



Trafalgar School  
Year 8 - Year 9  
**OPTIONS**



# Welcome

March 2017

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

## **Year 9 Curriculum 2017/18**

I am pleased to welcome you to the Year 8 into 9 Options Evening. The purpose of the evening is to prepare your child for the process of choosing the subjects he/she wishes to study during the course of Year 9 – the foundation year for Key Stage 4. The next year will be the most important so far in shaping the potential future direction in your child's life. At Trafalgar School we take this responsibility and challenge very seriously and look forward to working in partnership with you and your son / daughter to ensure that they achieve their full capability.

We wish to offer students the opportunity to start to shape their own curriculum at this early stage, spending more of their time studying subjects that they particularly enjoy and, in some cases, trying new courses. The content of the Year 9 courses will not be the GCSE programme and students will be free to choose their GCSE subject options during the course of Year 9. With the exception of Modern Foreign Languages, study of a particular subject in Year 9 will not be a pre-requisite for future access to the corresponding GCSE course, though it would be beneficial.

I am confident that the information you will receive tonight will help you support your child through the process of choosing appropriate subjects to study over the next year to prepare them for GCSEs. We have published this booklet for all Year 8 students and their families to inform you of the essential course information and you will have subject specialists available this evening to discuss option choices with the aim of supporting you and your son / daughter in choosing the most appropriate courses.

It is important that your son / daughter chooses options they are happy with in order to provide the foundation for success. We understand, however, that there will be requests to change subjects as the reality of Year 9 unfolds. This is possible within the first few weeks of the academic year so, if your son / daughter does wish to discuss any doubts, they will need to approach me as soon as possible. I cannot guarantee that a change will be possible but will aim to accommodate student preferences.

As always, your feedback about the evening is appreciated as this helps us improve the format for future years. Please complete the questionnaire and hand it in on your way out.

Thank you for taking the time to attend this session; we value your support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Copeland  
Head of School

# The Year 9 Curriculum at Trafalgar School

During Years 7 and 8 students will have studied a broad and balanced range of subjects. These subjects are part of the National Curriculum and they have laid firm foundations for further studies in Year 9.

As you move into Year 9 and towards the start of Key Stage 4, you have the opportunity to continue to study a wide-ranging curriculum. At the same time you can complement this by choosing option subjects that interest you and prepare you for starting your GCSE subjects in Year 10.

This booklet tells you about the subjects and courses you will be studying in Year 9. It contains information about:

- ❖ the subjects and courses that you **must** do
- ❖ the subjects and courses you can choose to do

It also contains a choices form at the back for you to fill in your preferences. This must be completed and signed by your parent/carer and handed in by the deadline. Any late forms will go on a late pile and therefore your options will be inputted last.

## Core Curriculum

The core curriculum subjects are studied by everyone up to the end of Key Stage 3.

These are:

English Language and English Literature

Mathematics

Science

French

A Humanity (History or Geography)

Core Physical Education

PSHCE (Personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education)

*Personal Development: this is covered through assemblies, the tutor programme, extra-curricular activities and trips. In addition, we run regular PD days throughout the year for students to enjoy and learn from.*

Information about what you will study in these subjects is shown in the first section of this booklet.

## Option Choices

At Trafalgar School we recognise that every child learns differently and have designed our curriculum to take account of this. You will have the choice of five option subjects.

**Please note that we reserve the right to withdraw any of these option choice subjects if there are insufficient numbers to run the course.**

## The Core Subjects

Subject	Lessons per fortnight
English	10
Mathematics	10
Science	10
French	5
A Humanity <i>History or Geography</i>	4
Core PE	4
PSHCE	1

*The curriculum content for Religious Studies, Personal Development and Citizenship will be delivered through our Personal Development Days and as part of our tutor and assembly programme.*

## The Option Subjects

To complement the core subjects and enhance your curriculum you will choose five option subjects from the following; one of these must be History or Geography.

Subject	Lessons per fortnight
Fine Art	4
Art - Textiles	4
Art - Graphics	4
Computing or ICT	4
Dance	4
DT - Food	4
DT - Resistant Materials	4
Drama	4
Geography	4
History	4
Second Modern Foreign Language – Spanish	4
Music	4
Philosophy and Ethics	4
Physical Education	4

*DT: Design Technology*

## How do I decide?

You must choose whether you would prefer to continue your study of History or Geography during Year 9; if you would like to continue with both then you can make this selection. You must then choose four additional subjects that you would like to study over the next year.

In making your decision regarding your choice of subjects there are many important factors to consider:

- Which subjects give me most enjoyment and satisfaction?
- What sort of job do I want?
- What qualifications will I need and how do I get them?
- When should I leave full time education?

# Making the right choices

There are a number of people who can assist and advise you about appropriate choices and progression. These are:

- **Your Form Tutor** – who knows you as an individual student in the school
- **Your Subject Teachers** – who provide an objective assessment of your ability in their subjects
- **Your Parents and Carers** – who know you best of all as a person
- **Heads of Department** – can provide a course overview
- **Mr Gronow** – Head of Year 8

## Important things to consider:

- **DO** evaluate your subjects and your ability in terms of preference
- **DO** consider if this subject is needed for a particular career
- **DO** keep your options open. Do not try and specialise at this stage but aim for a good balance of subjects
- **DO** work to your own strengths and choose appropriate subjects
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because a friend is choosing it. There is no guarantee that you will be in the same teaching groups
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because you like your teacher. Again, there is no guarantee that he/she will be teaching your group next year.

## Options Process Timeline:

**Thursday 30 March:**

Year 8 Options Evening

**Friday 28 April:**

**Deadline** for completed forms to your **form tutor**

**Friday 26 May:**

Option choice confirmation issued to students and parents/carers.

**Wednesday 6 September:**

Year 9 courses begin

**Friday 29 September:**

Final option subject change requests deadline.  
Students will not be able to change courses after this date.

## CORE SUBJECT INFORMATION

2017-2018

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# English

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>Studying English, both Literature and Language, is obviously essential in your schooling! However, we also believe that you will learn many transferable skills that will help you in many other essay-based subjects and also in your future careers. The ability to communicate clearly in writing is desirable to all college and universities and essential to employers, so English is not just a key part of your education it is also great preparation for your future.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>In Year 9 you will study:          Victorian monsters – Gothic traditions          Power and Conflict – 20<sup>th</sup> Century war: Poetry of WW1/WW2          Social divisions – Shakespeare: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>          Dystopia – <i>Lord of the Flies</i> and <i>Animal Farm</i>          Social Change – Life in the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Centuries – <i>Of Mice and Men</i></p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>Each half-term you will complete an assessment based on a GCSE-style questions and in Year 9 you will be marked on the GCSE marking scheme.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>You will undertake group work and a range of activities, for example card sorts, which foster higher order thinking skills. We shall hone your writing skills and develop the PEESAL writing framework with you as well as introducing you to other writing structures. You will develop your skills of analysis and evaluation through the study of poetry and novels with the occasional drama moment thrown in!</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special/different equipment?</b></p>	<p>No, please just come with a pen and an open mind.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>English is a gateway subject for many academic and career paths and an essential part of your academic career. At Trafalgar School we want to prepare our children for their next steps in any career and their English Literature and Language GCSEs are the bedrock of this.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>The acceptable pass rate in GCSE English Language and Literature is now a Grade 5. This is what future employers and colleges will be looking for when you leave school.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>Please contact the English Department with any further questions:  <a href="mailto:slanfear@trafalgarschool.org.uk">slanfear@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a> – Acting Head of English</p>

# Mathematics

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	<p>The course allows students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts</li> <li>• Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems</li> <li>• Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions</li> <li>• Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context</li> </ul>
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	<p>You will cover a range of topics from the areas listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number</li> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• Ratio, proportion and rates of change</li> <li>• Geometry and Measures</li> <li>• Probability</li> <li>• Statistics</li> </ul>
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two tiers of entry: Higher and Foundation</li> <li>• There are three equally-weighted written examinations that you will sit at the end of Year 11.</li> <li>• Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.</li> <li>• Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and has 80 marks.</li> <li>• Each paper has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.</li> </ul>
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	<p>Lessons will vary in style to include many teaching styles and activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher led discussions</li> <li>• Student led discussions</li> <li>• Individual, pair and group work</li> <li>• Practical lessons</li> <li>• Using ICT to assist learning</li> <li>• Self and peer assessment</li> <li>• Formal written assessments</li> <li>• Weekly home learning tasks</li> </ul>
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	<p>You will need a scientific calculator. We recommend the Casio FX-83GTplus (which you can purchase at school) or Casio FX-85GTplus.</p> <p>You will also need a geometry set containing a compass and protractor.</p>
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	<p>GCSE Mathematics.</p> <p>There may be the opportunity to study GCSE Further Mathematics.</p> <p>Mathematics GCSE is an essential qualification for all types of careers. There are more specific links to careers in the financial sector, teaching, construction, engineering, plus many, many others.</p>
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	<p>The acceptable pass rate in GCSE Mathematics is now a Grade 5. This is what future employers and colleges will be looking for when you leave school.</p>
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	<p>Feel free to come and speak to one of your maths teachers or Mrs Parsons, Director of Mathematics, to discuss where maths could take you.</p> <p><a href="mailto:cparsons@trafalgarschool.org.uk">cparsons@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# Combined Science

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	Students taking Combined Science will gain two GCSE qualifications. The course focuses on the knowledge and skills required by real scientists in their work. The qualification is Linear meaning that the students will sit all examinations at the end of the course. The content for each subject area is listed below.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	<p>Biology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cell biology</li> <li>2. Organisation</li> <li>3. Infection and response</li> <li>4. Bioenergetics</li> <li>5. Homeostasis and response</li> <li>6. Inheritance, variation</li> <li>7. Ecology</li> <li>8. Evolution</li> </ol> <p>Chemistry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Atomic structure and the periodic table</li> <li>2. Bonding, structure and the properties of matter</li> <li>3. Quantitative chemistry</li> <li>4. Chemical analysis</li> <li>5. The rate and extent of chemical change</li> <li>6. Chemical changes</li> <li>7. Organic chemistry</li> <li>8. Chemistry in the atmosphere</li> <li>9. Energy changes</li> <li>10. Using resources</li> </ol> <p>Physics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forces</li> <li>2. Energy</li> <li>3. Waves</li> <li>4. Electricity</li> <li>5. Magnetism and electromagnetism</li> <li>6. Particle model of matter</li> <li>7. Atomic structure</li> </ol>
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	<p>The written exams count for 100% of the final grade. All examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11. You will take two biology papers, two chemistry papers and two physics papers. The final double grade will be based on the aggregation of the marks from all the papers.</p> <p>Although there is no longer a coursework element to the final grade, practical work is still important. Each examination will contain questions that test practical skills, knowledge and understanding as well as investigative skills. You will complete a series of core practicals throughout the three years to support this.</p>
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	You will be completing experiments on a regular basis, learning exam techniques improving literacy and numeracy skills and learning scientific skills. Core practicals are carried out with each topic to grade your scientific knowledge, organisation and progress. You will complete an end of topic test to identify strengths and weaknesses that need addressing.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	You will be advised to purchase revision guides and Key Science Skills books to aid revision and learning key concepts for homework and for individual study. Access to a computer for homework tasks which are completed online and for research.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	You will be able to follow the A-level courses in Physics, Chemistry and Biology or BTEC level 3.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	Scribes Club runs Monday lunch time for any students wishing to improve their handwriting, spelling and punctuation, giving every student the opportunity to achieve the best grades possible for their ability.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	<p>Any further information ask the Science Department or look online at: <a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/GCSE-9-1">https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/GCSE-9-1</a></p> <p>-Sciences-guide-for-parents.pdf</p> <p>Contact Mrs Hale on <a href="mailto:shale@trafalgarschool.org.uk">shale@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# French

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>More than 220 million people speak French on the five continents. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. The ability to speak French and English is an advantage in the international job market. A knowledge of French opens the doors of French companies in France and other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium and the continent of Africa). As the world's fifth biggest economy and third-ranking destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner. France is the world's top tourist destination and attracts more than 79.5 million visitors a year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and all the regions of France. First and foremost, learning French is the pleasure of learning a beautiful, rich, melodious language, often called the language of love. French is also an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking which is a valuable skill for discussions and negotiations.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>In Year 9 you will study the following three broad themes that will be broken into sub-topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and basics</li> <li>• Free time</li> <li>• Holidays</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">         Hobbies          Food and drinks          Friends       </p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>You will be assessed at the end of each topic on 4 skills: writing, speaking, reading, and listening. An end of term assessment will also be available to measure the impact the learning has made. You will always be informed of your grades and advised on how to improve further.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Languages are taught and assessed in terms of the 'four skills': listening, speaking, reading, and writing.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>You must come prepared to all lessons with the appropriate equipment, however, you will also need to have a French Dictionary (Oxford School French Dictionary or Collins French Dictionary).</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>In Modern Foreign Languages we use AQA as our exam board. The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French is spoken.</p> <p><b>Theme 1:</b> Identity and culture.  <b>Theme 2:</b> Local, national, international and global areas of interest.  <b>Theme 3:</b> Current and future study and employment.</p> <p>Language graduates work for a huge variety of employers and sectors, including: Business services; Charity work; Engineering; Media; Museums and libraries; Public administration; Teaching; Tourism; Transport and logistics.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>In KS4, the Modern Foreign Languages Department takes students to France to explore and enjoy the rich culture of Paris including Versailles. We provide students with the opportunity to practise their language skills in a real-life setting and to immerse themselves in the unique culture of France. Our students will be exposed to a variety of French linguistic and cultural features which are sure to bring to life the language which they study in the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>More information can be obtained by any language teacher at Trafalgar School or the Head of Languages, Mr Kohli on <a href="mailto:akohli@trafalgarschool.org.uk">akohli@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# Core Physical Education

<p><b>Why study this subject?</b></p>	<p>Physical fitness and an appreciation of the benefits of exercise are a vital part of modern life; studying PE and participating in the range of sports on offer will develop an understanding and enjoyment of sport and physical activity.</p> <p>During Year 9, students will get the opportunity to build upon the work done in Years 8 and 9 and to enhance their end of Key Stage grade.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>Students will participate in a variety of sports such as football, hockey, badminton, basketball and gymnastics. They will consider the techniques and requirements of each sport and work on improving the skills they already have in each discipline.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Participation in sport is the key component in the lessons along with the intention to improve their level of performance. Peer and self-assessment and feedback will be a regular part of the lessons and teachers will give ongoing, formative input.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>Students are required to bring full Trafalgar School Physical Education kit.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE, careers and university courses does this link to?</b></p>	<p>The course will be a good stepping stone towards GCSE or BTEC Physical Education, developing a greater depth of the knowledge of Sport and the areas that surround it.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>Further information is available from Mr G Morris, Head of PE;  <a href="mailto:gmorris@trafalgarschool.org.uk">gmorris@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# PSHCE

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>This subject is one of the most important subjects in the school curriculum because it covers all the areas not included in the GCSE subjects that are studied at Trafalgar School. The PSHCE programme in Years 9, 10 and 11 follows the broad topics of personal well-being, economic wellbeing, financial capability, careers and citizenship that have been studied in Key Stage 3.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>The PSHCE syllabus closely follows Government guidance:-</p> <p><b>Personal Wellbeing</b> (including Sex and Relationship Education) which helps students to feel positive about themselves and encourages them to enjoy a healthy, safe and responsible lifestyle.</p> <p><b>Economic Wellbeing</b> which helps the students by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attributes to make the most of the opportunities within learning and work.</p> <p><b>Financial Capability</b> which helps the students to develop as questioning and informed consumers, who can manage their finances effectively.</p> <p><b>Careers Education</b> element that aims to increase the understanding of the world of work by improving awareness of qualities and skills needed in a wide range of occupations post sixteen.</p> <p><b>Citizenship</b> which equips students with the knowledge, skills and an understanding of democratic process, in order to allow them to play an effective role in public life through developing their social and moral responsibility, community involvement and political literacy.</p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>You will be assessed through peer and self-assessment.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Discussion will feature heavily in most lessons. You will also be expected to complete a range of written tasks.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>No, but be prepared to discuss your ideas with your peers.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>This does not lead to any level 2 qualification.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>For more information please contact Mr G Morris  <a href="mailto:gmorris@trafalgarschool.org.uk">gmorris@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

**HUMANITIES INFORMATION**

**2017-2018**

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# Geography

<p><b>Why study this subject?</b></p>	<p>Through geography we learn to appreciate the diversity of landscapes, peoples and cultures. Geography is therefore a vital subject resource for 21st century global citizens, enabling us to face questions about what it means to live sustainably in a changing world.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>Geography includes the following elements:</p> <p><u>Physical Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tectonic hazards</li> <li>• Rivers</li> <li>• Coasts</li> </ul> <p><u>Human Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing economic world</li> </ul> <p><u>Geographical skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cartographic skills</li> <li>• Graphical skills</li> <li>• Numerical skills</li> <li>• Statistical skills</li> <li>• Formulating enquiries and arguments</li> <li>• Literacy</li> </ul>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>There are assessments each half term in geography; students will be made aware of the success criteria, set appropriate targets and given time to respond to feedback. The assessments are marked using mastery statements and key performance indicators. Each term students will be given a progress grade and an attitude to learning grade.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Geography enables you to develop key skills in preparation for the GCSE such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interpret, analyse and evaluate information</li> <li>• solve problems through enquiry</li> <li>• develop fieldwork skills</li> <li>• investigate people's views and feelings</li> <li>• write analytical extended answers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>This subject will provide a taste of GCSE Geography and will link to BTEC Travel and Tourism.</p> <p>It can lead to a huge variety of careers including: volcanologist, air traffic controller, archaeologist, architect, cartographer, civil engineer, conservationist, estate agent, environmentalist, financial adviser, foreign correspondent, geologist, geophysicist, graphic designer, holiday rep, surveying, town planning, geo-physical engineer, meteorologist, teacher, lawyer, banking, museum and arts, and civil service.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p><b>Useful links:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Geographic Society</li> <li>• National Geographic (and the National Geographic Channel)</li> </ul> <p>For further information, please contact Mr Gronow on <a href="mailto:mgronow@trafalgarschool.org.uk">mgronow@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>



# History

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	History is not stuck in the past. History will help you understand how the world you live in was shaped, and make you consider today's society in a different way.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	In Year 9 we shall develop historical skills, knowledge and foster a curiosity for the past. We shall journey from the ancient world, through Jack the Ripper's London, to Nazi Germany and 9/11 conspiracy theories. These are just some of the topics you will look at in your History lessons.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	There will be a written assessment every half term. These assessments will prepare you for GCSE style questions. You will also frequently peer and self assess to become confident in how you can improve your work in History.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	You will continue to engage in activities used in year 7 & 8 lessons such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The analysing and interpreting of historical sources</li> <li>• Gathering subject knowledge from learning roundabouts and information hunts</li> <li>• Consolidating knowledge through the use of role play, group work and presentations</li> <li>• Debating key questions and expressing your judgements</li> <li>• Producing structured extended writing and arguments</li> <li>• Answering examination questions</li> </ul>
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	No specialised equipment is needed, just an enquiring mind.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	History can be studied at GCSE level, A Level and at university degree level. Employers and universities regard History qualifications very highly. It can lead to a huge variety of careers including: Law, Journalism, Archaeology, Medicine, Politics, Restoration, Social Work, Business, Finance, Town Planning.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	History is a challenging and rewarding subject that you will enjoy studying. There is a part of History which will captivate you and spark your imagination.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	You can visit the AQA website <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145</a> For further information please contact Mrs Morrison at <a href="mailto:jmorrison@trafalgarschool.org.uk">jmorrison@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

## OPTION SUBJECTS INFORMATION

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# Fine Art

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	The best thing about studying Fine Art is that it touches on all the art disciplines and therefore gives you an all-round experience of 'the arts'. It allows you to develop your skills and apply them in the way which suits you, your style and your ideas.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	You will explore a range of techniques from a starting point of a primary source. You will complete a Portfolio which will include a sustained project giving you an opportunity to demonstrate, through extended creative process, your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge skills and understanding, covering all the assessment criteria and a selection of further work resulting from a short mini project or theme. You will also complete an externally set assignment which will give you an opportunity to select and respond from one of seven different starting points. This will allow you to consolidate and develop skills learned throughout the course and apply them in your own way.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	You will be assessed in line with the new GCSE criteria: each section of work will be marked using STAR Thinking sheets and referencing the 4 GCSE Assessment Objectives. Peer and self-assessment will feature throughout the course. Group critique is essential for the development of work and ideas.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	This course is designed to enable you to develop the key skills needed to cover the GCSE assessment criteria. You will explore a wide range of materials and techniques such as: Drawing (wet and dry), painting, ink and wash, printmaking including collagraphs, dry point intaglio, mono and lino printing, sculpture, relief, collage, photography and mixed media. You will look at the work of different artists and explore, discuss and write about them, their work and techniques. You will annotate your work explaining the techniques you have used and how you have achieved them.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	You may wish to provide yourself with a set of drawing pencils/graphite pencils in the 'B' range. (B – 12B), a good quality eraser and pencil sharpener.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	Airbrush Artist/Spray Painter, Architectural Illustrator, Book Illustrator, Graphic Illustrator, Cartoonist/Caricaturist, Fine Artist (painter), Sculptor, Ceramicist, Printmaker/ Screen Printer, Courtroom Artist, Art Conservationist, Special Effects Makeup, Mural Artist, Tattoo Artist and many more.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	The Fine Art GCSE has an excellent pass rate and pupils who study this subject make outstanding progress. You do not have to be good at drawing to take this course but you need to come to this subject with an open mind and be prepared to experiment and explore lots of techniques and materials and find your area of expertise.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	Come and speak to Miss Freeman, Miss Pearse or Mr Davies. <a href="mailto:lfreeman@trafalgarschool.org.uk">lfreeman@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# Art Graphics

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	The best thing about studying Graphics is that it touches on a wide range of art disciplines and links to a great many jobs and professions. It allows you to develop your skills and apply them in the way which suits you, your style and your ideas.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	You will explore a range of techniques from a starting point of a primary source. You will complete a Portfolio which will include a sustained project giving you an opportunity to demonstrate, through extended creative process, your ability to draw together different areas of knowledge skills and understanding, covering all the assessment criteria and a selection of further work resulting from a short mini project or theme. You will also complete an externally set assignment which will give you an opportunity to select and respond from one of seven different starting points. This will allow you to consolidate and develop skills learned throughout the course and apply them in your own way.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	You will be assessed in line with the new GCSE criteria: each section of work will be marked used STAR Thinking sheets and referencing the 4 GCSE Assessment Objectives. Peer and self-assessment will feature throughout the course. Group critique is essential for the development of work and ideas.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	This course is designed to enable you to develop the key skills needed to cover the GCSE assessment criteria. You will explore a wide range of materials and techniques such as: Drawing (wet and dry), painting, mono printing, collagraph and lino printing, assemblage, construction, collage, digital imagery, photography and mixed media. You will look at the work of different Graphic Designers and explore, discuss and write about them, their work and techniques. You will annotate your work explaining the techniques you have used and how you have achieved them.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	You may wish to provide yourself with a set of drawing pencils in the 'B' range. (B – 6B), a set of good quality colour pencils, a good quality eraser and pencil sharpener.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	Airbrush Artist/Spray Painter, Architectural Illustrator, Book Illustrator, Graphic Illustrator, Cartoonist/Caricaturist, Fine Artist (painter), Sculptor, Ceramicist, Printmaker/ Screen Printer, Courtroom Artist, Art Conservationist, Special Effects Makeup, Mural Artist, Tattoo Artist and many more.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	The Graphic Design GCSE has an excellent pass rate and pupils who study this subject make outstanding progress. You do not have to be good at drawing to take this course but you need to come to this subject with an open mind and be prepared to experiment and explore lots of techniques and materials and find your area of expertise.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	Come and speak to Miss Freeman, Miss Pearse or Mr Davies. Come and look in the art department, see the work, ask to see more. Talk to students already taking the course. Contact Miss Freeman at <a href="mailto:lfreeman@trafalgarschool.org.uk">lfreeman@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# Art Textiles

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	In Textiles you are encouraged to develop your own personal interests and skills using a range of exciting and innovative techniques.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	You will learn to work from direct observation and explore a range of skills and techniques which will allow you to interpret a design brief and create your own. Project 1: Bag, cushion or wall hanging. Project 2: Up cycling, remodelling an existing item to make it into something unique and personal applying skills learnt in project 1.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	This is a pre GCSE course and you will be assessed in line with the new GCSE criteria: each section of work will be marked used STAR Thinking sheets and referencing the GCSE Assessment Objectives. Peer and self-assessment will feature throughout the course. Group critique is essential for the development of work and ideas.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	You will learn a wide range of skills including: drawing, painting, paper and fabric manipulation, weaving, felt making, fabric dyeing, printmaking, batik, marbling, sewing and many more techniques in constructing textiles. You will learn how to recycle existing garments, fabrics and packaging. You will look at the work of textile designers and explore, discuss and write about their techniques. You will annotate your work explaining the techniques you have used and how you have achieved them.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	You may wish to contribute by collecting interesting fabrics eg cotton, lace, denim, felt, chiffon, organza, velvets and silks. Also accessories such as ribbons, yarns, buttons, beads, threads and much more. Recycling is essential to creating exciting textile design, so get collecting.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	Accessory Designer (shoes/ bags/ hats/), Dressmaker, Embroiderer, Fashion Designer, Fashion Consultant, Sports Apparel Designer, Pattern Cutter, Theatre and Costume Designer, Quilt/Rug/Linen Designer, Fabric/Textile Designer, T-Shirt Designer.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	Textiles in art is about experimentation and exploration of a wide range of materials and techniques. It is about pushing the boundaries of fabric from paper, plastic, cloth and much more. If it can be manipulated it can be incorporated into textiles. You do not have to be good at drawing to do this course. You have to be willing to experiment and be adventurous.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	You can get more information from Miss Freeman. You can come to Art and see some examples of amazing work. Contact Miss Freeman on <a href="mailto:lfreeman@trafalgarschool.org.uk">lfreeman@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# CIDA

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>CiDA forms part of the DiDA (Diploma in Digital Applications) suite of qualifications that has been created by Edexcel alongside employers to produce a qualification that enables students with a wide range of skills that are suitable for today's working environment. Whilst there are a number of variants, Game Making is a popular choice allowing students to exhibit some creative flair in an increasingly competitive online world.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>Graphics theory – Vectors and Bitmaps and selecting the most appropriate format for a brief.            Graphics development – where you will explore the development of a product from the brief, through hand drawn designs to a final product.            Games design – the concepts of edutainment and games for enjoyment.            Games promotion and marketing – developing a solution which is fit for the target audience.            Website design and development – the use of colour and standard layouts so that websites scale from desktop screens to mobile devices and attract attention.</p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>You will be assessed at the end of each unit and this will inform your progress on the course. There will be an examination at the end of the year which will be in two parts. Part one will be a mini controlled assessment where you develop a suitable game making use of the skills you have learnt throughout the year. This is further supported by a mini web development exam where your ability to follow a simple design brief will be tested.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Developing digital graphics which meet a brief and are suitable for the target audience.            Creating simple animations to enhance a game and develop further interaction with the user.            Design and develop an educational game which then leads on to marketing and promotion via a website which you will have designed and developed.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>Access to a computer to perform research and evaluations of web technologies. This course uses specialist software so, where possible, we flip the learning so that activities in the classroom are practical.            A USB Flash drive to back up your important work.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>This course can lead to a Certificate in Digital Applications which is the equivalent of a GCSE. A Merit and above in this course can provide access to a Level 3 qualification at college where you could study Games development, Website development or Creative Media Production.            An employer will be confident knowing you have a range of digital media skills which suit today's online driven market place where you might become a Software developer, Website designer or Graphics creator.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>It would be beneficial if you have an interest in games design and a flare for developing your own artwork which can translate into digital graphics.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>For further information speak to Mr Francis or Mr Crowther who will be happy to explain the course further and discuss future careers.  <a href="mailto:tcrowther@trafalgarschool.org.uk">tcrowther@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# Computer Science

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	<p>Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself as an ‘underpinning’ subject across Science and Engineering is growing rapidly. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in a host of new challenges for employers and employees. In the next 10 years, the industry will require up to 20,000 new graduates to cope with the growth of the sector and, in particular, forensic computing which is aimed at preventing fraud and theft of intellectual property.</p>
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will investigate programming languages with a focus on Python</li> <li>• Scripting languages such as HTML, CSS will be used to develop your presentation skills</li> <li>• The course will then investigate how these programming and scripting languages are used to develop web products, games, mobile apps, and embedded systems</li> <li>• The theory of computing and computer architecture as well as the use of storage technologies including the cloud develops your problem solving skills further to prepare you for the controlled assessment</li> </ul>
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	<p>You will be assessed at the end of each unit and this will inform your progress on the course and help you to identify areas for improvement before your exam at the end of year 9. The exam will focus on the theory concepts and test your problem-solving skills, especially your ability to decompose and use abstraction.</p>
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	<p>Computational thinking involving problem solving using decomposition, abstraction utilising a variety of systems and techniques.          Computer hardware investigation and the theory that supports systems development.          Programming using Python and flow diagram software. Scripting using HTML, PHP and styling with CSS.          Unplugged activities designed to make you think and work as a team to solve problems.          Network hardware and concepts leading to the development of solutions fit for today’s business and leisure environments.</p>
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	<p>It would be beneficial to have access to a computer that is connected to the internet to help you with your studies and to access coding environments that can support your experiments.          Additionally, an 8GB Flash drive to store a backup of your work. We can also add some applications to this so that you do not have to worry about downloading software at home.</p>
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	<p>This course can lead to a GCSE in Computer Science where a level 5 and above can lead to a Level 3 course when you go to college.          Employers will be confident knowing you have the skills required to work in a technology driven workplace, with the bonus of evidence of your problem-solving abilities.          Some of the careers that this course could lead to are: Web development; Software and Programming Development; Business analyst; Network engineer; Forensic analyst; Database manager to name a few.</p>
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	<p>The course is open to all students; however, you will have shown that you are competent at a range of maths skills and have an interest in computing.</p>
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	<p>For further information, you can speak to Mr Crowther who will be able to offer you advice on computing subjects and careers.  <a href="mailto:tcrowther@trafalgarschool.org.uk">tcrowther@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>  <a href="https://sites.google.com/trafalgarconnected.com/compsci">https://sites.google.com/trafalgarconnected.com/compsci</a></p>

# Dance

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	Dance is an option for those who enjoy choreographing, performing and evaluating their performances. Not only will it improve those skills, but it gives you the opportunity to express yourself, improve your fitness, increase your confidence, build on your teamwork skills and give you the opportunity to appreciate a form of art. You will have the opportunity to tell stories through movement, and learn how lighting and sound can also affect a performance. Dance develops your skills in lessons into skills for life: ones that will help you be the best you can be no matter what career you choose.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	You will experience different styles of dance using professional material as a stimulus. Develop skills and techniques of dance. Consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts, and put this into practise in a performance.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	You will regularly peer and self-assess, including giving 1:1 feedback to each other. Your teacher will assess you at least every half-term but lessons will continue to have opportunities for you to be assessed whenever you are doing something new or whenever progress is made.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	<p>You will observe and reproduce existing repertoires, as well as explore: performance styles, creative intentions and purpose; performance roles, responsibilities and skills; performance techniques, approaches and processes; how practitioners create and influence what is performed.</p> <p>You will: gain physical, interpretative, vocal and rehearsal skills during workshops and classes; apply your technical, stylistic and interpretative skills in performances; reflect on your progress and use of skills in performance, as well as how you could improve.</p> <p>You will work in a group to create performances. To do this, you will: use the brief and what you have learned to come up with ideas for the performance; choose the skills and techniques you will need; build on your skills in classes, workshops and rehearsals; review the development process within an ideas and skills log; perform a piece to your chosen target audience; reflect on the performance in an evaluation report.</p>
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	You will need your PE kit.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	Year 9 Dance leads to BTEC Dance or Performance. You can also study this at college for BTEC or A levels and further on at degree level. During the course, you can see whether the industry is one you want to work in, where you could go, and gain the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in your next steps. After completing the course, you can continue to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. What is more, the transferable skills you will master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem-solving will also support your progress in the present and future.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	This is a new and exciting course we are delivering at Trafalgar School. Come with an open mind and attitude to try new things!
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	For further information, please speak to Ms Collins or email her at <a href="mailto:jcollins@trafalgarschool.org.uk">jcollins@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>



# Design Technology - Food

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	If you are interested in catering, promoting and managing restaurants and other catering establishments then this is the course for you. If you are interested and enthusiastic about preparing and experimenting with food there is an element of practical food preparation in order to enhance a business. This course offers you real world topics that you can explore through lessons.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	You will explore various topics related to hospitality and catering. These include understanding the varied environments in which caterers operate; understanding how hospitality and catering businesses provide a service; exploring considerations of health and safety, from customers to food preparation staff; and being able to propose and justify ideas to meet specific requirements.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	You will complete projects which will be assessed throughout. These will take the form of coursework, reports and cooking recipes. You will also be assessed on your understanding of the Hospitality and Catering Industry in mock exams and tests.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	Each project will investigate many of the topics you will learn during the whole course. Your projects will take the form of written reports, designs, made recipes and evaluations.  Throughout the year you will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes. You will make these dishes in the Food Technology room.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	You will be recommended websites and text books that will help you with the knowledge needed for course work projects and exams. You will be able to buy the recommended revision guide through the school.  You will need to contribute payment towards the ingredients you will use in the Food Technology room. If you would prefer to buy and bring in your own ingredients, organisation is essential. You can choose to order the ingredients through school and will be asked for a contribution towards this.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	It will lead to a Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering. You could continue to further study a catering course to level 3 at college. This will lead to businesses and catering jobs including most jobs working with food from preparation, catering management and hospitality.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	Only a small percentage of the tasks and marks are for the actual preparation of food. The course is aimed to offer real life experiences and situations in the business world including catering or food preparation within the business. It is about how businesses operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. Lots of other transferable skills such as problem solving, organisation, time management, planning and communication are needed to be successful in this course.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	For further information contact Miss Vaughan on <a href="mailto:cvaughan@trafalgarschool.org.uk">cvaughan@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# Design Technology – Resistant Materials

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to understand and apply interactive design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes in any combination of material from paper and card through textiles, timbers, plastics and metals. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>Students will explore many topics in Design and Technology known as 'Core' knowledge. These include analysing modern and emerging technologies; mechanical movements and electrical components; social moral and cultural considerations when designing products and materials and where they come from. You will also learn to Investigate, Design, Make and Evaluate things from a variety and a combination of materials like wood, metal, plastics, fabric, paper and card. Some of the Core topics and Investigate, Design, Make and Evaluate topics will be explored in classroom lessons and some in practical making projects. Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the topics in the form of design projects, reports and made items.</p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>Your projects will be assessed throughout as well as when you hand them in. You will receive a GCSE mark. Like the GCSE, it will be assessed on your ability to Investigate, Design, Make and Evaluate. You will regularly take mock exams and mini theory tests that will assess your Core knowledge of Design and Technology.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Investigating, designing, making and evaluating a product of your own choice. Exploring the way that design and technology shapes and affects the world around us from the simple lever to rapid prototyping and everything inbetween.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>You will be advised to use various useful websites and textbooks to keep yourself up-to-date with modern materials and technologies. We shall be recommending a revision guide as soon as it is available.</p> <p>The materials you use in your prototypes will need to be provided for by Trafalgar School in year 9. For these basic materials and components we ask for a contribution towards the cost. Some projects will include specialist parts and components including batteries or expensive metals like pewter or copper. We ask that you pay for these if you want to take them home or the department will recycle the materials.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>GCSE Design and Technology which can lead on to AS/A levels in Design and Technology. All aspiring engineers, designers, carpenters, draughtsmen, electricians and even DT teachers have to start somewhere, and where better than here! Because the course is full of transferable skills and credits you for your mathematics, it can lead to many different pathways. The versatility of the course enables you to explore your strengths and find where you like to go next.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>Just keep an open and inquisitive mind! The course is based around modern real-life design in multiple materials and considering many different people's needs.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p><a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/design-and-technology-2017.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/design-and-technology-2017.html</a> Contact Miss Vaughan at <a href="mailto:cvaughan@trafalgarschool.org.uk">cvaughan@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# Drama

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	Drama is for everyone. Whether you want to perform or act for fun or for a career; whether you enjoy working with others or being independent, drama is for you. It does not just develop your confidence and skills in public speaking, it also improves your teamwork, leadership and your self-awareness. Through drama you can see the world, problems, art and culture in different ways. You can tell stories through movement and speech, as well as lighting and sound and you can develop different ways of seeing people, situations and history. Drama develops your skills in lessons into skills for life: ones that will help you be the best you can be no matter what career you choose.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	Year 9 is about stretching what you can do by making stimuli more complex, stories more multi-layered, topics more challenging and team roles more demanding. You will build on the skills you already have by dealing with different issues and situations and using a variety of stimuli and sources for inspiration. You will learn how to analyse effectively so that you can make rapid progress towards becoming a confident team player, supportive and inspiring leader and an engaging and entertaining performer.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	You will peer and self-assess regularly including giving 1:1 feedback to each other. Your teacher will assess you at least every half-term but lessons will continue to have opportunities for you to be assessed whenever you are doing something new or whenever progress is made.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	You will watch and assess recorded and live performances as well workshops during rehearsals. You will feedback through discussion as well as in writing and you will work in groups to create, develop and perform drama from using different stimuli and ideas. You will also have the chance to design lighting and sound and experiment with staging for different audiences.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	Your imagination, a sense of humour and a willingness to co-operate with others. You can also join drama club if you want to get involved with drama on a larger scale as a performer or backstage.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	Year 9 Drama leads to either BTEC or GCSE Drama or performance. You can also study this at college for BTEC or A levels and further on at degree level. This would be an ideal route if you are intending to pursue a career in the Performing Arts industry such as acting, singing, comedian, TV and radio presenter, theatre lighting or sound technician/designer, stage crew or any aspect of theatre/TV or film design. The skills you learn in drama are skills for life, however, and they will prepare you for many roles outside of the Performing Arts industry. Careers such as lawyer, doctor, teacher, recruitment and training, journalism, PR, retail, sales & marketing and any job that requires public speaking or teamwork will all appreciate the value of a GCSE in Drama.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	Anyone can succeed in drama. You do not need to be the best actor or the most confident to do well. What you need to do is engage with the lessons, work with others and think about what you are doing and how to do better. If you do these things the rest will come naturally.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	Please contact Ms Collins if you want to know anything else. <a href="mailto:jcollins@trafalgarschool.org.uk">jcollins@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# Geography

<p><b>Why study this subject?</b></p>	<p>Through geography we learn to appreciate the diversity of landscapes, peoples and cultures. Geography is therefore a vital subject resource for 21st century global citizens, enabling us to face questions about what it means to live sustainably in a changing world.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>Geography includes the following elements:</p> <p><u>Physical Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tectonic hazards</li> <li>• Rivers</li> <li>• Coasts</li> </ul> <p><u>Human Geography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing economic world</li> </ul> <p><u>Geographical skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cartographic skills</li> <li>• Graphical skills</li> <li>• Numerical skills</li> <li>• Statistical skills</li> <li>• Formulating enquiries and arguments</li> <li>• Literacy</li> </ul>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>There are assessments each half term in geography; students will be made aware of the success criteria, set appropriate targets and given time to respond to feedback. The assessments are marked using mastery statements and key performance indicators. Each term students will be given a progress grade and an attitude to learning grade.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Geography enables you to develop key skills in preparation for the GCSE such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interpret, analyse and evaluate information</li> <li>• solve problems through enquiry</li> <li>• develop fieldwork skills</li> <li>• investigate people's views and feelings</li> <li>• write analytical extended answers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>This subject will provide a taste of GCSE Geography and will link to BTEC Travel and Tourism.</p> <p>It can lead to a huge variety of careers including: volcanologist, air traffic controller, archaeologist, architect, cartographer, civil engineer, conservationist, estate agent, environmentalist, financial adviser, foreign correspondent, geologist, geophysicist, graphic designer and holiday rep, surveying, town planning, geo-physical engineer, meteorologist, teacher, lawyer, banking, museum and arts, and Civil Service.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p><b>Useful links:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Geographic Society</li> <li>• National Geographic (and the National Geographic Channel)</li> </ul> <p>For further information, please contact Mr Gronow on <a href="mailto:mgronow@trafalgarschool.org.uk">mgronow@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# History

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	History is not stuck in the past. History will help you understand how the world you live in was shaped, and make you consider today's society in a different way.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	In Year 9 we will develop historical skills, knowledge and foster a curiosity for the past. We will journey from the ancient world, through Jack the Ripper's London, to Nazi Germany and 9/11 conspiracy theories. These are just some of the topics you will look at in your History lessons.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	There will be a written assessment every half term. These assessments will prepare you for GCSE style questions. You will also frequently peer and self assess to become confident in how you can improve your work in History.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	You will continue to engage in activities used in year 7 and 8 lessons such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The analysing and interpreting of historical sources</li> <li>• Gathering subject knowledge from learning roundabouts and information hunts</li> <li>• Consolidating knowledge through the use of role play, group work and presentations</li> <li>• Debating key questions and expressing your judgements</li> <li>• Producing structured extended writing and arguments</li> <li>• Answering examination questions</li> </ul>
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	No specialised equipment is needed, just an enquiring mind.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	History can be studied at GCSE level, A Level and at university degree level. Employers and universities regard History qualifications very highly. It can lead to a huge variety of careers including: Law, Journalism, Archaeology, Medicine, Politics, Restoration, Social Work, Business, Finance, Town Planning.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	History is a challenging and rewarding subject that you will enjoy studying. There is a part of History which will captivate you and spark your imagination.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	You can visit the AQA website <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145">http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145</a> For further information please contact Mrs Morrison at <a href="mailto:jmorrison@trafalgarschool.org.uk">jmorrison@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# ICT

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>Suited to people who want a career in creative IT this course will help you towards a career as a computer technician, in programming, games design or website development and maintenance. You will also be building a web based portfolio to showcase all your coursework to prospective employers.</p> <p>This course will give you the skills required to organise and present information in a meaningful way and allow you to demonstrate your flare for creativity.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The online world</li> <li>• Digital Portfolio</li> <li>• Creating Digital Graphics</li> <li>• Website Development</li> <li>• Multimedia Products Development</li> <li>• Computational Thinking</li> <li>• Computing in The Workplace</li> <li>• Spreadsheet Development</li> </ul>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>You will be assessed at the end of each unit so that you can show your progress throughout the course. At the end of Year 9 you will be examined on the theory topics you have learnt throughout the year and your ability to solve a computing problem within a business context.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>As computing features so richly within all modern businesses you will explore the issues and applications which can be used to solve a variety of problems.</p> <p>You will learn how to plan, design and develop a website which becomes your digital portfolio and in the process acquire the skills to create an online presence.</p> <p>Digital graphics form a large part of our increasingly online world, so you will explore the concept of info-graphics and learn how to plan, design and evaluate your own products to meet a specification.</p> <p>All organisations must manage finances and they achieve this through a variety of applications, however these applications all have one thing in common, the use of spreadsheets. You will learn to develop a variety of solutions which are effective and provide information to a user.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>Access to a computer at home would be an advantage as several of the projects require research to be completed which can be completed at home leaving classroom time for the practical application of the skills being taught as well as access to our specialist software.</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>Successful completion of the course could lead to: Computer Science GCSE; Certificate in Digital Applications or BTEC First in Information and Creative Technologies.</p> <p>'A' level qualification in any of the courses above could lead to a college course in: Web development; Software and Programming Development; Business Analysis; Network Engineering; Forensic Analysis; Database Management; Graphics Designer.</p> <p>At university you might study a BSc in: Computer Science; Software Engineering; Systems Analysis and Design, Mobile Application Development; Business Information Systems.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>The course involves project based assignments and teamwork, therefore you will need to be good at working with others and able to communicate effectively.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>For further information please contact Mr Crowther on <a href="mailto:tcrowther@trafalgarschool.org.uk">tcrowther@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

# Music

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	The goal of our Music Department is to provide each student with a comprehensive, practical, creative and academic music education by teaching the skills and attitudes needed to succeed as a musician. Music develops musical appreciation and critical faculties, helps you to understand and appreciate other cultures, religions and beliefs, promotes your self-esteem and social skills and introduces you to an incredibly broad cultural diet.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	In Year 9, you will deepen your skills in the three core areas of Music: performing, composing and listening. You will, for example, develop, extend and shape music for performances, develop your music performance skills and review your own practice and present compositions appropriately.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	At the end of each half term, you will present musical ideas, either those you have created yourself (compositions using the conventions of a particular style, with some form of notation), or performances of other musicians' work (for which you will be marked for accuracy and expression).
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	Along with your half termly assessment, there will also be frequent opportunities to listen and respond to musical examples.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	It would be great if you were to sign up to take weekly lessons on an instrument of your choice, but this is by no means essential. If you have an instrument of your own that you want to bring to lessons, you can. Otherwise, you only need to bring a good attitude and the willingness to work hard!
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	Year 9 Music naturally leads to BTEC Music. Beyond KS4, studying this subject can lead to any of the following jobs: professional musician, composer, music journalist, music therapist, sound technician, record producer, recording engineer, DJ, concert promoter, conductor, and choreographer.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	The curriculum in Years 7 and 8 have prepared you for the skills involved in Year 9 Music.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	Please see Mr Coram if you want to know anything else. <a href="mailto:mcoram@trafalgarschool.org.uk">mcoram@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# Philosophy and Ethics

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>Philosophy and Ethics encourages you to think about the connections between a belief or religion and the issues that people face in everyday life. This includes prejudice, animal life and environmental issues, the right to life, war and peace, and religion and the young. You will also be encouraged to tackle the big questions...How did we get here? What is truth? Has religion changed and is it still relevant? Are morals absolute? Are there more questions than answers? Is there such a thing as fair or unfair? Does life have ultimate meaning? Does science answer everything?</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>In Year 9, you will explore the existence of God (and revelation), religion, peace and conflict, Buddhism, Sikhism, and religion and life issues.</p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>In Year 9, you will extend your ability to describe, explain and analyse concepts. At the end of each half term, you will plan and write an extended piece of writing that evaluates different viewpoints using evidence and examples.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Philosophy and Ethics will challenge you to think for yourself, form your own opinions, and defend them. You will do this by engaging with philosophical and religious texts, debating other students and presenting your arguments in a written form.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>The only qualification to study Philosophy and Ethics is an open and enquiring mind!</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>The next step is AQA GCSE Religious Studies, Specification A. Philosophy and Ethics teaches you to analyse ideas, think clearly and communicate logically. These skills form an incredibly helpful background to careers in journalism, law, business, education, and IT.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>Your studies in Year 7 and 8 will have given you an excellent grounding in this subject. Year 9 encourages you to go deeper into the wonderful world of thinking about the world around you for yourself.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>Please see Mr Coram if you have any questions.  <a href="mailto:mcoram@trafalgarschool.org.uk">mcoram@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>



# Physical Education Option

<b>Why study this Subject?</b>	We offer all students the chance to study GCSE PE or BTEC Level 2 in Sport, both of which are examined by the Edexcel exam board. Students are to be practically involved in their own development and maintenance of physical activity throughout. It is imperative that the students have a range of skills that can be adapted and challenged throughout for success and enjoyment at this level. Likewise, an eagerness to learn about the body and physical health must accompany their passion for sport.
<b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b>	In year 9 you will study areas that cross both courses that you will continue to learn in either KS4 course. The main focus of the learning in this option will be around personal fitness. You will test your own fitness and train to improve areas of weakness to improve your performance. This work will help build the foundations to your coursework in Year 10.
<b>How and when will I be assessed?</b>	You will be assessed frequently on a range of practical elements as well as written work in line with the GCSE and BTEC assessment criteria.
<b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b>	We encourage you to work within groups within the practical assessments as well as individually. You will be assessed in a range of sports and in the theory of PE. As such, you will take part in practical and classroom based lessons.
<b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b>	It is expected that you have appropriate equipment to participate in a variety of sports and that this is bought to all practical lessons.
<b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b>	There are a wide range of opportunities available to you. These are advertising and marketing: events planner, sales executive, press officer. Medicine and healthcare: physiotherapist, nurse, occupational therapist. Education: PE teacher, lecturer. Sport and fitness: Athlete, nutritionist, lifeguard, personal trainer, sports coach.
<b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b>	You must show a commitment to your learning of the theory aspect of the course which is similar to topics covered in GCSE Science. You will also have to demonstrate key techniques used in English in relation to justifying and analysing your answers in full. You will be involved in the practical development of your physical skills and must be prepared to participate, perform and evaluate your performance in a range of sports – not just their preferred activities. Therefore, an open mind and a willingness to complete work outside of the classroom will ensure that you enjoy the course. As with every subject, there is a large amount of written work which is often overlooked.
<b>Where would I get any further information from?</b>	For further information, please contact Mr Morris; <a href="mailto:gmorris@trafalgarschool.org.uk">gmorris@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a>

# Spanish

<p><b>Why study this Subject?</b></p>	<p>More than 500 million people speak Spanish and there is an ongoing growing trend that will reach 600 million speakers by 2050. Spanish is the second most studied language in the world. In three generations, 10% of the world population will be able to communicate in Spanish. The ability to speak Spanish and English is an advantage on the international job market. The knowledge of Spanish opens the doors of Spanish companies in Spain and other Spanish-speaking parts of the world (Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, The United States and parts of the continent of Africa, amongst others). The 'Kingdom of Spain' (its official name) is the fifth most populous nation in Europe and is one of the world's top tourist destinations. The ability to speak even a little Spanish makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Madrid and other regions of Spain. Spanish also comes in handy when travelling to the west part of North Africa, South America, the southern part of The United States, and even the Philippines. First and foremost, learning Spanish is the pleasure of learning a beautiful, rich, easy, practical and melodious language, often called the language of happiness. Spanish is also a light-hearted language that will give you another perspective of life, more carefree and positive.</p>
<p><b>What topics will I cover and learn in this subject?</b></p>	<p>In Year 9 you will study the following three broad themes that will be broken in to sub-topics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and basics</li> <li>• Free time</li> <li>• Holidays</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">Hobbies Food and drinks Friends</p>
<p><b>How and when will I be assessed?</b></p>	<p>You will be assessed at the end of each topic on 4 skills: writing, speaking, reading, and listening. An end of term assessment will also be available to measure the impact the learning has made. Students will always be informed of their grades and advised on how to improve further.</p>
<p><b>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning and assessment?</b></p>	<p>Languages are generally taught and assessed in terms of the 'four skills': writing, speaking, reading and listening. Listening and reading are known as 'receptive' skills whilst speaking and writing are known as 'productive' skills. You will need to master these skills when learning Spanish.</p>
<p><b>Will I need any special / different equipment?</b></p>	<p>You must come prepared to all lessons with the appropriate equipment. However, you will also need to have a Spanish Dictionary (Oxford School Spanish Dictionary or Collins Spanish Dictionary).</p>
<p><b>The future: What GCSE and future careers does this link to?</b></p>	<p>In Modern Foreign Languages, we use AQA as our exam board. The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers:</p> <p><b>Theme 1:</b> Identity and culture.  <b>Theme 2:</b> Local, national, international and global areas of interest.  <b>Theme 3:</b> Current and future study and employment.</p> <p>Language graduates work for a huge variety of employers and sectors including: business services; charity work; engineering; media; museums and libraries; public administration; teaching; tourism; transport and logistics.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything else I need to know?</b></p>	<p>In KS4, the Modern Foreign Languages Department will provide students with the tools to practice their language skills in a real-life setting and to immerse themselves in the Spanish culture. Our Department is studying the possibility of organising a trip to one of the most cultural cities in Spain: Barcelona. Therefore, our students will be exposed to a variety of Spanish linguistic and cultural features, which are sure to bring to life the language that they study in the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Where would I get any further information from?</b></p>	<p>For more information please contact Mr Kohli.  <a href="mailto:akohli@trafalgarschool.org.uk">akohli@trafalgarschool.org.uk</a></p>

## Year 8 into 9 Options Form 2017

<b>STUDENT</b>		<b>TUTOR GROUP</b>	
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**Choose one subject from each of the following columns**

Option Choice 1	Option Choice 2	Option Choice 3	Option Choice 4	Option Choice 5	Reserve 1	Reserve 2	
GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	GEOGRAPHY	
HISTORY	HISTORY	HISTORY	HISTORY	HISTORY	HISTORY	HISTORY	
	SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH	SPANISH	
	COMPUTER SCIENCE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	
	ICT	ICT	ICT	ICT	ICT	ICT	
	CIDA	CIDA	CIDA	CIDA	CIDA	CIDA	
	FINE ART	FINE ART	FINE ART	FINE ART	FINE ART	FINE ART	
	ART – GRAPHICS	ART – GRAPHICS	ART – GRAPHICS	ART – GRAPHICS	ART – GRAPHICS	ART – GRAPHICS	
	ART - TEXTILES	ART - TEXTILES	ART - TEXTILES	ART - TEXTILES	ART - TEXTILES	ART - TEXTILES	
	DANCE	DANCE	DANCE	DANCE	DANCE	DANCE	
	DT – FOOD	DT – FOOD	DT – FOOD	DT – FOOD	DT – FOOD	DT – FOOD	
	DT – RESISTANT MATERIALS	DT – RESISTANT MATERIALS	DT – RESISTANT MATERIALS	DT – RESISTANT MATERIALS	DT – RESISTANT MATERIALS	DT – RESISTANT MATERIALS	
	DRAMA	DRAMA	DRAMA	DRAMA	DRAMA	DRAMA	
	MUSIC	MUSIC	MUSIC	MUSIC	MUSIC	MUSIC	
	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	
	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	

**Please return your signed form to your child's Form Tutor by  
Friday 28 April 2017**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student)

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Carer)

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

***NB: Forms that have not been signed by your parent/carers will not be accepted.***