



The Talentum Learning Trust

**WESTWOOD  
COLLEGE**



OVER 100 YEARS OF RESPECT RESILIENCE AMBITION PRIDE

Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek,  
Staffordshire ST13 8NP

telephone 01538 370930

email [wwc.office@ttl.org.uk](mailto:wwc.office@ttl.org.uk)

website <http://wwc.ttl.org.uk>

Headteacher: Mr M Taylor

Our Ref: JNS/jc

November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Curriculum Course Content Year 9

Please find below information on course content for this half-term.

At Westwood College, we firmly believe that a broad and balanced curriculum is at the heart of a good school and a rounded education. Students in all year groups have the opportunity to access a wide range of courses, all taught by experienced subject specialists.

Whilst we work hard with students to ensure that they understand the structure of their courses, we also feel that it is important that parents and carers are able to access this information in order to support students with their learning. Detail of all our courses, including the Learning Journeys that map the content of each, can be found on our website under the 'Curriculum' tab <https://wwc.ttl.org.uk/curriculum/>

We have also included below a short summary from each subject, covering this term, for your convenience.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

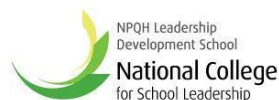
Yours faithfully

Mr S Jones  
Assistant Headteacher

## Inspiring Students for Ambitious Futures

The Talentum Learning Trust Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company number: 999238

Registered office address: The Talentum Learning Trust, Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8NP



## **English**

This term in English Year 9 students will be studying the fractured-fairy tale genre, using 'The Werewolf' and 'The Snow Child' by Angela Carter as stimuli. They will learn about: conventions of the genre; how language is used to build tension; the methods writers use to craft language, such as metaphors, adjectives, similes, sensory imagery, interesting verbs, emotive language (tip, remember 'MASSIVE'), and how to craft their own creative writing through 'creative imitation'.

Students will also learn about rhetoric, or the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, using speeches on the topic of conflict as a springboard. This will cover: contextual knowledge about the origins of rhetoric; the use of ethos, logos and pathos as rhetorical devices; how rhetoric has been used to argue for change due to injustice; rhetorical structures used in speeches by Sojourner Truth and Emmeline Pankhurst, and how to use rhetoric as a framework for persuasive writing, ultimately crafting an opinion piece about how change is needed on a topic of their choice.

With regard to English Literature, Year 9 students will study the novel 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. Set in 1930s America at the time of The Great Depression, the novel tells the story of George and Lennie, two men looking for work and the chance to achieve their dream – a place to call their own. Students will learn about: the context so that they understand the conditions and society the novel was produced in; the plot so that they understand the storyline; the language used so that they can better understand important ideas and Steinbeck's choices when crafting language; how to use key quotations so that they can support their interpretation precisely; structural devices so that they can understand how Steinbeck's structural choices affect meaning, and themes so that they can understand how complex ideas are interwoven throughout the novel.

## **Maths**

This half-term in Mathematics Year 9 students have dived straight into Index Notation and Standard Form, as well as recapping vital Number skills from Middle School such as Prime Numbers, Factors, multiples and order of operations. Students will then be exposed to interpreting and analysing data, including Multiple and Composite Bar Charts and Scatter Diagrams. We will allow students to develop their analytical skills further by exploring Averages and Measures of Spread of Ungrouped and Grouped Data as well as showing them how to make simple comparisons between two sets of data. Students are then exposed to Algebraic Manipulation, Fractions & Decimals and solving problems involving Theoretical & Experimental Probability. Students in Year 9 are also given the opportunity to attend a Maths trip to Bletchley Park.

## **Science**

This term pupils will be completing the Science Key Stage 3 curriculum and starting some GCSE content.

### **Biology**

#### 4.1 Cell Biology

Cells are the basic unit of all forms of life. We explore how structural differences between types of cells enables them to perform specific functions within the organism. These differences in cells are controlled by genes in the nucleus. For an organism to grow, cells must divide by mitosis producing two new identical cells.

If cells are isolated at an early stage of growth before they have become too specialised, they can retain their ability to grow into a range of different types of cells. This phenomenon has led to the development of stem cell technology. This is a new branch of medicine that allows doctors to repair damaged organs by growing new tissue from stem cells.

### **Chemistry**

#### 5.1 Atomic structure and the periodic table

The periodic table provides chemists with a structured organisation of the known chemical elements from which they can make sense of their physical and chemical properties. The historical development of the periodic table and models of atomic structure provide good examples of how scientific ideas and explanations develop over time as new evidence emerges. The arrangement of elements in the modern periodic table can be explained in terms of atomic structure which provides evidence for the model of a nuclear atom with electrons in energy levels.

## Physics

### 4.5 Forces

Engineers analyse forces when designing a great variety of machines and instruments, from road bridges and fairground rides to atomic force microscopes. Anything mechanical can be analysed in this way. Recent developments in artificial limbs use the analysis of forces to make movement possible.

### 4.7 Magnetism and Electromagnetism

Electromagnetic effects are used in a wide variety of devices. Engineers make use of the fact that a magnet moving in a coil can produce electric current and also that when current flows around a magnet it can produce movement. It means that systems that involve control or communications can take full advantage of this.

## Geography

This half-term in Geography, Year 9 students will be studying the regional geography of **The Middle East**. Students will continue to work on their **map skills** through exploration of which countries are in the Middle East, capital cities and ecosystems in this region. They will be focusing on the climate of the Middle East and how this leads to water insecurity and challenges of fossil fuel dependency in terms of energy security now, and in the future. As a country case study, we will end by researching the impacts of the World Cup 2022 in Qatar. Students will develop evaluation skills as they assess the costs and benefits of the global sporting event in the context of violations of human rights, which directly addresses the Citizenship curriculum on core British Values of democracy, individual liberty, rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. No subject could be more in the news and relevant to current affairs than Geography this half-term!

## History

In History in Year 9, this half-term students will continue to study aspects of the Great War and considering how we should remember the conflict. Students will investigate military tactics and how accurate the traditional view of poor leadership actually is. They will also explore how the War affected civilians in Britain and the impact of the Defence of the Realm Act.

## Spanish

This half-term students in Year 9 Spanish will be studying school and how to give opinions. As well as vocabulary from this theme, students will study grammar points such as the present tense, adjectives and key verb structures for opinions. They will also continue to develop their knowledge of Spanish phonics and culture regularly in lessons.

## German

This half-term students in Year 9 German will be studying family and how to describe people. As well as vocabulary from this theme, students will study grammar points such as the present tense, word order and numerals. They will also continue to develop their knowledge of German phonics and culture regularly in lessons.

## French

This half-term students in Year 9 French will be studying cinema, books and TV. As well as vocabulary from this theme, students will study grammar points such as questions, the future tense and modal verbs. They will also continue to develop their knowledge of French phonics and culture in lessons.

## Religious Education

In RE this half-term students will be studying the Problem of Evil. This topic explores key concepts of morality and allows students to explore their own views of right and wrong and develop an understanding of the views of others. Characteristics of God will be explored, and students will have the opportunity to discuss the issue of if an omnibenevolent (all loving) God would allow evil in the world. This is taught in the context of Christian and Islamic beliefs and teachings allowing students to have a good understanding of how religious beliefs would be applied to ethical issues. Students will begin to develop their assessment skills by applying their knowledge to GCSE style exam questions.

### **Design and Technology**

This half-term in Design and Technology, students will complete a design and make task, focusing on 2-D Graphic Design hand drawing skills and use of computer software, as well as mould making, using the vacuum forming machine and polyester resin. The focus for us will be applying the design process as a logical sequence of events when designing and making.

### **ICT**

This half-term in ICT, Year 9 students will be planning and creating User interfaces for Computing Devices. There are different kinds of User Interfaces but our work will focus on learning about how the Graphical User Interface can be provided for a specific purpose, client and target audience. The underpinning element of all research will be the "World of Work" and how IT has revolutionised the modern world. We'll also explore the job market and how different Complex User interfaces are in great demand.

### **Physical Education**

This half-term in PE Year 9 students will be taking part in sports including table tennis, badminton, cheerleading, basketball and dance.

There will also be the opportunity for all students to be a part of the interhouse competition, which this half term is basketball, taking place on a Friday lunchtime.

Extra-curricular activities include the Multigym at lunchtimes or activities of their choice on a Tuesday afterschool.

Fixtures taking place this half term will include boys' football, girls' football, girls' netball and girls' hockey.

### **Art**

This half-term in Year 9 Art students will be starting to explore the visual elements which are the essential building blocks of all Art and Design. Students will continue to develop their understanding of colour through collage, before moving on to line where they will explore mark making for drawing using a range of traditional and unconventional drawing tools. Following on from this, students will explore texture through paper manipulation, building their visual vocabulary and confidence in using materials.

### **Drama**

This term is all about building on the basic skills of practical Drama learnt in half-term one. Students will now add to their Drama techniques bank by understanding more complex Drama techniques to use on stage, such as Flashback and Montage. The theme of all the work this half term will be WAR, and the term will conclude with a second practical assessment.

### **Music**

Students in Music will be focussing on Riffs and Ostinatos for the full Autumn term. The key skill in this topic is performance and learning to play as part of an ensemble. Students can choose to sing, use percussion, keyboards or glockenspiel in this project. Each student will be assessed on their performance skills at the end of the term with a focus on timing, confidence, creativity and instrumental technique.