

Bohunt School

Year 9

Spring 2026



Welcome to the Year 9 Newsletter



As the days grow longer and the warmer weather begins to arrive, this term marks an exciting and important time for our Year 9 students. You are approaching a key

transition point in your school journey with completing your first year of GCSE subjects and continuing your steps into Upper School with greater independence and responsibility.

There is plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead. ERA Week offers a fantastic opportunity to take part in a range of special activities, try something new, and create lasting memories with your peers. This, alongside the much-anticipated Sports Day, will provide moments to celebrate teamwork, resilience, and our school culture.

At the same time, this is an ideal moment to focus on developing positive routines and habits that will support your success moving forward. The effort you invest now, both in and out of the classroom, will lay strong foundations for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the next stage of your education.

As you begin to close this chapter of Year 9, we are proud of the progress you have made. Embrace the opportunities ahead, continue to challenge yourselves, and look forward with confidence as you take your further steps into Upper School.

Ancient History

This half term students are finishing off their first GCSE module on the Foundations of Rome and are moving onto learning about the Persian Empire. We will look at four different kings of Persia and how they developed one of the most powerful empires of the Ancient world through technology, language, culture and military conquest.

Art



Year 9 artists have explored a range of printmaking techniques this term while investigating the theme of architecture. Through experimenting with different processes, they have developed their understanding of pattern, structure, and composition in architectural imagery.

Art Textiles

Year 9 Art Textiles students have been working through a range of exciting, technique-based workshops this term. They have learned a variety of textile techniques including needle felting, batik, and freehand machine embroidery. Students are now applying these new skills within their Natural Forms project, where they are creating a series of textile samples inspired by their favourite techniques and ideas from nature.

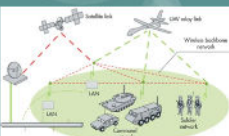
Business

Before Christmas all Business students completed the MicroTyco competition where they worked in small teams to turn £1 seed capital into as much as they could in a month. Together they raised £700 for a worthy cause and should be proud of their entrepreneurial talents! Since Christmas, they have been learning all things 'Marketing'. From pricing strategies to the product life cycle and everything in between. GCSE students also sat their first BET assessments in Business recently and did very well on the whole. Coming up after Easter is a look at some of the introductory units to the world of HR / 'People', and then delving into ethical and environmental issues affecting businesses.

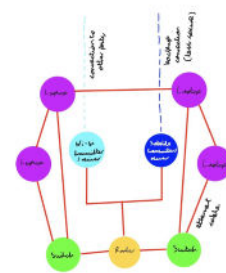
Computing

What topology are we using?

We are going to be using mesh topology to maximise the reliability and effectiveness of the network. It will need to be a mesh topology because the army need communication at all times to share important information. The mesh topology will connect all the devices to the network and allow communications to flow through it easily.



Basic

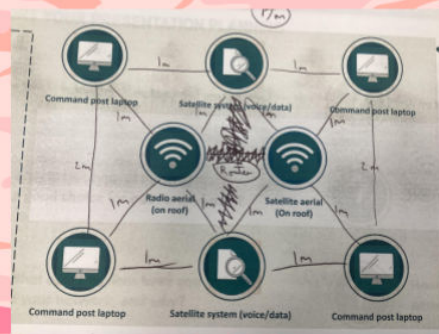


Diagram

Topology - partial mesh

Because there are no central point in a mesh topology, it is hard to attack by the enemy. If one device broken down, the others could still work. Each node can act as a relay, passing one message to its final destination.

With a partial mesh topology, although not all nodes are connected directly to each other, the devices can still transmit message by acting as relays. Messages should always get through as they have many possible routes to travel, so it's hard for enemies to cut off the message transmission. The partial mesh is simpler to manage than a full mesh topology, and also more cheap. Because it is partial mesh topology, it is more easy to add more devices into the network, compare to full mesh topology.



This term in Computer Science, pupils have been building a strong foundation in how digital systems work and how problems can be solved logically and efficiently. In the first half of the spring term, students explored the fundamentals of computer networks. They learned what a network is, how data moves between devices, and the purpose of key hardware such as routers, switches, and servers. Students also investigated different types of networks and network topologies, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each. To apply their learning, they designed their own network solutions for a given real-world scenario, carefully selecting appropriate hardware and layouts.

During the second half of the term, the focus shifted to algorithms and problem-solving. Students learned how algorithms provide clear, step-by-step instructions to solve problems and used these to develop solutions of their own. Through this work, they strengthened their computational thinking skills, including logical reasoning, decomposition, and pattern recognition.

Overall, pupils have shown great engagement and creativity, developing both their technical knowledge and their confidence in tackling complex problems, key skills that underpin all areas of computer science.

Dance

We have been creating and working on their choreographic and performance skills and have completed some small groups pieces culminating in a BET performance. They are exploring more choreographic tasks on the theme of 'light/fire' and Egypt including sandstorms for a youth dance platform. Students have also been choreographing pieces for our school dance showcase. Year 9

GCSE Dance students have been exploring 'Artificial things' from the AQA dance GCSE Specification, we have been learning how to describe and interpret costume, lighting and aural setting in a professional work.

Drama

Students have now concluded their detailed exploration and study of Blood Brothers and have shown superb enthusiasm in their understanding of contextual factors which influenced the playwright's intentions, when creating this play which sadly never fails to feel relevant! Students are now working on their first exploration of Text in Practice, where they are staging duologue extracts ready for a final performance to conclude their Year 9 study of scripted work and the text. Several year 9 students are now working proactively on their roles within Guys & Dolls for our summer production and we are delighted they are developing their Drama skills in this way through to July.

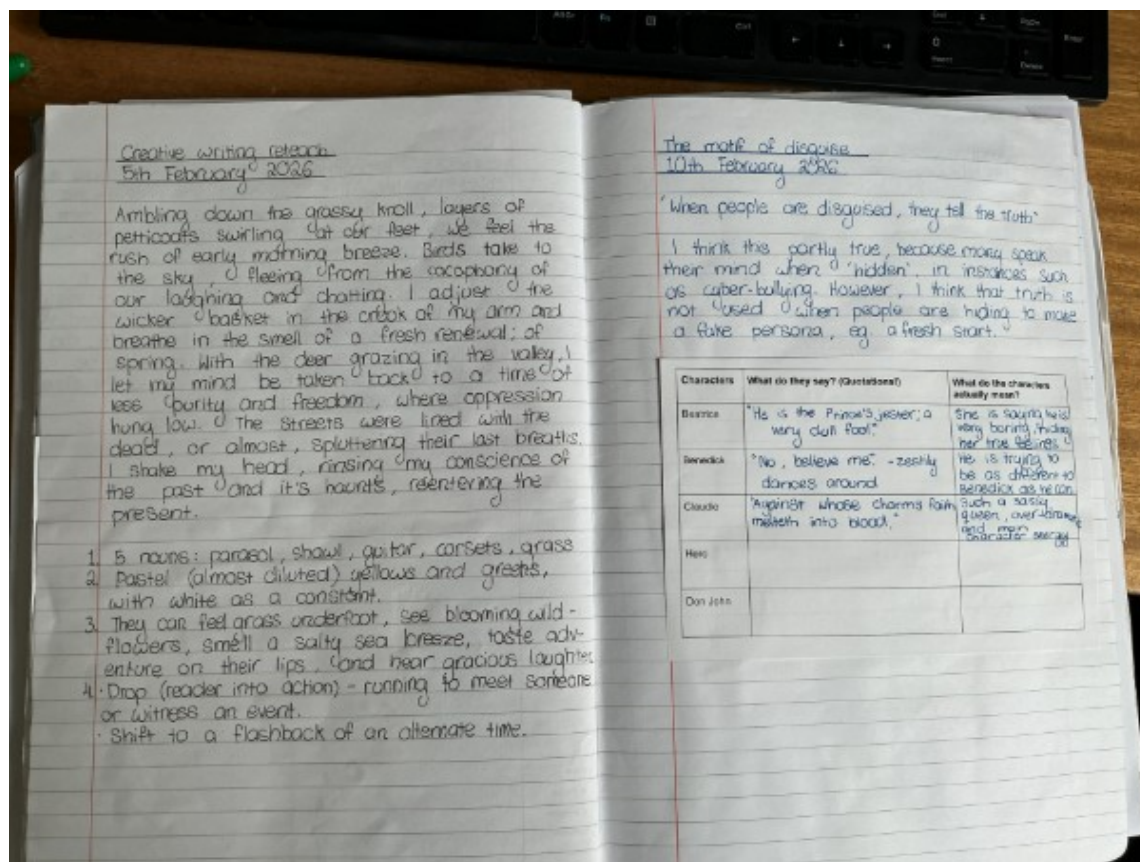
DT

Due to the rotation of projects, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to cover all subject matter, students have currently been working with timber, soft and hard wood, plus manufactured boards. This has included forming, using lamination and two piece molds, cutting, finishing, open and closed joining methods, as well as appropriate application of finishes be it for aesthetic purposes or as a practical protective application. As with all the skills learnt these are transferable and will be called on time & time again throughout the course. They have also covered sustainability sourcing of materials considering the material and products life cycle from cradle to the grave.

Economics

Over the last term students have been studying the labour market and in particular the issue about why some people earn more than others. We have begun to explore some 'macro economic' concepts such as economic growth, unemployment and inflation and have extended this topic through an exploration of the economies of Venezuela, Nigeria and the UK. GCSE students also sat their first BET assessments in Economics recently and have had feedback.

English



Creative writing release

5th February 2026

Ambling down the grassy knoll, layers of petticoats swirling off our feet, we feel the rush of early morning breeze. Birds take to the sky, fleeing from the cacophony of our laughing and chatting. I adjust the wicker basket in the crook of my arm and breathe in the smell of a fresh renewal; of spring, with the deer grazing in the valley, I let my mind be taken back to a time of less purity and freedom, where oppression hung low. The streets were lined with the dead, or almost, spluttering their last breaths. I shake my head, rinsing my conscience of the past and its haunts, reentering the present.

1. 5 nouns: parcel, shawl, guitar, corsets, grass
2. Pastel (almost diluted) yellows and greens, with white as a consistent.
3. They can feel grass underfoot, see blooming wild-flowers, smell a salty sea breeze, taste adventure on their lips, and hear gracious laughter.
4. Drop (reader into action) - running to meet someone or witness an event.
- Shift to a flashback of an alternate time.

The motif of disguise

10th February 2026

'When people are disguised, they tell the truth'

I think this partly true, because many speak their mind when 'hidden', in instances such as cyber-bullying. However, I think that truth is not used when people are hiding to make a fake persona, eg. a fresh start.

Characters	What do they say? (Quotes)	What do the characters actually mean?
Bianca	"He is the Prince's jester; a very dull fool."	She is saying he is very boring, making her true feelings.
Benedick	"No, believe me, -zealously dances around"	He is trying to be as different to Benedick as he can.
Claudio	"Angier whose charms rain mists into blood."	Such a sassy queen, over-the-top and very sexy.
Hero		
Don John		

Students in Year 9 English have enjoyed in depth study of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* this term. They have considered the conventions of Shakespeare comedy and presented ideas on Shakespeare's ongoing relevance in the modern world. They have also completed their Y9 BET assessment which tested them on their creative writing skills.

Moving forward, students will study the first of their GCSE literature texts: *An Inspector Calls*. We will focus on the early 20th century context and provide opportunities to bring the drama to life. Students will be challenged to question many of Priestley's big ideas about society, class, prejudice and justice.

In extra-curricular news, Mrs Christie ran a competition this term on 'My Favourite Place' for Creative Writing Club. Congratulations to Tiana East in Year 9 for her winning entry below:

Beneath the wide Hampshire sky, the riverside walk in Liss unfolds like a secret only the patient are meant to find. The River Rother glides beside the path with a soft, silver hush, its surface catching fragments of light and carrying them downstream like scattered memories. Gravel shifts gently underfoot, hedgerows bow in the breeze, and the scent of damp earth rises after rain as if the land itself is breathing. There is something achingly beautiful about the way the trail curves through open fields and slips beneath the shelter of leaning trees, never demanding attention yet quietly deserving it. Mornings there feel washed in possibility; evenings arrive wrapped in gold and shadow, the water reflecting a sky too tender for words. Each step seems to echo with something older than footsteps — a sense of belonging that settles softly in the chest.

Along that path, I have left pieces of myself without ever truly losing them.

Laughter once drifted across the river's surface on brighter days, while on quieter ones my thoughts fell into rhythm with the steady current. Time moves

differently beside the water; it loosens its grip and allows the heart to speak more honestly. Even the smallest details — the bend of a willow branch, the hush before a bird takes flight, the way the river folds around a stone — feel intimate, as though the world is leaning close to share a confidence. Memory lingers there like evening mist, rising gently and refusing to fade. To walk that riverside in Liss is to step into something enduring and deeply cherished, a romance between land and soul that continues long after the path disappears from sight.

Food Tech

Students have been looking at cereals, pastry, breadmaking, fruits and vegetables, food safety and piping skills. We have recently started looking at commodities. In this unit we will be covering the different protein foods. They have completed several practicals, which are geared towards developing the necessary skills required to complete their GCSE practical examination. They have all shown resilience and a willingness to try as they grow and develop in their educational pursuit.

French

This term, Year 9 students have been learning about the Free-time & Health topic covering sports, hobbies, healthy eating and going out for a meal. Coming up after Easter, we will cover preferences of books, music and TV and film as well as celebrity culture.

Year 9 had their first BET assessment which tested them on everything they have learned so far. They had a reading and writing exam during their lesson time in the assessment fortnight. This was the first test in line with our new Edexcel specification and Year 9 did really well. Their next assessments will be in listening and writing, where they will be given the opportunity to write in 3 tenses.

Geography

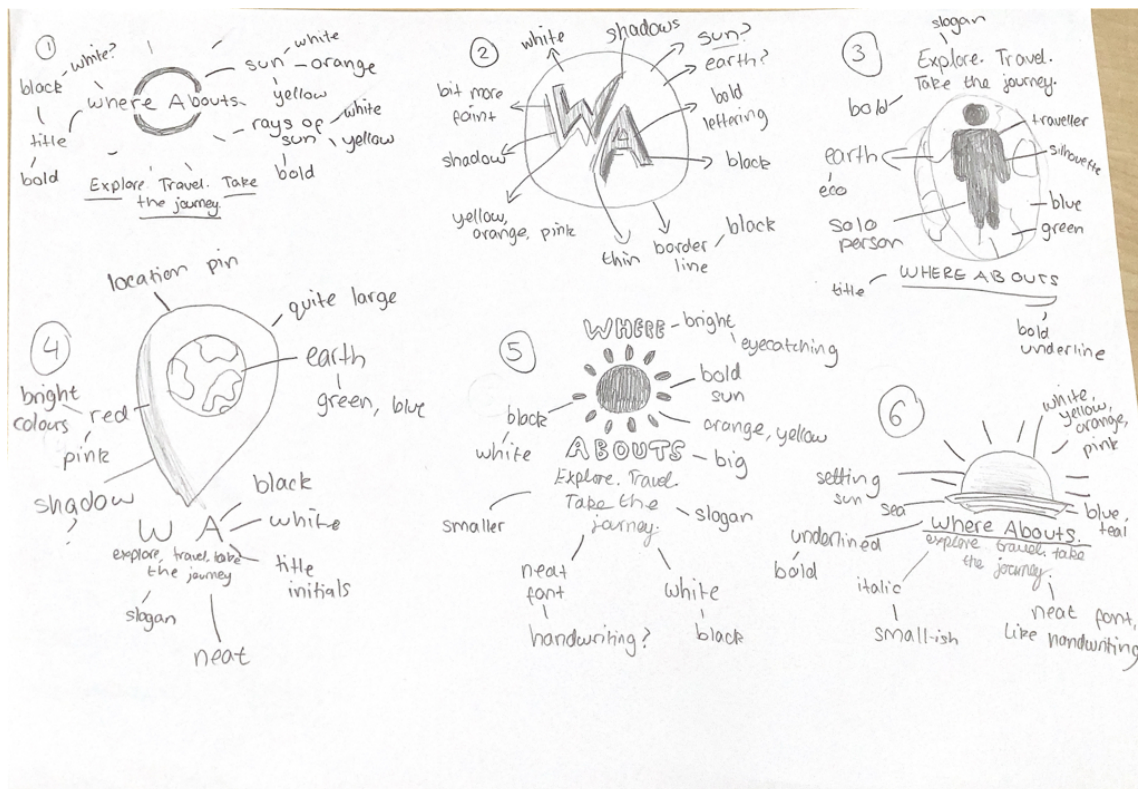
In the dynamic realm of GCSE Geography, Year 9 students have delved into the intricate world of resource management. They've closely examined how the UK ensures the provision of vital resources such as food, energy, and water. As they gear up for the next half-term their focus will shift towards water as a global resource. Prepare for an exploration of innovative strategies aimed at enhancing water supply worldwide. For further insight, we recommend "The Last Drop" by Tim Smedley, a compelling read offering profound insights into the complexities surrounding water scarcity and its potential solutions.

History

Year 9 have spent the term finishing their Medicine Unit. They have learnt about the importance of the NHS and how governments in the 20th Century have taken a greater role in improving the health of people. Next half term they will begin their second unit, Germany 1919 to 1991. This is a fascinating topic that explores the vast array of turbulent events in Germany during the 20th Century.

iMedia





This term, students have been developing their creative and technical skills through animation and digital design. In the first half of the spring term, students focused on creating animations. They learned a range of industry standard techniques, including motion tweens and shape tweens, as well as how to use onion skinning to create smooth, realistic movement. Students also explored the difference between animating on 1s and 2s, helping them understand timing, frame rates, and how animators control motion and fluidity in their work. Alongside this, pupils learned how to plan animations using storyboards and experimented with camera techniques, such as movements, angles, shot types, and transitions, to make their animations more engaging and visually effective.

In the second half of the term, students began a mock NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) for Unit R094. Working with a fictional company called Whereabouts, they are designing a visual identity, including a logo and slogan, and creating the cover of a travel guide for a country of their choice. This project allows students to apply their creativity while following a professional design brief. This mock NEA is an important opportunity for students to become familiar with the structure, expectations, and assessment requirements of the NEA process. It is designed to prepare them for the real NEA, which begins in June and is worth 25% of their final qualification.

Students have shown enthusiasm and imagination throughout the term, building valuable skills in creativity, planning, and digital design that are essential to success in Creative iMedia.

Library



The main event for the library this term was World Book Day. The theme this year was 'the wizard of Oz'. Our reading mascot, Bohunt Bella, made an appearance as "Toto".

This year is the National Year of Reading. Parents, please do read with your children and discuss their reading with them - it is so important for their brain development that we are a reading community!

Mandarin

Year 9 has been learning about "My Family" and "Describing People". Students can now use a variety of adjectives and intensifiers to talk about family members and friends. We also completed the Year 9 BET Assessment 1—well done! We are now moving on to the topic of "Getting Around My Town," where students will learn to describe local areas in Mandarin.

Mandarin CLIL



Our Year 9 CLIL students have been working hard to revise key topics and recently completed their second mock exam. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and effort. Alongside their studies, they are also preparing for an exciting opportunity—the upcoming China trip in July! As they get their documents ready, we look forward to an unforgettable experience that will further enrich their Mandarin learning. Well done to all for your commitment and enthusiasm!

Some students also had the opportunity to host a Chinese buddy, either at home or in school. Our visiting Chinese students had a fantastic experience here at Bohunt. Thank you to all host families and students for their support.

Maths



After their assessment earlier this term, students finished their work on area and have been looking at co-ordinates and transformations. This laid the foundation for work on graphs of linear and quadratic functions as they move up the school, and as we reach the Easter break, they will be moving on to look at proportion and measures.

This term, we also had great success with competitions. 60 students sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in February with many students achieving a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate.

Music

Year 9 have been exploring the world of musical theatre and their final creative task they have been writing an ensemble piece for a finale of act 1 in a fictional show/narrative about a slave market. Different characters and how we create melodies for each character. It builds up like one day more from Les Miserable. They have been learning about how melody can create a character and how harmony can create mood.

Music Tech

NCFE - Starting a Foley project and learning about sound in film. They are recreating the sound from a film clip. Students have completed a mini songwriting project recording into Logic Pro. Students completed their BET assessment where they had to write a section of a song.

Outdoor Education



Students who are working towards Duke of Edinburgh should be making sure they are regularly uploading evidence/ completing their evidence sheet for all three sections. Expedition dates have been sent home; please make sure these are in the diary. After school training will continue with attendance expected from all students!

PE

It has been a fantastic Spring term for our Year 9 students in PE, with great enthusiasm, effort and teamwork shown across lessons. It has been wonderful to see students developing their skills, building confidence and embracing the wide range of activities on offer. It has also been great to see so many Year 9 students attending co-curricular clubs and representing the school in Football, Basketball, Netball, Hockey, Rugby and Cross Country. For up-to date information on co-curricular training and matches, check out our Bohunt Sport website [here](#).

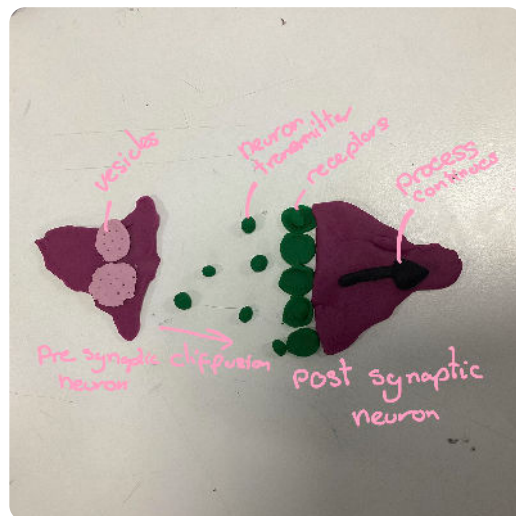
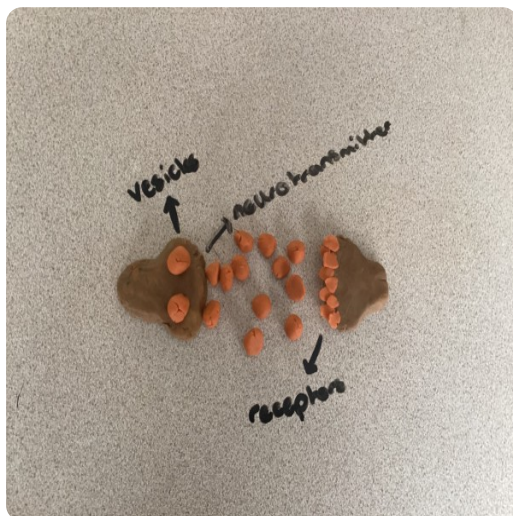
As we move into the summer months and spend more time outdoors, please ensure students come prepared for PE lessons with a water bottle, suncream applied before outdoor activities and studded boots for safe use of the 3G pitch. These do not need to be new and second-hand boots are perfectly suitable.

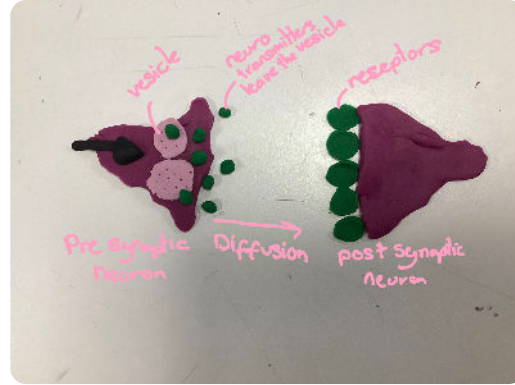
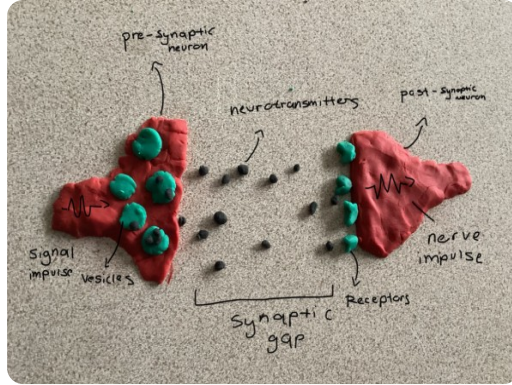
There is plenty to look forward to in the Summer term, including Sports Day heats, Sports Day itself, multiple athletics fixtures, cricket and tennis events. Please also look out for key dates for Sports Presentation Evening. We are very proud of the positive attitude Year 9 have shown towards PE and look forward to seeing their continued participation and progress in the months ahead!

Photography

As we move forward, students will begin a new set of workshops centred on portrait photography. Portraiture is a fundamental skill within the subject, and this next phase will help them build confidence and technical understanding as they continue to develop their photographic practice.

Psychology





The Year 9 Psychologists have started the new term by completing the first topic of the GCSE course 'Criminal Psychology'. Students enjoyed developing an understanding of the causes of criminal behaviour, types of crime and the role of rehabilitation and punishment in the justice system. The Year 9 psychologists further improved their understanding of research methods, whilst learning about different researchers and their studies. The Year 9s have since completed their first BET assessments, where they demonstrated an excellent understanding of the 'Criminal Psychology' topic and aspects of Research Methods.

They have since started 'Developmental Psychology', students have begun to investigate the brain development across a lifetime and the neuropsychological processes of synaptic transmission. Students have further explored the usefulness of IQ tests and how a child's cognition changes with age. After the Easter break, students will complete the remainder of the 'Developmental Psychology' topic. Students will investigate the key concepts of mindset and the role of education, before moving onto a topic designed to support them in solidifying their research methods knowledge.

RS

Buddhist Beliefs

This term, students explored core Buddhist teachings, philosophy, and spiritual practices.

Key Beliefs & Human Nature

We studied The Dhamma (Dharma) and Dependent Arising, highlighting life's interconnected and ever-changing nature. Students examined the Three Marks of Existence: Anicca – impermanence. Anatta – no fixed self. Dukkha – suffering. They also explored Buddhist views on personality, comparing Theravada's Five Aggregates with Mahayana's sunyata (emptiness) and Buddha-nature, as well as the paths of the Arhat and Bodhisattva.

The Buddha & The Four Noble Truths

Students traced the Buddha's journey from privilege to enlightenment, exploring his rejection of extreme asceticism. They studied the Four Noble Truths,

including suffering's causes (Three Poisons) and the Eightfold Path as a guide to enlightenment.

Looking Ahead It's been a fascinating term, and students have engaged deeply with these ideas. We encourage home discussions on how Buddhist teachings relate to everyday life. Thank you for your support—we look forward to another great term!

Science

Our Year 9 scientists have been finishing off the organisation topic in biology with a heart dissection and learning about photosynthesis. Our chemists have been covering one of the cornerstones of chemistry - bonding. And our physicists have been learning about how energy is transferred by heating. The Year 9s have also spent part of their lesson time this month, completing some awesome activities during British Science Week. The theme for BSW this year is 'curiosity'. Students have been watching 'Medical Mavericks' in class - Medical Mavericks are an externally run company that inspire our next generation of medics and scientists with real life stories and demonstrations.

Sociology

Year 9 Sociology students are now well into their first year of the GCSE course. At the start of the academic year, students completed an Introduction to Sociology unit, where they were introduced to key sociological concepts, perspectives and ways of thinking about society. This provided an important foundation for the topics studied later in the course.

Since October, students have been studying the Families and Households topic. In recent lessons, they have been exploring the domestic division of labour debate, examining sociological research on gender roles within families and considering whether family life has become more equal over time. Students have been introduced to a range of key sociologists and studies, helping them to develop their understanding of different perspectives on family life.

Earlier this term, students completed their first Bohunt Education Trust (BET) assessment of the academic year. Students have recently received detailed feedback and have taken part in improvement and reflection activities in lessons, allowing them to identify their strengths and the areas they need to develop further. This process helps students build confidence in applying their sociological knowledge and improves their ability to structure strong responses to exam-style questions.

Spanish

This term, Year 9 students have been learning about the topic of 'My lifestyle and wellbeing' which looks at healthy eating, exercise and food.

Coming after the Easter holidays, we will continue this topic before moving onto Module 4 - media. This topic covers music tastes, reading, TV and films as well as celebrity culture.

Year 9 had their first BET assessment which tested them on everything they have learned so far. They had a reading and writing exam during their lesson time in the assessment fortnight. This was the first test in line with our new Edexcel specification and Year 9 did really well. Their next assessments will be in listening and writing, where they will be given the opportunity to write in 3 tenses.

Spanish CLIL

Students have been working exceptionally hard towards their Spanish GCSE. They have been successful in their second set of mock GCSE exams and have been analysing how they can improve. Students need to ensure they are including past, present and future tense verbs in their speaking and writing as well as a variety of high-level structures. They are now preparing for their real speaking exam, which will be after the Easter holidays. Students will need to practise the different elements of read aloud, role plays, picture description and topic-based questions. We wish them lots of luck in their final Spanish GCSE exams, which comprise of reading, listening, writing and speaking.

In Religious Studies they have completed the topic of the Holocaust and have started learning about Buddhism. In PE they have been playing netball and have just started developing their technique in football.

Keep up the great work 9TAB!

Sports BTEC

Year 9 BTEC Sport have made excellent progress this spring term. Students have now submitted the first drafts of their coursework and are currently focused on making final amendments ahead of the Easter deadline. Their effort and engagement have been clear throughout, and once this unit is completed, they will have successfully finished 30% of their overall GCSE qualification - a fantastic milestone at this stage of the course.

Looking ahead students will be delving into some of the Year 10 curriculum whilst being rewarded with some well-earned practical lessons after all of the exam conditions this term!

Sports Science

Our Year 9 GCSE Sports Science students have continued to make excellent progress this term. They have recently tackled their first Cross Trust Assessment, with many students achieving very promising results. In lessons, students have now moved on to the fascinating Sport Psychology unit, where they are learning about how the mind can influence sporting performance.

It has been great to see the continued effort, focus and enthusiasm shown by both groups both in theory and practical lessons. Students should be proud of the progress they have made so far, and we look forward to seeing their continued development as they progress through the course.