

Pre-GCSE Enrichment Courses

FRENCH

Why might you choose the Pre-GCSE Enrichment Course in French?

- ✓ You can keep your language options open and decide at the end of Year 9 which one of your languages you would rather follow to GCSE.
- ✓ You can take part in the Homestay trip to Paris for Years 9 and 10.
- ✓ You will be learning about exciting new topics such as Health and Fitness, Holidays, and Future Plans & Careers to broaden your vocabulary base and consolidate your grammar.
- ✓ Knowledge of a Modern Foreign Language enhances your career prospects!
- ✓ France is a fabulous holiday destination: who can resist that food? And you can hop across the Channel for a day trip.
- ✓ French is such a beautiful, romantic language!



FOOD

Feed your mind with Food Technology! The Year 9 Pre-GCSE Enrichment Course in Food Technology will be a great foundation to the GCSE course. Students will focus on three main areas which will provide essential skills for those who love to cook and understand the need for a healthy diet. The Course will provide:

Key Cooking Skills

Students will focus on the fundamental skills necessary for practicals. These will include: soup making, breads, sauce based dishes, pastries, cake making and preservation. Students will also learn the principles of disassembly.

Applied Nutritional Knowledge

Students will focus on applying their practical skills to provide the essential nutrients needed for a healthy balanced diet. The syllabus will cover nutrients with a deeper understanding of their function, deficiency, sources and properties together with the skills to design recipes to incorporate this.

Health & Safety

Students will learn food hygiene within the manufacturing and catering sectors with regard to health & safety of food for the consumer.

GEOGRAPHY

The Year 9 Geography Pre-GCSE Enrichment Course includes the Geography of Disease and Living in Extreme Places. In the Geography of Disease, you will investigate how diseases spread and their impact on human civilisations and what can be done to minimise the impact. Within this you will have the opportunity to create a documentary film to put your understanding into a more expressive form. In Living in Extreme Places, you will study the difficulty in settling in inhospitable areas, why people choose to live there and what they do to cope with the numerous potential hazards that come their way.

In both topics you will develop skills that will serve you well in all areas. By the end of the year you will be creative, independent learners, willing to take risks and being able to see to the root cause of global situations. Geography will provide a sound companion with other subjects as it crosses the borders of many. You will develop your analytical skills, gaining the ability to use data as well as developing your thoughts into more descriptive and explanatory detail, thus building on your cross-curricular skills.

The Pre-GCSE Enrichment Course in Geography is highly recommended. It will provide you with valuable skills that you would be able to employ to enhance your GCSE. It will develop you as an independent learner and give you the opportunity to put your own slant on your learning.



GRAPHICS

What are Graphic Products?

CD cases, pop-up books, architectural models, perfume bottles, stage backdrops, posters, stickers..... anything with pictures and text are graphic products.

Paper and ink, plastics, woods and metals are the basic raw materials of the Graphic Designer. These, together with new and innovative smart materials and CAD/CAM machines like the laser cutter and sticker cutter, will transform your ideas into some fabulous graphic products.

During the Enrichment Course, you will make a variety of graphics products, giving you lots of experience in using the equipment we have in the graphics room and workshop. You will make some pewter jewellery and gift packaging and will complete an advertising project and produce a pop-up greetings card.

You will have the chance to create a portfolio of your work to show case your researching, designing, reviewing, planning, making, testing and evaluating skills. The experience gained from this course will be an asset not only in the GCSE course we hope you would like to go on to, but also in many other subjects.

HISTORY

What will you study in the Year 9 Pre-GCSE Enrichment Course in History?

- We will get to grips with the early 20th Century and particularly the breathtaking story of the fall of the Tsar in Russia and the rise of Lenin, and the nightmare of Stalin's Russia: all are key components in the development of the 20th Century. This will enrich your understanding of the first two units of GCSE History particularly, as these developments are quite closely linked.
- We will then examine one of the most traumatic and bewildering events of the 20th Century: the deliberate attempt by the Nazis to exterminate an entire race of people - the Holocaust.
- Moving further afield, we then aim to study one or two events outside Europe: the astonishing story of China in the 20th Century and / or the impact of the dissolution of British Empire
- Finally, time permitting, we will attempt to find out a little more about why the world *today* is as it is. We will look at a feature of current affairs – for example, conflict in Afghanistan or the Middle East - and find out how a study of the past helps to explain the present.

Remember that you might choose this option because you feel you would benefit from a little more grounding in 20th Century History before tackling the GCSE. However, you may also choose this option because you are a gifted and enthusiastic Historian who would simply enjoy learning about these things.



MUSIC

What's the Pre-GCSE Music Enrichment course all about? We want you to develop your skills and understanding as a performer, composer and listener so that you are really confident about using them successfully at GCSE level.

Performing –

You will perform solos and ensembles, in class and also in informal concerts at lunchtimes, and by playing in assemblies or while visiting junior schools. We will be able to tell you what you need to do to achieve the highest levels for GCSE.

Composing –

You can fill in the gaps about theory so that you have the skills to be confident when you compose on your own. You will learn how to use Music ICT including Sibelius, Cubase. Your pieces could be performed – at informal concerts perhaps!

Listening –

Exploring new types and styles of music is a journey of discovery: there is so much to hear and enjoy! Some of it is very unusual too. Some of it is outrageous! Is it Music?

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In the Pre-GCSE Enrichment Course, Religious Studies becomes more philosophical. Here is a run down of the topics we will cover and the kind of questions that we will be exploring:

- What it means to be human – what approach to life would give us ‘the best time’?
- Expressing spirituality through music – how can music help to express spiritual beliefs?
- The problem of evil & suffering – why do people suffer?
- Creation stories – what can they tell us?
- The relationship between science & religion – are scientific theories of Evolution and the Big Bang compatible with belief in God?
- Atheism and Humanism – do we need God to have morals?
- New religious movements & Ancient Beliefs– what can you discover about their history, beliefs, how they worship and who their leaders are?

TEXTILES

The Pre-GCSE Enrichment Textiles Course will build on your skills gained in Years 7 and 8, such as developing your machining and construction skills by making a garment, with accompanying fashion designs.

You will also learn lots of creative skills, using materials and equipment that will be new to you. These include more printing and dyeing techniques, felting, heat manipulating fabric and other stitched decoration methods. There will be the opportunity to use **Computer Aided Manufacturing** equipment to help embellish a product such as a piece of wall art, or a fashion accessory.

By the end of the year the two or three projects you will have completed will give you a good taste of fashion, textile and interior design through mainly practical experience. It will also prepare you with valuable skills to enjoy in the future, perhaps developing these further in your GCSE course which we hope you will consider.

