

Year 9 Curriculum

At Vandyke we believe that all students have the right to a broad, balanced, engaging and relevant curriculum which provides continuity and progression whilst taking individual differences into account.

The main aim of the curriculum in Year 9 is to help students to become more effective lifelong learners acquiring the essential attitudes and skills to be able to adapt to the ever changing demand of the 21st century society. The curriculum focuses on the essential skills and attitudes that would help students to achieve their potential not only academically but in all areas of their lives.

To allow us at Vandyke to achieve our main aim of enabling students to flourish as 21st century learners we aim to help students to gain the ability to learn, adapt and apply essential skills. These essential skills will be enhanced throughout the curriculum, explicitly in students' Learning to Learn lessons and implicitly the activities that take place throughout the curriculum.

In the Learning to Learn lessons students undertake a variety of activities from assessing themselves as learners (identifying their strengths and areas to improve), to identifying and developing the key attributes of becoming successful and happy people working effectively in society.

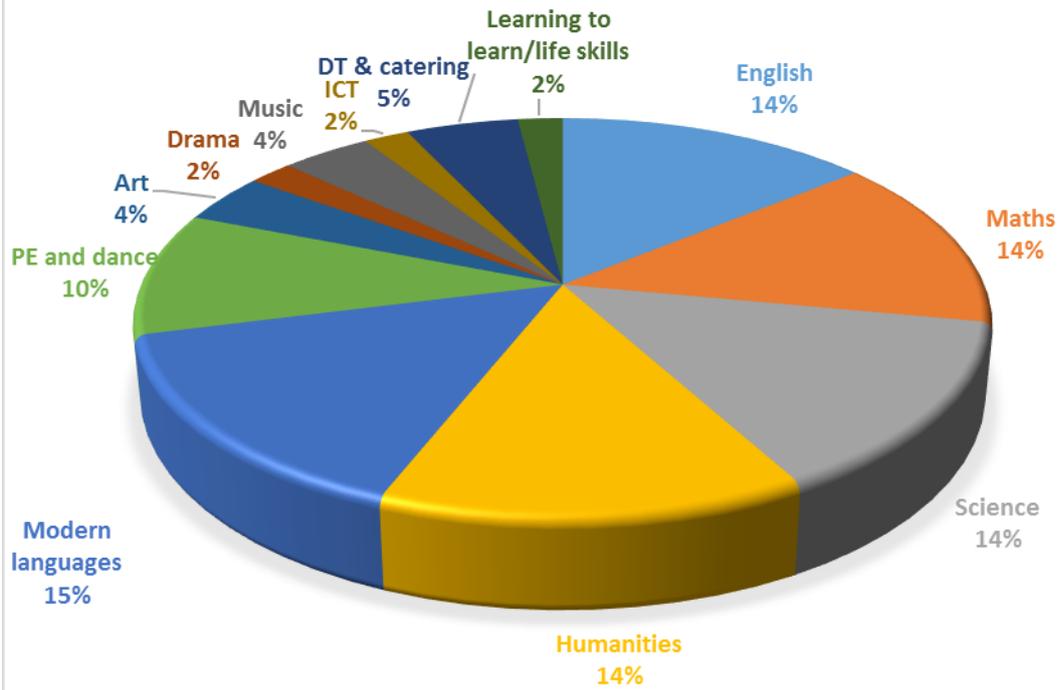
Other subjects in the Year 9 curriculum will help to reinforce and practise the attributes and skills taught in Learning to Learn lessons with each subject undertaking an activity that focuses upon the essential thinking skills students will need to develop, with a number of subjects working together on a cross curricular activity to enable students to make the connections between and across subjects.

The positive impact of the skills based teaching has been clear. Students enjoy the new enquiries, whilst feeling empowered by taking responsibility for their own learning and have grown in self-confidence. The Year 9 curriculum also allows learners to develop the ability to reach reasoned judgments based on investigation, interpretation and evaluation of relevant information. Teachers have also seen a clear improvement in attitudes to learning and the ability to work independently and as a member of a team during these enquiries.

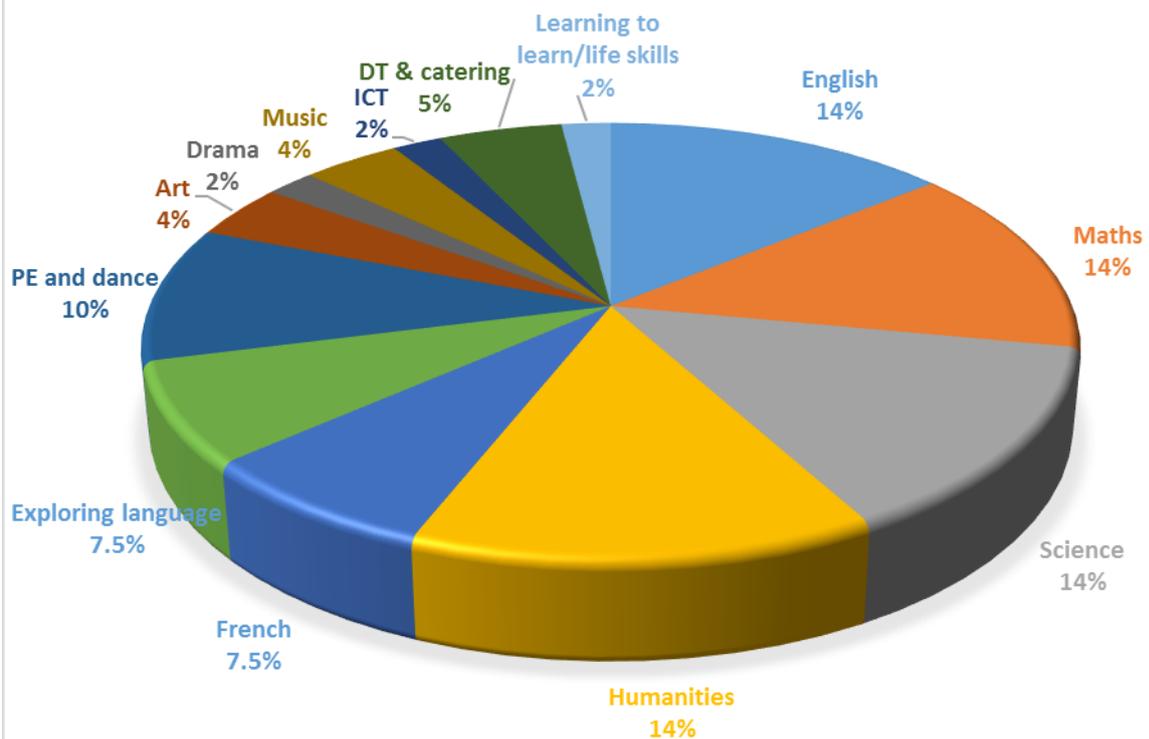
Another of the key features of the Year 9 curriculum is that it is personalised from the very start of the Year, as a result, of the thorough liaison between ourselves and the middle schools to ensure each student 'hits the ground running' upon their arrival at Vandyke. We ensure that all students will continue their essential work in literacy and numeracy throughout the many activities on offer during and outside of lesson time. The Year 9 curriculum will help our students to prepare for their GCSE courses ensuring that they are in a position to make very good progress in these important courses.

In Year 9 at Vandyke all students will study the Core Subjects of English, Mathematics and Science alongside Humanities and French. Some students will then undertake another foreign language (German or Spanish), whilst other will undertake a course in Exploring Language that helps to improve literacy in Year 9, instead of an additional foreign language.

YEAR 9 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - WITH AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE



YEAR 9 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - WITH EXPLORING LANGUAGE



Each student will have the opportunity to undertake a wide range of exciting extra-curricular activities, from weekly training in a variety of sports, including football, hockey, badminton and dodgeball. There are also arts-based opportunities, from the Arts Factory which focuses on Drama, Dance and Music, to History and Art clubs. There are a lot of educational visits to undertake, ranging from outdoor adventure trips to visits abroad and more local visits to places of interest, museums and theatres.