supporting the Eduqas Latin GCSE, which include a page with links to a wide variety of useful materials.
- The Cambridge Latin course website has many resources to help students to study the language as they work through the course. The address is: [www.cambridgescp.com](http://www.cambridgescp.com)
- Vocabulary checker: <https://www.exams.cambridgescp.com/Array/eduqas-gcse-9-1-2018-onwards>.

#### Mathematics

Pupils will study towards the AQA exam board syllabus for GCSE Mathematics. They are taught in four classes and in two streams to aid stretch, challenge and to support.

#### Support material available:

- All pupils have access to mymaths and mathswatch which contain lessons, videos and self-marking practice questions, providing pupils with immediate feedback, which they are encouraged to use not only for homework.
- A Casio FX-83GT+ scientific calculator is recommended and used by almost all pupils.

#### Music

Pupils in Year 9 will be prepared for the GCSE Curriculum. Lessons will involve Listening and Appraising through a series of graduated aural tests; information on the history and culture of music; and practical lessons in which pupils will learn to compose, and be directed to develop their performance skills.

#### Support material available:

Pupils can purchase Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Music Student Book: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/music-2016.resources>

#### Religious Studies

Pupils have the option to study an examined GCSE course, following the OCR syllabus: Beliefs and teachings and Practices -first religion (paper 1); Beliefs and teachings and Practices -second religion (paper 2); Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective (paper 3). The statutory Religious studies programme follows the Non-examined OCR GCSE short course syllabus.

#### Support material available:

A revision guide for the OCR syllabus will be made available to purchase.

#### Physical Education

#### Support material available:

- Pupils can purchase a revision guide at a reduced rate from the department. The revision guide is CGP -Grade 9-1 GCSE Physical Education AQA Complete Revision & Practice.
- Useful websites include: <https://www.brianmac.co.uk/> <https://www.teachpe.com/>  
<https://www.s-cool.co.uk/> <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/> <https://getrevising.co.uk/>
- Pupils are actively encouraged to take part in the wide range of extra-curricular choices at Ermysted's and should be participating in competitive sport on a regular basis outside of school.

## Personal Development

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) is delivered by form tutors in lunch registration and in a discrete PSHCE fortnightly lesson. Topics encourage values which will allow pupils to participate fully and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. They include anti-bullying; drugs awareness; pupil mental health; relationships and sex education, diversity and transition.

## What happens higher up the school?

### A-levels (GCE):

Pupils wishing to remain at the School for Sixth Form make their A-Level options choices in the autumn term of Year 11. Typically, pupils choose three subjects to follow at A-Level but for pupils with sufficiently high prior attainment at GCSE, a fourth A-Level subject can be added. The range of A-level courses on offer varies each year, but typically includes: Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Design Engineering, Economics, English Language, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Politics, Product Design, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, and Philosophy & Ethics. All external examinations are taken at the end of Year 13.

A-level work is supplemented by a Lecture Programme that offers distinguished visiting speakers the opportunity to present significant issues for question and discussion. There are also compulsory non-examined courses in Personal Development and an enrichment programme that includes advice on careers and preparation for higher education. Physical Education is part of the compulsory curriculum in the Sixth Form. An open evening for prospective Sixth form pupils is held in the autumn term of Year 11. During this time every Year 11 pupil will receive an interview with a senior member of staff to discuss their plans beyond GCSE.

See the **A-Level Options Booklet** on the school website.

## How will I know how my child is getting on?

The first formal tracking information for Year 9 will be provided to parents at the end of the autumn term. Reports will include a target grade for each GCSE subject, which is generated from your child's prior attainment at Key Stage 2. Targets in some subjects may slightly alter from those provided in Years 7 and 8. This is because we have access to more recent data created from the new GCSE course results. You will also receive an Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade (E: Exceptional; G: Good; I: Inconsistent; U: Unsatisfactory) and a forecast grade, which is what the teacher thinks your child could achieve in Year 11 based on his current performance in the subject.

A full written report on your child will be provided in the summer term, the results of which will have been informed by teacher assessment throughout the course of the year. Year 9 Parents' Evening is planned for Tuesday, 26 January 2020, when you have the opportunity to book appointments with your child's subject specialists to discuss his progress. This event may be held virtually should social distancing rules apply.

See the **Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy** on the school website.

## Class Charts

This is an online system that allows you and your child to view what has been set for homework and the positive and negative comments created from the course of the day. It also displays reminder notes that may have been provided by teachers. You will need a password in order to log in. Class Charts does not provide the capacity to reply to the school. Should you wish to contact a member of staff, please email the School Office ([admin@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)) and they will direct your enquiry.

## Microsoft Teams

This is a secure school web-based platform from which pupils can access every class in which they are taught. It will continue to be the teaching platform for any subsequent school closures and pupils self-isolating. For

remote learning, an invitation to attend the lesson will be created by the teacher on Teams. When the pupil clicks on the “join meeting” button on the calendar in Teams, they will be able to access the live lesson. For this to be successful, all pupils will need access to either a computer, laptop, tablet, smart or i-phone on which they have downloaded the Microsoft Teams app. Headphones will also be of use.

#### Marking, feedback and assessment

The School’s marking, feedback and assessment system aims to make effective use of teacher time to maximise impact. The school’s aim is to encourage pupils to use feedback to improve their work and to develop independent reflection and review strategies. All subjects will complete a test or assessment at the end of a unit or sequence of learning which is awarded a percentage, numerical mark or written statement. This will occur at least twice termly in subjects where pupils are taught 4 hours or more a fortnight. On substantial, identified pieces of work, your child will receive a teacher comment preceded by an R. This will direct him to make alterations to the aspects of the piece of work in green pen in order to improve it. All other work will be monitored but not marked in depth. Under the current hygiene restrictions, more work is likely to be requested to be provided electronically. This will be uploaded onto Teams as a photograph of hand-written work or as a typed word document, placed under the relevant assignment set by the teacher in the “Assignments” section for that class and subject.

#### What pastoral support is available to my child?

Mrs Diccox is Head of Lower School and oversees the pastoral care in Years 7-9. She is assisted by Miss Kirsten Waudby – Deputy Head of Lower School, and Mrs Pam Bradley – Assistant Head of Lower School. In Year 9, the main point of contact for any general pastoral concerns should be your child’s form tutor. You can contact any of these staff directly by email. If you do email a member of staff please allow 24 hours for a reply. If your concern is urgent you may prefer to telephone the school office. You or your child can also report a concern to the school via the ‘report a concern’ button on the school website homepage. All messages are delivered directly to the School Safeguarding Lead. Pupils should include their name and contact details should they require a response.

We have a range of resources available to support pupils in school. Listed below are the main providers:

- School Counsellor
- Youth Worker
- Social prescription Service
- Outreach Worker
- School Nurse.

You or your child can request access to any of these services. Your request will be considered by the pastoral team and directed to the appropriate professional. We will always inform you if your child is working with one of these providers.

A text service in school is available for pupils to pass on concerns or ask advice from a member of staff. A member of the pastoral team will respond initially through text and then in person. The number for this is displayed around the school: **07544 239 770. This service is not available to parents.**

**Email** addresses for Pastoral leads are listed below:

- Mr A Jackson Assistant Headteacher [ajackson@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:ajackson@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)
- Mrs L Diccox Head of Lower School [ldiccox@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:ldiccox@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)
- Mrs K Waudby Deputy Head of Lower School [KWaudby@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:KWaudby@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)

See the **Anti-bullying, Attendance, Behaviour, Child Protection, SEND and Separated Parents Policies** on the school website.

If you have any questions about this document or any school related matter, please let us know by contacting the School Office.