

# 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 demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century society. The curriculum focuses on the essential skills and attitudes that help students to achieve their potential not only academically but in all areas of their lives. These essential skills are enhanced throughout the curriculum, explicitly in *Life Skills* lessons and implicitly in the activities that take place throughout the curriculum.

In the *Life Skills* 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 a successful and happy member of society, in part through a study of religions and their related morals and ethics.

Other subjects in the Year 9 curriculum help to reinforce and practise the attributes and skills with each subject providing activities that focus upon the essential thinking skills students need, with a number of subjects working together on cross curricular activities which enable students to make the connections between and across subjects.

The positive impact of this skills-based teaching has been clear. Students enjoy the activities, whilst feeling empowered by taking responsibility for their own learning and grow 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.

Another of the key features of the Year 9 curriculum is that it is personalised from the very start, as a result of the thorough liaison with the middle schools to ensure each student 'hits the ground running' upon their arrival at Vandyke. We ensure that all students continue their essential work in literacy and numeracy throughout the many activities on offer during and outside of lesson time. The Year 9 curriculum helps 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 study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and PE alongside a wide range of humanities and arts subjects including Geography, History, Art, Drama, Food Technology, Music, Design Technology and Computing. All students study French and whilst some students also study German, others undertake a course that helps to improve their literacy, instead of an additional foreign language.

There are also a wide range of exciting extra-curricular activities, from weekly training in a variety of sports, including Football, Hockey, Badminton, Handball and Dodgeball to arts-based opportunities in Drama, Dance and Music. There are a lot of educational visits on offer, ranging from outdoor adventure trips, visits abroad, to more local venues, museums and theatres.

# YEAR 9 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

