



YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

PARENTS' INFORMATION 2018/19



What this booklet will tell you

This booklet aims to give you an overview of what your child will be learning this year at Thomas Estley Community College. Information given here covers, for each curriculum area, the types of groups that students are taught in, assessment types and timings, and the main topics / skills covered. Many curriculum areas will be divided into terms so that you can see the order in which topics will be covered. Some areas operate on a rotating basis, so all topics will be covered, but not necessarily in the order listed.

One feature of our Year Nine curriculum is an increase in GCSE work during the year in many subject areas. This includes both general GCSE type skill development and actual GCSE modules which they will continue to study next year.

Formal Year Nine examinations take place in February, to provide accurate information for parents and ourselves to inform setting and options choices, and to provide practice in formal examinations ready for GCSE.

The last section of the booklet will give you guidance about homework at the college, and how you can support your child to achieve their full potential in this area.

What you can do to help

Knowing what your child will be learning and revising at which point in the year can support you as you:

- Talk about their learning with them on a regular basis.
- Keep an eye out for any opportunities outside school which might help them develop their interest or confidence in a particular topic.
- Encourage them and support them as they revise for assessments.
- Look over their homework or offer advice or guidance in where to go for information, helping them meet deadlines and work to a high standard.



Information is correct at the time of going to press. Please contact the college in the usual way with any queries relating to your child's learning and development.



Art and Design

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
All topics will be covered by all students by the end of the Summer	Mixed Ability	'Urban Art' project: Artist Analysis Drawing, painting, mixed media and ICT skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Assessment during design development stages of each course • Peer Assessment • End of Key Stage level



Design and Technology

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Students will study three areas from Art and DT by the end of Year 9	Mixed Ability	Product Design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boom Boxes Resistant Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage Box Textile Design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be safe, be seen Food Preparation and Nutrition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced food safety and preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Assessment during design development stages of each course • Peer Assessment • End of Key Stage Level

Citizenship / Religious Education



	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed	Crime and Society	One assessed task a term, focussed on religious education framework, citizenship and personal, learning and thinking skills.
Spring	Mixed	Wealth and Poverty	
Summer	Mixed	Religion and Relationships	



Geography



	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Ability	Rivers	Ox-bow Lake Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Ability	Coasts	Norfolk Coast Problem Solving End of Unit Test (Rivers and Coasts)
Spring	Mixed Ability	Weather	Year 9 Exam Skills Test
Spring	Mixed Ability	Tourism	Planning a Holiday Assessment
Spring	Mixed Ability	Development	End of Unit Test
Summer	Mixed Ability	Brazil	Problem Solving Assessment
Summer	Mixed Ability	Slumming it	Skills Test

Drama



	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating work from various stimuli • Documentary Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal level awarded at • half term and Christmas • Self/Peer/Teacher assessments given during lessons
Spring	Mixed Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Film/ Mime/ Physical Theatre • Modern Scripts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal level awarded at Easter • Self/Peer Teacher assessments given during lessons
Summer	Mixed Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elephant Man / Prejudice (Brecht) • 7 Ages of Man / Students' Personal Progression Y7-9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal level awarded at the end of the year • Self/Peer/Teacher assessments given during lessons



History

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Mixed Sets	Conflict in the Twentieth Century World World War 1 (inc Suffragettes)	GCSE style questions on topic areas
Spring	Mixed Sets	Conflict in the Twentieth Century World World War 2	GCSE style exam on WW1 topics GCSE style questions on topic areas
Summer	Mixed Sets	Conflict in the Twentieth Century World The Cold War and growth of International Terrorism	GCSE style questions on topic areas

Mathematics



	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Ability Sets	During each term we cover topics from each of the four strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number • Algebra 	Topic Tests Assessment Activities
Spring	Ability Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry and Measures • Statistics 	Mid-Year Examinations Assessment Activities
Summer	Ability Sets	Revision GCSE work for the Upper School	Full GCSE paper in preparation for KS4

- Parents can access Mymaths.co.uk along with students to track homework and revision.
- A scientific calculator and geometric equipment are required equipment from day one.
- Lunchtime help is available every day in the Maths Department.
- Students will also receive individualised “Weekly Skills” homework personal to them.

MFL

Students will study French for two lessons per week and Spanish for one lesson per week

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Ability Sets	French: My Health Spanish: The world of work	Students will be assessed in French three times throughout the year 
Spring	Ability Sets	French: The World of Work Spanish: Holidays	
Summer	Ability Sets	French: My Holidays Spanish: Food and health	

Module Week

	Subject	Focus
October	Money and Health Matters	<p>Students will look at how money is used in real life contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calculating Income Tax and National Insurance• Housing including calculating mortgage rates• Budgeting for a weekly shop• Holidays• Obtaining credit <p>Students will consider the different cultural and financial circumstances that would affect decisions about each of these topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual health• Avoiding substances abuse• Keeping my body healthy



Computing

Focus	Assessment
<p>Computing involves the science of computers.</p> <p>We look at building on the skills and knowledge developed in Year 7 and 8, covering the six strands of computing. Each unit of work taking around six weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algorithms and Computational Thinking • Programming (using Python) • The History of Computers • Game making • Communication and Networks • IT Skills* <p>Those students in the Computing Specialism will cover physical computing using RaspberryPi computers and app building.</p> <p>* IT Skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc) are also taught in other subjects throughout the year.</p>	<p>Ongoing assessment of work at the end of each unit</p> <p>On screen tests</p> 

P.E.

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
<p>Over the year, all students will study:</p>	<p>Mixed Ability</p>	<p>Gymnastics (All) Volleyball (All) Cross Country (All) Table Tennis (All) Netball (Girls Only) Football (All) Basketball (All) Football (Girls Only) Athletics (All) Rugby (Boys Only) Striking and Fielding (All) Tennis (All) Outdoor/Adventurous Activities (All) Options (All)</p>	<p>All sports are assessed during and at the end of their modules.</p> 

English

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
Autumn	Ability Sets	Poetry Analysis Story Analysis Crime Writing	Speaking and Listening Assessment Reading Assessment
Spring and Summer	Ability Sets	GCSE Examination Preparation - Class Novel Much ado about Nothing Reading of GCSE texts in preparation for Year 10. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and An Inspector Calls	Writing, Reading and Formal GCSE Examinations in Reading and Writing, Speaking and Listening Assessments plus GCSE Marking

Science

	Groups	Focus	Assessment
All topics will be covered by all students by the end of the Summer	Ability Sets Based on performance in Year 8 and other available data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFE - genetics • LIFE - staying alive • Metals • Movement and Work • Keeping Healthy - GCSE module • Light • KS4 Biomimicry • KS4 Cell Biology • KS4 Atomic structure and the periodic table 	End of topic tests Assessment activities within topics: written tasks, practical work and some homework. Year 9 Examination (Feb)



Homework



- In Year 9 your child should spend around 40 - 60 minutes on each subject every week. If you are worried about the amount of time they are spending on their homework you need to ask your child to speak to their teacher, or you need to put a message in your child's organiser.
- Homework will not always be a written piece of work. For example, your child could be asked to make a model or learn vocabulary.
- To help your child with homework tasks, the College Resources Area is open each lunchtime, as well as a computer suite and several classrooms. Staff are on hand to offer help if needed.
- Your child's homework should always be written in their organiser, so that you and they can both see what they need to do. Homework for each subject will often be set on the same night each week.

Your child needs to develop their organisational skills and work towards becoming an independent learner and enquirer.



Steps towards this include them learning to:

- Find out exactly what the work is **before** the due date.
- Organise notes and equipment for easy access at home.
- Find a quiet place to work without distractions.
- Set their own targets, e.g. between 5.00 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. I will ...
- Allocate time to homework, hobbies, relaxation, etc. in advance.
- Work neatly and aim for quality over quantity.
- Ask their teacher for help if needed **before** the due date.
- Catch up on missed work.
- Talk to you about their homework.
- Ask you to sign their organiser each week.
- If no homework is set, choose their own useful task to do (e.g. learning work covered in class, read, listen to current affairs programmes, summarise long pieces of writing, write a letter to an organisation, research an area of interest).

Please contact your child's subject teacher with any queries about homework, either by calling the college or by e-mail. Staff contact names follow the format: jbloggs@thomasestley.org.uk.

