



LOUGHBOROUGH
High School



Year 9

Option Choices 2024-2025



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Year 9 Option Choices

Life in Year 9

Year 9 is an exciting year, where you're able to take further control of your curriculum and learning as we look towards the GCSE and A Level years to come. You will consolidate earlier work and start to lay foundations for GCSE courses. In some subjects you will start to follow the GCSE syllabus.

You will enjoy all your usual form and year activities, such as year group outings and charity events. You should certainly aim to participate in extracurricular activities and seize opportunities for trying something new and taking on more responsibility within the school. The Duke of Edinburgh Award begins in Year 9 and we always have a huge number of students enrolling onto the first stage of this award (Bronze). It builds teamwork and resilience and is also a lot of fun!



Choices for Year 9

How do you choose the subjects that are right for you? Follow your heart, do what you enjoy and don't worry about the future. Pick subjects because you love them and not because your friends are picking them or that you like a particular teacher, because you may not end up in the same teaching group as your friend and you may not get the teacher you hoped for. If you study subjects you enjoy, you will get the best outcome possible. The Year 9 options are a chance for you to begin carving your own academic path ahead of the 9 GCSEs you will take in Year 10.

In Year 9, you will be studying two subjects from:

- Art
- Drama
- Computer Science
- Food and nutrition
- Music

We hope you will all be able to do your first two choices but this will depend on set sizes, so you will be asked to give four subjects in order of preference.

You will also decide, with advice from your Classics teacher, whether to continue to study Latin or to take Classical Civilisation in its place.

In addition to the language you are already studying, you will choose a second language to start next year. Classical Civilisation also runs in this option block, allowing those who would prefer to continue with Latin and also study Classical Civilisation.

The options therefore are:

- Classical Greek
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Classical Civilisation (someone cannot study Classical Civilisation in both option blocks)

We will endeavour to run all five options as above, but will be guided by set viability based upon uptake for each choice.

The next part of this booklet is to provide you with some information about the courses available. If you have any questions which are not answered by the booklet, there are plenty of people to ask - your form tutor, your subject teachers, your Head of Year, Mrs Grainger, Mrs Simpkin and Dr Reid.

In some cases, the decision you make now will affect your choices for GCSE. At Loughborough High School we offer a 9 GCSE model, where you have completely free choice of four subjects. Language courses are an essential foundation for the GCSEs. In other cases, details are given in the subject entries. Even if a subject does not require next year's course for GCSE, if you are already very drawn to the idea of studying it further, it would make sense for you to choose it.



Subject Information

Art

Why Study Art?

The study of art can be really rewarding and the qualities you develop in the process like creative and critical thinking are genuine assets in any future career. Year 9 artists discuss art history and theory and work with lots of new practical processes including advanced drawing techniques, digital photography, printmaking, painting and large scale 3d constructions. Art is hands-on, suiting people who are interested in ideas. The course is for anyone who enjoys creativity and is willing to be challenged.

What does the course involve?

Year 9 investigates how Art and Design affects technology, societies and cultures as well as how it links to literature, history, philosophy, science, maths and politics. Projects change each year so you may not be studying what the previous year did. Past areas of study have included fractal geometry, botanical illustration, contemporary architecture, street art and macro photography. In the Summer Term you complete an extended personal research project on an artist, craftsperson or designer of your own choice. Project work is an important part of the subject and you will be able to express your own interests and ideas as the year progresses.

How is the course assessed?

There is continual assessment of your homework sketchbook and class practical portfolio and an end of year observational drawing test. There are no written tests.

What can studying Art lead to?

It is recommended that you take the Year 9 course if you wish to continue on to GCSE so your practical skills are well developed enough to begin coursework in September of Year 10. GCSE art is useful to consider if you wish to pursue a career in architecture, engineering, business and all areas of design. It is by no means only for those who wish to work in creative industries. Many employers are seeking the skills art develops and many firms see the qualification as a way to foster innovation in employees. Art complements a wide range of career paths including humanities and sciences.

What skills does studying Art develop?

Artists are brilliant researchers and the subject encourages you to seek out information, explore ideas and overcome problems. Studying art encourages you to carefully consider, record and analyse the world around you. Art teaches you self-discipline; the ability to persevere and take calculated risks.

What skills does the Art course develop?

Project development and presentation skills in a range of media

The ability to question, debate and communicate ideas skilfully in discussion, writing and non-verbal communication

Resilience and ability to cope with the uncertain – you won't always get it right first time and there isn't always a single answer



Computer Science

Why study Computer Science?

We live in a world where technology is evolving at an unprecedented rate, influencing developments in everything from medicine and engineering to fashion and media. This makes computer science one of the most exciting and relevant subject areas that you can study. Whichever route you choose to go down with your career, computer science will undoubtedly shape your world and a good grasp of the most important concepts and ideas will help you to make the most of these fast-moving trends.

What does the course involve?

In Year 9 we aim to build upon the foundation that was developed in years 7 and 8 to fine tune your computer skills as you build towards taking your GCSE qualification. Computer Science explores the principles of digital technology using 'computational thinking' methodology and using coding and programming as a core skill throughout the course. This subject will challenge you to solve problems in a logical manner and to demonstrate perseverance when the subject becomes more complex. However, it may surprise you to learn that Computer Science is also an outlet for the more creative among you and you will undoubtedly get a real buzz out of the creative process using your programming skills. If you have enjoyed using programmes like Scratch and python, or game design then you might find that Computer Science suits you very well.

How is the course assessed?

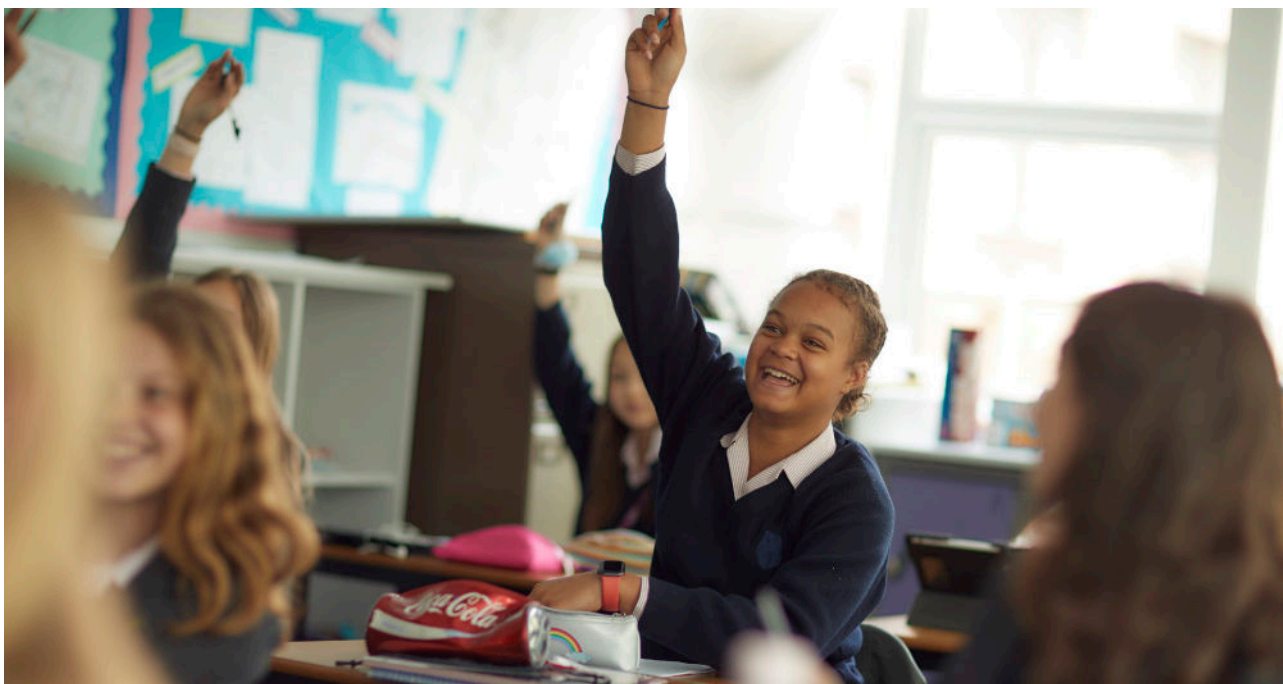
Through an end of year online assessment.

What can studying Computer Science lead to?

Computer Science influences everything from medicine and engineering to fashion and media. This makes computer science one of the most exciting and relevant subject areas that you can study. Whichever route you choose to go down with your career, computer science will undoubtedly shape your world and a good grasp of the most important concepts and ideas will help you to make the most of these fast-moving trends.

What skills does studying Computer Science develop?

Critical and logical thinking. Collaboration in the virtual workspace and team work.



Drama

Why study Drama?

Drama is a dynamic practice that will encourage you to continue questioning, exploring and teasing out new ideas and ways of living and thinking. Year 9 Drama isn't about being the best performer or the next Hollywood star, it is about *creating and making, exploring and responding* in the search of our true selves and meaningful connections with others and the world around us. You will be learning 'by doing'. It not only involves using your voices and bodies, but also emotions and creativity, therefore it can engender a deep sense of self-esteem. It is also a subject that requires a great deal of peer trust, and so it plays an important role in teaching you communication, listening and empathy skills. It is also great fun!

What does the course involve?

You will express your creativity in a variety of ways. In Drama there is no right or wrong, creative play and mistakes are actively encouraged leading to a greater acceptance of risk taking.

You will learn how to be persistent and to learn from failures as well as successes.

Acting including improvisation and role-play as well as studying a scripted play

The opportunity to develop your inter-personal and group working skills and your ability to communicate with others.

Creative skills in the technical aspects of the theatre including sound and lighting

The chance to develop your spoken evaluative skills and ability to contribute to group discussion

A trip to see a professional theatre production where you will begin the development of your performance analysis and appreciation skills.

How is the course assessed?

There is continual practical assessment as the course progresses via a range of classroom-based tasks, with opportunities to develop your own skills in self-assessment and self-awareness.

What can studying Drama lead to?

Although this course will prepare you with the necessary skills for GCSE Drama, it is not compulsory to have taken it.

What skills does studying Drama develop?

The skills and qualities you will develop in Drama such as teamwork, creativity, leadership and risk-taking are assets in all subjects and all areas of life. Drama stimulates the imagination and will allow you to explore and reflect on important subject matter, test and try out new ideas, acquire new knowledge, create new values and build self-esteem.

Drama helps you to learn how to gain confidence in your own opinion and respond to others' viewpoints or actions in a safe and fun environment.



Food and Nutrition

Why study Food and Nutrition?

Food and Nutrition is for both scientific and creative students and will appeal to those who enjoy a challenge. The combination of theory and practical work provides a diverse range of lessons that appeals to many learning styles and allows all students to reach their full potential. The subject is taught in a dedicated theory classroom and state-of-the-art kitchen, both of which are excellently equipped, and allow teachers to bring the subject to life. Students enjoy a triple lesson, that allows them to showcase demanding practical skills, as well as excellent food presentation.

What does the course involve?

In Year 9 Food and Nutrition you will develop a deeper understanding about food, including the essential role of nutrients in maintaining a healthy diet. You will explore the moral, ethical, social and environmental issues affecting food choice and availability, as well as some of the science behind cooking. You will be challenged to produce high-skilled, interesting, delicious and well-presented practical dishes of your own choice, and develop complex culinary skills. Students will have to be organised as they are required to bring their ingredients to each practical lesson.

How is the course assessed?

The Food and Nutrition exam is a written paper of 60 minutes, consisting of both short and long answer questions, designed to test your theoretical understanding.

You will also complete two Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs): the Food Investigation Task and The Food Preparation Task. During The Food Preparation Task your practical skills will also be formally assessed, as you will design and make a dish based upon a given brief.

What can studying Food and Nutrition lead to?

This course provides an excellent grounding for GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, as well as having excellent links to other subjects, such as Geography, PE, Biology, Chemistry and many more. You may be considering studying food or a related subject at GCSE, Sixth Form or University, or considering a career in nutrition, medicine, sport or manufacturing.

What skills does studying Food and Nutrition develop?

Food and Nutrition encompasses a broad range of skills including written and verbal communication, analysis and evaluation of data, producing food labels using ICT, scientific skills when conducting food science experiments as well as many transferable skills that relate to all other school subjects. We will also equip you with the crucial life skill of cookery and the knowledge of how to eat healthily.



Music

Why study Music?

Creativity is at the heart of studying Music. You will learn how to compose music in a variety of styles, listening to and being inspired by some great pieces of music. Music is also full of academic rigour. You will build on your analytical skills gained in Year 7 and 8 as you tackle the *why* and *how* of music.

Why does this song introduction make me want to get up and dance?

How does the composer show the two characters on screen have fallen in love?

Why was the Black and LGBTQ community in certain cities in the USA vital to the development of Electronic Dance Music?

If you enjoy learning why the music you listen to makes you feel a certain way or want to learn how to write your own music, and use the state-of-the-art facilities found in the Music Department, then Music is for you!

What does the course involve?

Throughout the year you will be taught how to analyse music that you hear, and how to write your own music inspired by the styles studied. The topics studied in Year 9 include: Musical Theatre, Film Music, Music from the Caribbean and Jazz. This will prepare you well for the GCSE Music course.

How is the course assessed?

Your listening skills will be regularly assessed, and you will build a portfolio of compositional skills, on which you will receive feedback. The end of year exam will focus on the listening skills developed throughout the year.

What can studying Music lead to?

Music opens so many doors! Studying Music will not prevent you studying any other subject later. Most immediately, it will enable you to study GCSE Music. It could also enhance your work in a variety of creative, problem solving, people-focussed or analytical careers. Pupils that have studied Music have gone on to become everything from professional orchestral conductors to primary school teachers, medical doctors to lawyers, and accountants to pilots!

What skills does studying Music develop?

In addition to specific musical skills you will also develop your creativity, self-management, problem solving, communication, analytical and listening skills. These are all highly valued by universities and employers.





Classics

Classical Civilisation

Why study Classical Civilisation?

In Year 9, all students have three lessons per week of either Latin or Classical Civilisation. If you are interested in the history, society, myths and culture of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, then the Year 9 Classical Civilisation course is a very good choice for you. The varied and exciting course is essentially an investigation into the lives, literature and history of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Sources studied include examples of art, archaeology and architecture as well as literature, but there is no translation involved.

What does the course involve?

The Year 9 Classical Civilisation course mainly focuses on Ancient Greece, with topics including:

- Gods and Goddesses
- Heroes in the Ancient World
- The Trojan War
- Crete: archaeology and myth
- The Persians

How is the course assessed?

The Year 9 Classical Civilisation examination is a 60-minute paper consisting of a number of short answer and extended response questions based upon a range of sources and stimulus materials.

What can studying Classical Civilisation lead to?

The Year 9 Classical Civilisation course provides you with an excellent foundation for taking this subject at GCSE, as well as a general background knowledge of classical culture which is useful for other GCSE subjects and for life in general.

What skills does studying Classical Civilisation develop?

Studying the literature will teach you to evaluate ancient authors, develop your imagination, and further your understanding of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Study of the history and culture will help you evaluate the achievements of the Romans and Greeks, making comparisons with the modern world. You will also work on visual and material culture, learning how to question the sources, and developing your ability to reproduce and relay information in a clear and informative way. We will work in a variety of ways, giving you the foundation in skills and knowledge which you need at GCSE. You will also use your IT skills, in researching and producing presentations and other assignments.



Latin

Why study Latin?

In Year 9, all students have three lessons per week of either Latin or Classical Civilisation. The Year 9 Latin course gives you the opportunity to develop your interest and skills in the Latin language. Latin is still a highly regarded academic subject as it supports and helps develop your intellectual progress across a wide range of areas. Studying Latin indicates a focused, analytical and intuitive mind. As well as developing your knowledge and understanding of the Roman world and its values, you will develop your linguistic skills further; by the end of this year you will have learnt about two thirds of the words required for GCSE and have increased your reading and translation speed, as well as your analytical skills, enormously.

What does the course involve?

We continue to follow the Cambridge Latin Course, the setting of which moves firstly to Egypt and the vibrant city of Alexandria, home to the phenomenal Pharos lighthouse – one of the seven wonders of the ancient world – and then to the fabulous Roman site of Aquae Sulis (better known to us as Roman Bath). New grammar features include the genitive case, demonstrative adjectives, imperatives and participles, while the background topics include the worship of Isis, Roman medicine and science, the Roman baths at Bath, and Roman curse tablets.

How is the course assessed?

The Year 9 Latin examination is a 60-minute paper comprising a passage of Latin for translation into English; a passage of Latin upon which a number of comprehension questions are set; grammar sentences and word derivations.

What can studying Latin lead to?

Students considering taking Latin at GCSE will need to study Latin in Year 9. We would also strongly encourage anyone wishing to take up Classical Greek to continue with Latin in Year 9 as the structure of the two languages is very similar. The background elements and socio-historical context of the reading passages will also facilitate the successful study of Classical Civilisation at GCSE, while the linguistic, analytical, evaluative and communication skills rehearsed by the course will prove useful in a wide range of non-classical subjects including modern languages, humanities subjects, English language, English literature and the sciences.

What skills does studying Latin develop?

Latin helps you develop a range of transferable skills which support your academic abilities and improve your progress in all your subjects. In particular, you will:

quickly expand your knowledge of Latin vocabulary and syntax, which will increase your ability to communicate in English and other modern languages too;

get better at problem solving; tackling tricky Latin sentences is challenging and complex – the best intellectual practice you can get!

improve your translation skills as you develop familiarity with written Latin, working individually and with others.





Languages

Classical Greek

Why study Classical Greek?

Winston Churchill once famously stated 'I would let the clever ones [students] learn Latin as an honour, and Greek as a treat.' The experience of learning Classical Greek is indeed a treat, not least because as well as the satisfaction you will gain from mastering the fundamentals of this highly inflected language, you will also develop your appreciation of the vast and wide-ranging influence of the ancient Greeks on our own society, from their art, architecture and literature to their philosophy, language and even their alphabet, which features in the notation of numerous mathematical and scientific equations.

What does the course involve?

In the Year 9 Classical Greek course, you will learn the Greek alphabet, investigate the wide array of English words which derive from Greek roots, and start getting to grips with the grammar and vocabulary prescribed for the GCSE syllabus. You will also spend some time translating simple English sentences into Greek.

How is the course assessed?

The Year 9 Classical Greek examination is a 60-minute paper comprising a passage of Classical Greek for translation into English; a grammar section testing knowledge and understanding of the key noun and verb endings, and a section on word derivations.

What can studying Classical Greek lead to?

Students considering taking Classical Greek at GCSE will need to study Classical Greek in Year 9. We would also strongly encourage anyone wishing to take up Classical Greek to continue with Latin in Year 9 as the structure of the two languages is very similar. The paralinguistic elements and the socio-historical context of the reading passages will also facilitate the successful study of Classical Civilisation at GCSE, while the linguistic, analytical, evaluative and communication skills rehearsed by the course will prove useful in a wide range of non-classical subjects including modern languages, humanities subjects, English language, English literature and the sciences.

What skills does studying Classical Greek develop?

The Classical Greek language works in a very similar way to Latin, so similar skills are required to study it successfully. In the Year 9 course, you will:

develop your knowledge of Classical Greek vocabulary, and of the English words derived from Classical Greek, which will increase your ability to communicate in English and other modern languages too;

get better at problem solving; tackling tricky Classical Greek sentences is challenging and complex - the best intellectual practice you can get!

improve your translation skills as you develop familiarity with written Classical Greek, working individually and with others.



French

Why study French?

France. Swimmable from England (if you're a good swimmer!) but a whole different and fascinating world. Breath-taking scenery, the Eiffel Tower, the Mona Lisa, skiing in the Alps, endless culture, high fashion, delicious food, and Astérix. French is your passport to this and makes you part of it. Did you know, though, that most people who speak French have never been near France? They're all round the world, from the frozen north of Canada to the deserts of Africa, from the jungle of Sénégal to the coconut islands of the South Seas – knowing French opens all this to you.

If you choose to take French in Year 9, not only will you learn the basics of the language, but you will also learn about the culture of France and French-speaking countries. You may even get the chance to try some French food and listen to some French music.

What does the course involve?

You will work from the Dynamo 1 textbook, and you will learn the basics of the language, including talking about yourself, your family, where you live etc. You will also look at some more cultural topics, such as festivals, and you will learn some transactional vocabulary, such as how to buy food. You will, of course, learn some key grammar as well.

How is the course assessed?

You will do regular vocabulary quizzes and end of unit tests, and then you will do a written summer exam in May.

What can studying French lead to?

The Year 9 course is designed to give you a good basic introduction to the language so that you could cope in a range of situations in a French-speaking country. Having even a basic knowledge of a second modern language could be a real asset in any job. After all, at least half of the world speaks more than one language, and over four-fifths of the world's population do not speak English, so being able to speak even a little bit of another language will help you in whatever career you wish to pursue in our increasingly globalised world.

For any keen linguists, the Year 9 course could also give you the opportunity to take two languages to GCSE. Although you will not be at the same level as your first modern language by the end of Year 9, those with an aptitude for languages often find that they pick up their second language more quickly, as they have developed the skills of how to learn another language.

What skills does studying French develop?

First and foremost, you will develop your communication skills by practising listening, speaking and writing in another language. Learning another language develops a huge range of other skills as well:

You will improve your memory, as you need to learn lots of new vocabulary – this can even help to lower your risk of developing dementia in old age!

You will develop your problem-solving and analytical skills by learning to spot patterns and analyse the grammar and structure of the new language.

You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to say something.

By learning another language, you will build your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.

You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.



German

Why study German?

German has it all! From chocolate and cherry cake through Haribos to The Sound of Music, it's all German. Not only is this the language of Europe's Number 1 nation, and the ski-slopes of Austria and Switzerland, it's also a language that won't require you to learn a new accent – just say what you see. Plus, you won't have to learn too many new words: German works by just clicking little words together to create new words (a bit like Lego)! It is also a useful language for a number of careers, including business and engineering. Germans do Christmas really well and you will get the chance to celebrate Christmas three times every December!

If you choose to take German in Year 9, not only will you learn the basics of the language, but you will also learn about the culture of Germany and German-speaking countries. You may even get the chance to try some German food and listen to some German music.

What does the course involve?

You will work from the Stimmt 1 textbook, and you will learn the basics of the language, including talking about yourself, your family, where you live etc. You will also look at some more cultural topics, such as festivals, and you will learn some transactional vocabulary, such as how to buy food. You will, of course, learn some key grammar as well.

How is the course assessed?

You will do regular vocabulary quizzes and end of unit tests, and then you will do a written summer exam in May.

What can studying German lead to?

The Year 9 course is designed to give you a good basic introduction to the language so that you could cope in a range of situations in a German-speaking country. Having even a basic knowledge of a second modern language could be a real asset in any job. After all, at least half of the world speaks more than one language, and over four-fifths of the world's population do not speak English, so being able to speak even a little bit of another language will help you in whatever career you wish to pursue in our increasingly globalised world.

For any keen linguists, the Year 9 course could also give you the opportunity to take two languages to GCSE. Although you will not be at the same level as your first modern language by the end of Year 9, those with an aptitude for languages often find that they pick up their second language more quickly, as they have developed the skills of how to learn another language.

What skills does studying German develop?

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You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to say something.

By learning another language, you will build your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.

You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.



Spanish

Why study Spanish?

Spanish – one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Not only can you use this language on your holidays in Spain but you can also enjoy traveling around Central and South America, where it is the main language spoken in the majority of countries. The language is pretty easy to pronounce once you know the rules and you will soon be able to sing along to some of your favourite songs. The Spanish know how to have a good time and you will get a flavour of the culture that includes flamenco dancing and lots of delicious food.

If you choose to take Spanish in Year 9, not only will you learn the basics of the language, but you will also learn about the culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. You may even get the chance to try some Spanish food and listen to some Spanish music.

What does the course involve?

You will work from the Viva 1 textbook, and you will learn the basics of the language, including talking about yourself, your family, where you live etc. You will also look at some more cultural topics, such as festivals, and you will learn some transactional vocabulary, such as how to buy food. You will, of course, learn some key grammar as well.

How is the course assessed?

You will do regular vocabulary quizzes and end of unit tests, and then you will do a written summer exam in May.

What can studying Spanish lead to?

The Year 9 course is designed to give you a good basic introduction to the language so that you could cope in a range of situations in a Spanish-speaking country. Having even a basic knowledge of a second modern language could be a real asset in any job. After all, at least half of the world speaks more than one language, and over four-fifths of the world's population do not speak English, so being able to speak even a little bit of another language will help you in whatever career you wish to pursue in our increasingly globalised world.

For any keen linguists, the Year 9 course could also give you the opportunity to take two languages to GCSE. Although you will not be at the same level as your first modern language by the end of Year 9, those with an aptitude for languages often find that they pick up their second language more quickly, as they have developed the skills of how to learn another language.

What skills does studying Spanish develop?

First and foremost, you will develop your communication skills by practising listening, speaking and writing in another language. Learning another language develops a huge range of other skills as well:

You will improve your memory, as you need to learn lots of new vocabulary – this can even help to lower your risk of developing dementia in old age!

You will develop your problem-solving and analytical skills by learning to spot patterns and analyse the grammar and structure of the new language.

You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to say something.

By learning another language, you will build your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.

You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.







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