



Creative and Technology Specialisms – In Year 9

Art

Students will work in a number of areas, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and mixed media. They will study artists that inspire the development of ideas and how they relate to individual, social, historical, environmental, cultural, ethical and/or issues-based contexts. Students will explore visual and tactile elements, such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, composition and use fine art techniques, media and processes.

Textiles

Textiles is a practical course for those students who love fashion design and illustration or installed textiles. Students will study how visual and tactile elements, such as colour, texture, shape, pattern, decoration repetition and structure influence Textile Design. Students will also consider how ideas, feelings, forms, and purposes can generate responses that address personal needs or meet external requirements, such as client expectations.

Computer Science

The Year 9 Computer Science curriculum is designed to prepare students for the GCSE and builds on the foundations of the python programming skills started in Year 8. Programming is a central topic that is built upon further with sequences of data and the physical computing unit. This is where students will get acquainted with the host of components built into the microbit and write python programs that use these components to interact with the physical world. Cybersecurity is another key topic taught that focuses on the threats to networks and countermeasures used to keep data secure. Further topics covered include computational thinking, hardware, and databases using SQL.

Drama

Drama in Year 9 will offer exploration of theatre practitioners and genres, practical performance and theatre history. Students will work with a range of stimuli, including script texts, giving them opportunities to develop their skills with the knowledge to create high quality responses.

The majority of tasks in lessons will be completed by working in mixed groups as this collaborative style of working is essential to the drama process.

Food Technology

In Year 9, students will further develop their practical cookery skills, designing and creating a range of dishes and meals. Students will study nutrition, food tolerances and cultural differences to inform their planning and develop their own style and creativity. Whilst this is a mainly practical subject, students will learn the science behind the various processes, using biology and chemistry to understand how ingredients work and why.

ICT

The ICT course builds on the creative software skills that have been introduced in Year 8. Students will practise and learn further image editing techniques within project work using graphics software such as Inkscape and Photopea. They will also build a sound project that requires recording and editing sound using Audacity. Other creative topics covered include building an animation, website design and multimedia products that will expand on the students creative skills that will prepare them for the Creative iMedia course at KS4. In a nutshell ICT is learning how to use the software applications to complete a task, whereas Computer Science is coding to build a program and understand how computers work.

Media Studies

Media Studies is an innovative and creative subject; reflecting the opportunities available at GCSE level, the Year 9 course blends theory and practical components. Lessons are based in computer rooms to facilitate this. Students will explore audiences, institutions, media language, and representation through a variety of print-based and audio-visual texts. Topics include advertisements, film and TV Crime Drama. Students will draw on their existing experience of the media (oftentimes extensive day-to-day), but will also extend their appreciation and critical understanding through the close study of products with which they may be less familiar, including products produced for different audiences (those other than themselves).

Music

Music is designed for those who enjoy both playing and composing and wish to broaden their understanding of musical concepts. Students who enjoy music and have had instrumental experience in performance, playing and composing will do well in this subject as it is designed so that pupils focus on an instrument that they play, however, students of all abilities are encouraged to develop their skills and their love of music.

Photography

This is a practical subject focusing on the many aspects of photography including digital. Students will learn and develop practical skills including using a camera, lighting and image composition. A number of artists will be studied and their work used to inspire pupils to explore their own creativity and style. Students are not required to own a camera to select this specialism, just a love of interesting and inspiring images.

3D Design

Students will get the chance to develop designing and manufacturing skills in a range of materials. To accompany practical tasks, pupils will learn to produce a detailed design portfolio that explores different design processes, manufacturing and materials. They will also look at the work of professional designers in a number of different areas of design and demonstrate how this work has an influence on their own designs.

In the first part of the year students complete a number of focussed tasks with the aim of further developing their personal skills in both designing and making. In the second part of the year students will tackle an extended design and make a project similar to those at GCSE level, that will give them the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have gained. All students will be expected to produce drawings both on computer and by hand, complete practical tasks and carry out and write up independent research for their folios.