



2021 - 2022



**Langley Senior School
Year 9 Subject Options Booklet**

Message from the Headmaster

Thank you for taking the time to look through this options booklet. As one moves from Year 8 to 9, it is an exciting time to choose some options and to start to hone in on the intellectual pathway that suits you best. There is fantastic depth and breadth here, so you have plenty of choice and plenty of time to see what areas you will especially flourish in. Choosing the subjects you enjoy is always a good starting point, so try not to be swayed by the choices of your friends or following a 'favourite teacher!'

Please ensure that you speak to people about your choices before you make that final decision: parents, family, older friends, your tutor and head of year.

I wish you well and look forward to seeing you become the very best person you can be.

Jon Perriss,
Headmaster

Overview of Subject Options

In Year 9, all pupils will study English, Mathematics and the three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) plus five option subjects.

Within these five options, all pupils are required to study at least one Modern Foreign Language, except for those who have already dropped all languages due to Learning Support (LS) requirements or those requiring English as an Additional Language (EAL). There will be the opportunity for pupils who have not studied Mandarin before to select this in Year 9. This would be a double option, anyone selecting this would have an additional three options.

All pupils are also encouraged to maintain a balanced curriculum and are advised to have a mixture of creative, humanity and practical subjects.

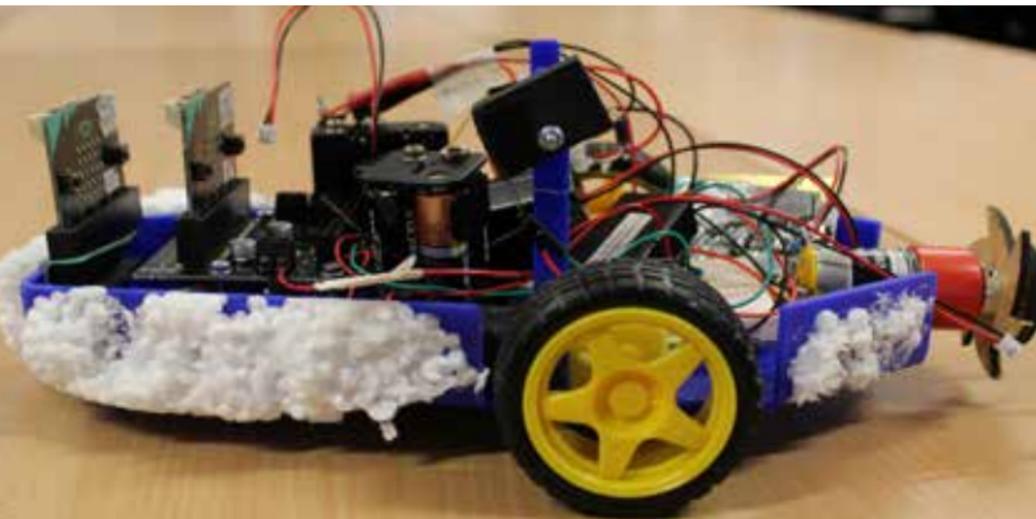
Leigh Sitch,
Assistant Head, Director of Studies



The Langley Year 9 Computer Science Curriculum encourages learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

The Curriculum modules include Spreadsheet Modelling, Computational Logic, High Level Programming using Python, HTML Coding, Data Handling and Web Authoring. You will:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including computational logic, algorithm construction, and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.



Drama in Year 9 focuses on building the technical skills that pupils require for the GCSE course. Studying the work and methods of practitioners such as Frantic Assembly and Bertolt Brecht lays the foundations for the pupil's exploration of devised and text Drama. In addition to the pupil's study of this fundamental theory of Drama, they also consider a variety of texts, including working towards the delivery of monologues and duologues by William Shakespeare.

As well as developing performance skills, pupils have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and practise of design elements such as lighting, sound, set and costume. Our fully equipped Drama studio offers excellent facilities for deepening this experience and pupils enjoy experimenting with the equipment available to analyse its effect and effectiveness on their practical work.

Pupils studying Drama in Year 9 find themselves creating Drama that is sophisticated and innovative. Drawing on their deepened skills in physical theatre, mime, movement and ensemble work allows them to truly demonstrate their creativity.

The transferable skills learnt in Drama, such as communication, confidence and team work, are invaluable to all.

“All the World’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players”

W. Shakespeare



Studying Design and Technology is an exciting opportunity available to all pupils. The department is based across five rooms, three of which are multi-media workshops, and two are graphics and computer aided design rooms. The equipment available for use is extensive, ranging from basic hand tools to industrial level computer numerical coding machines, a laser cutter, 3D printer and the use of computerised modelling, using Solidworks. Pupils are taught by one of three expert members of staff, supported by an experienced technician.

Over the course of Year 9, pupils produce a variety of products, using a range of manufacturing techniques and processes. Aluminium bag tags, engraved with initials using the CNC machine, a wooden trinket box constructed using finger joints, a personalised logo using metal casting

and the development of a portable speaker are projects which have been completed in the past. Pupils develop their modelling, CAD, isometric and orthographic drawing and laser cutting process skills to lay the foundations for GCSE.

During activity time, drone racing, green powered go-karts and the rotary competition, are some of the opportunities open to pupils. Scholarships are also available.

The skills learnt in Design and Technology are useful across a multitude of areas. Specifically, they provide those pupils interested in engineering the chance to develop their skills towards working in this sector, which has been identified as having a national shortage.



The most important attribute for anyone who chooses to study Fine Art in Year 9 is their enthusiasm for and commitment to exploring creative processes. Pupils are expected to push the boundaries of their own skills and to ask as many questions as possible. Our teachers have specialist knowledge in drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture, and the course is structured so that all these areas are explored. Digital media and photography are used to inform our work.

Year 9 pupils cover two projects: Currently we are studying 'Close ups' for the first half of the year and 'Perspectives' for the second part. Normally there is a trip to the coast to gather first-hand recording and we like

to take advantage of our wonderful setting to inform our project. Drawing and painting skills are refined, and both historic and contemporary artists are used as reference. This is a great opportunity to develop technical competence and to learn how to articulate thoughts using appropriate subject-specific terminology. During the 'Perspectives' project, pupils are encouraged to become more independent and to bring their own ideas for development to the table. Individual feedback and evaluation are ongoing. This ensures that pupils maximise their attainment and that they become familiar with the assessment requirements set out by the examination boards for GCSE and A level.



Choosing Year 9 Food at Langley School gives you the opportunity to cook a wide range of dishes in the Langley Food Preparation and Nutrition kitchen. Our Year 9 course aims to give you the skills and knowledge to be able to cook for yourselves, as well as gain the confidence to share these skills with friends and family. We firmly believe that cooking is an essential life skill, empowering us to make choices that benefit our health and wellbeing.

What will I cook?

We aim to cook as much as possible and focus on both sweet and savoury dishes. Some examples include risotto, stir fries, pasta and pasta sauces, bread and pastry making, and of course desserts.

What will I learn?

You will learn kitchen basics, food safety and hygiene, knife skills and safety, preparing ingredients, food presentation and understanding food labels.

Along with the practical element of the course you will study topics in food nutrition and food science.

For those interested in taking the subject to a higher level you will have the opportunity to progress to GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition in Year 10.

Please note that we provide all ingredients for the practical sessions and are happy to cater for all dietary requirements. This course includes a termly charge as a contribution towards the cost of ingredients.



French is a very widely spoken language: in Canada in North America, French Guiana in South America, Haiti and Guadeloupe in the Caribbean, all the countries in French-speaking Africa and Asia and of course Europe. Learning about French culture in general broadens the mind and opens our eyes to a world outside our own. It is often said that we can never truly understand our own language until we speak another one. If you speak more than one language, lots of different avenues can open up for you. Having a foreign language on your CV will act as a unique selling point. If you have learnt one language properly, you have the skills to learn another one in the future. Foreign language speakers will be crucial in the coming years and, as France is our nearest neighbour, those with French skills will be highly sought after.

From September 2021, Langley School will offer two different courses in French:

i) GCSE French: Year 9 marks the beginning of the GCSE course and it follows on naturally from your Year 8 studies. It gives you an extra year to

study the GCSE course before your examinations in Year 11, allowing for greater depth. In Year 9 we explore topics relating to identity and culture and we study a thrilling French film in the Trinity Term. Your grammar and vocabulary will continue to expand and strengthen along with your communication skills as we speak and learn together through the medium of French.

ii) Accelerated (ab initio) course: This is a beginners' course for those who have not had the opportunity to study French before, or at least not for a long time. It is particularly suited to those who have coped well with studying one foreign language, and who would like to add another to their skills. By the end of Year 11, you will be in a position to aim for the highest grades at GCSE.

Both courses have been designed in-house and lead to the AQA GCSE qualification. We produce our own materials according to your progress and next steps and we support your learning with our own website, www.LangLangs.com and our YouTube channel.



Geography is a popular, dynamic subject and the Year 9 course shares links with the GCSE Specification directly preparing pupils for GCSE Geography. Below is a summary of the units we will study.

Hazards - this unit looks at the difference between natural hazards and natural disasters. It looks at the causes of Hazards such as Volcanoes, Super-volcanoes, Tsunamis, Hurricanes and the impacts of such hazards.

Brazil - focuses on the ecosystems and people of Brazil. It gives pupils the opportunity to explore the world's richest and most diverse ecosystems on the planet, the Amazon rainforest. The topic also deals with deforestation and sustainable development.

Sustainability - deals with the most pressing environmental problems facing the UK such as climate change, traffic, waste and single use plastic. Such issues have serious implications for the stability of the planet's future.

Fieldwork - a vital and valuable component of every Geography pupils experience. In Year 9, pupils will conduct one day of local fieldwork, putting the content taught in lessons in context. This is direct preparation for the GCSE investigation. Pupils will also have the opportunity to go to Sicily to see Mount Etna and study volcanic hazards!



The Year 9 History course provides pupils with the opportunity to study the exciting topic 'History of Medicine,' which is the start of the GCSE History course. This is an indepth investigation into the development of medicine. Our journey begins in the Ancient World and travels towards the present day. By studying and comparing each civilization, the classes will understand how there have been changes in the ideas about what caused disease, as well as approaches to surgery, public health and treating illnesses.

The Year 9 Historians will get the chance to take part in a London trip linked to their studies. This will include visiting the Science Museum and the Old St Thomas Operating Theatre Museum to learn about how medicine has changed and developed over time.

For those continuing with History beyond Year 9, the topics will include a study of the changes and American West in the 19th Century; a study about Henry VIII's changing relationship with his ministers; as well as a modern world American study during the years 1954-1975 examining the growing conflicts faced at home and abroad, including the Civil Rights movement and the War in Vietnam.

History is a popular and exciting choice to study, and increasing numbers of pupils are choosing to take the subject from Years 9 and above.



The Year 9 Mandarin course will build on the language you have already acquired in Year 8. You will develop your written skills, grammar and vocabulary, which will prepare you for the GCSE course.

We will be covering the following topics: “holidays, all about me, where you live, shopping, travel in China” and you will be able to take part in competitions, such as rapping in Mandarin! However, we will also be learning how to make some traditional Chinese dishes, including dumplings and hotpot, and of course you will get to taste them for yourselves.

You could also join us on our trip to China, when we are able to do so again, where you will be able to explore the culture of this ancient country and improve your language skills with native speakers.

From September 2021, Langley School will offer two different courses in Mandarin:

- i) GCSE Chinese: This course is for those who have studied the language from at least Year 7.
- ii) Accelerated (ab initio) course: This is a beginners' course for those who have not had the opportunity to study Mandarin before and who are committed to studying it to GCSE level up to the end of Year 11. It is particularly suited to those who have coped well with studying one foreign language, and who would like to add another to their skills. In Year 9, Mandarin will count as a double option in order to facilitate rapid progress.



Music at Year 9 is an exciting and enjoyable course for all pupils. Working through the GCSE required elements, pupils can produce music in a fun and creative environment. Although not a requirement for Year 9, pupils will find the music course more enjoyable if they are learning an instrument or having vocal lesson.

Performance is the first element pupils will look at. They will spend time working on solo and mixed ensemble pieces aiming for a musical and coherent performance. All performances are recorded for pupils to evaluate individually or with peers. The element of performance allows confidence and team work to evolve, bridging the gap to GCSE.

Composition lessons takes place in the Music IT suite, with the availability of keyboard and notation software to assist. Compositional techniques will be studied, and a sound harmony knowledge developed to create exciting and enjoyable pieces. Although a new area for many pupils, they will develop compositional skill and harmonic techniques, which allow creativity and excellent results.

Analysis of set works lets pupils develop the main concepts of melody, rhythm, dynamics, texture, structure, instrumentation, tonality and harmony. Pupils will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide selection of music and musical styles, developing an understanding of the place music has in different cultures and contexts.



Physical Education is available to all pupils allowing them to continue to explore their own journey towards lifelong participation in physical activity. Whilst it is not mandatory in terms of studying GCSE PE and BTEC Sport later on, it will certainly be beneficial.

Pupils who choose PE as an option in Y9 will further develop their physical literacy, game understanding and leadership skills. Pupils will have 3 lessons over the 2-week timetable and the course will be divided into 3 strands;

Principles of Play – in these lessons, pupils will take part in practical activities which help them to further explore the tactical aspects of a range of sports in invasion games, net and wall games and striking and fielding games.

PE Theory – pupils will learn some of the basic functions of the body in addition to carrying out fitness testing in a variety of components of fitness and exploring training methods to improve lifestyle and performance.

Leadership – This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to develop their leadership skills in sport and complete the Sports Leaders UK ‘I Can Lead’ award. Pupils will have the chance to be creative and design, deliver and reflect on physical activity sessions. The culmination of this will be to organise and run a movement skills festival for our younger pupils at school.



Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, used extensively by British holiday makers in Spain and also useful to those visiting the States or Mexico and other Latin American countries. Learning about Hispanic culture, food, traditions and history is exciting and it broadens the mind.

From September 2021, Langley School will offer two different courses in Spanish:

i) GCSE Spanish: Year 9 marks the beginning of the GCSE course and it follows on naturally from your Year 8 studies. It gives you an extra year to study the GCSE course before your examinations in Year 11, allowing for greater depth. In Year 9 we explore topics relating to identity and culture and we study a thrilling Spanish film in the Trinity Term. Your grammar and vocabulary will continue to

expand and strengthen along with your communication skills as we speak and learn together through the medium of Spanish.

ii) Accelerated (ab initio) course: This is a beginners' course for those who have not had the opportunity to study Spanish before, or at least not for a long time. It is particularly suited to those who have coped well with studying one foreign language, and who would like to add another to their skills. By the end of Year 11, you will be in a position to aim for the highest grades at GCSE.

Both courses have been designed in-house and lead to the AQA GCSE qualification. We produce our own materials according to your progress and next steps and we support your learning with our own website, www.LangLangs.com and our YouTube channel.



In Year 9 Philosophy and Theology, pupils have an opportunity to explore some fascinating real world situations and philosophical dilemmas. They develop empathy, powers of reasoning, as well as developing evaluative skills that are essential for academic performance.

This begins with Medical Ethics, debating the reasons for and against euthanasia, cloning, animal testing and posing questions such as ‘when does life begin?’

This is then followed by Religion, Peace and Justice. In this unit, various religious views on war and peace are explored with debates about the use of weapons of mass destruction, generating interesting and lively discussion.

The next unit of work is concerned with the classic philosophical Problem of Evil: namely, if God has the qualities that we assume it does, why is there evil in the world? Are there any valid solutions to this problem?

The final series of lessons concludes with the extremely topical unit of Religion and Science, which involves questions of compatibility between scientific and religious beliefs, should we go vegan to save the planet? Are creation stories relevant in the 21st Century?

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

Attributed to Aristotle.



In addition we are able to offer Learning Support and English as an Additional Language. Pupils with specific learning difficulties would be well advised to select Learning Support, where they will receive additional help. A pupil who is not a native speaker of English, and whose fluency in the language is limited, ought to opt for English as an Additional Language (EAL). Both these subjects are generally taught in very small groups for which a charge is levied (contact the Finance Manager for full details), and can be selected in place of an optional subject.

Pupils may select a total of six from the option subjects, one from each of the Option Blocks.

Summary of Subject Options

Please note, that:

1. Each option offered within a block is subject to group numbers. The school reserves the right to withdraw a subject from a block if insufficient interest is shown.
2. Some subjects can prove to be very popular from time to time. The school reserves the right to cap numbers for a particular subject.

In addition to the above curriculum, all pupils at this stage will receive lessons in Personal and Social Education (which will incorporate careers and study skills), Combined Cadet Force, non-examined Physical Education and Games.



The CCF at Langley is Tri-service: Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Its aim is to “provide a disciplined organisation within school, so that pupils may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance,” while giving a sense of service to the community.

During their time in CCF, cadets follow the syllabus appropriate to their chosen section. All Year 9 cadets undertake basic training at the start of the year, which includes uniform care, correct wearing of uniform, foot drill.

The CCF Contingent currently runs a weekend camp each term and all cadets in Year 9 are expected to attend these camps as a large amount of the syllabus activities are put into practise and it helps to develop self-reliance, confidence and teamwork. At the end of the Lent term, cadets have the opportunity to attend a week long adventurous training camp at Dartmoor. At the end of the Trinity term, courses and section camps are offered to cadets to put into practise everything they have learnt during the year.

The Royal Navy section cadets undertake a range of activities to cover the syllabus during their time in the CCF, and are given many different opportunities to get afloat and visit Royal Navy ships and facilities in Portsmouth. In the normal CCF year the RN section cadets complete a swimming test, sailing, rowing, P2000 afloat day, and other activities such as Damage Repair & Fire Fighting, climbing and also dry slope skiing.

The Army section follows a syllabus aimed at developing teamwork and leadership. Activities include skill at arms, shooting, fieldcraft, first aid and land navigation.

The RAF section aims to offer an experience based around flying and aviation, and to inspire young people to learn and develop new skills. It's our aim to get you airborne as often as possible, as a passenger in a light aircraft, a glider or even on-board RAF aircraft, which usually happens on summer camp.

Cadets are encouraged to make the most of the opportunities on offer, and develop and fulfil their potential as cadets and future NCOs and leaders.



It is intended that all pupils in Year 9 sign up for the Bronze Award. DofE is a life-changing adventure, it is about going the extra mile and includes learning new skills for work and life, getting fitter, helping others, and exploring the countryside.

Pupils who join the school in Year 9 can take part. There are three progressive levels of programmes which when completed lead to a Bronze (Year 9), Silver (Year 10) or Gold DofE Award (16+). The best bit is pupils get to choose what activities to do, their programme can be full of activities and projects that get them buzzing. Along the way they will pick up experiences, friends, skills and talents that will stay with them for life. To achieve the Bronze Award, pupils will need to complete a programme of activities in these four sections:

Volunteering - Volunteering gives them the chance to make a difference to people's lives and use skills and experience to help local communities.

Skills - Developing a skill helps pupils get better at something they are really interested in and gives them confidence and the ability to use this skill both now and later in life.

Physical - Taking part in physical activity is fun and improves health and physical fitness. There is an activity to suit everyone so choose something that is enjoyable and genuinely interesting

For the Skills and Physical sections, the training that is undertaken in the CCF will be recorded and so it will enable pupils to complete both easily in the time frame.

Expedition - As part of the award, pupils will complete an expedition as part of a team within a rural environment. Alongside the expedition, pupils will also be working towards completing an aims project focusing on a specific topic. For example, looking at what local wildlife they can identify or what buildings of interest they come across. To ensure the safety of pupils on their expedition, everyone will be provided with instruction on (when they attend CCF weekends): First Aid, Camp Crafts, Orienteering, Tent Assembly, Rucksack Packing and Food and Nutrition.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award will develop into an exciting part of school life. It will form an integral part of the CCF and will give our pupils independence, self-confidence and demonstrate that a young person has the commitment to persevere and problem solve. They cannot complete the award alone; it is done with others on expedition and helping others in their community. Being aware and sensitive to the needs of those around us is a core life skill which dovetails nicely into the school ethos of Kindness, Confidence with Humility, Integrity and Curiosity.



Activities are the last lesson of the day from Monday to Thursday. They provide an opportunity for staff, pupils and students at Langley to escape the pressures of examinations and engage in a variety of pursuits aimed at self-development. In total, there are more than 90 activities spread across four days and pupils get to select from a menu of options for each day on a termly basis via the Firefly portal. We encourage pupils to try new things and allow change requests for activities at the end of week two each term.

On Mondays, Year 9 will have compulsory CCF during activities.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the focus for Year 9 will be on activities that offer possibilities for personal and social development. Alongside the ever popular Simple Bakes, Reading Café and Table Tennis activities, there will be DT related options such as Green Powered Go-Kart, Langley Model Railway and Drone Racing, as well as musical options

such as Orchestra and Dixie Band. For those interested in art and photography, there are further opportunities to try the subjects out in Year 9, before committing to taking them at GCSE. We also offer such activities as gardening, croquet, computer programming, chess, cyber discovery, sign language, origami and mah-jong. There are really too many options to list them all here.

On Thursday, the focus for Year 9 will be on sporting activities as this follows on from Games afternoon. Non-sporting activities will be available for those who do not wish to do more sport, but there will be seasonal offerings of rugby, football, hockey, netball, tennis, cricket and much more for those who do.

We are always open to new ideas for activities at Langley and ask pupils for suggestions on a regular basis. If any parents have ideas they can contact our activities co-ordinator, Mr. Sears, on ssears@langleyschool.co.uk



Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Arrive					
Tutor	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
Transition					
1					
Transition					
2					
Break					
3					
Assembly/ Reflection time/ Lunch					
4					
Transition					
5					
Break					
Activities					
End of Day					



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