

**Subject  
choices for  
Year 9**

**2020-21**

May 2020

## A MESSAGE TO PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer,

Pupils at Reepham High School receive a broad and balanced curriculum that we hope inspires and motivates them. Our provision is always selected to provide students with the best opportunities for their future and we regularly review what we offer.

Our current Year 9 curriculum provides pupils with an element of choice and allows the school to customise the curriculum to the individual needs of pupils, maximising their future opportunities, as well as keeping them engaged in their own education.

This booklet introduces these choices and explains the decisions that you and your child will now need to make. Please take your time to read this booklet carefully with your child and do not hesitate to contact myself or other subject-specific staff at the school if you need further assistance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Beale  
Deputy Headteacher

## The Year 9 Curriculum

The vast majority of what pupils study in Year 9 is compulsory; this provides a broad selection of subjects for pupils to experience. The teaching hours (per fortnight) of compulsory subjects is shown in the table below:

Subject	English	Maths	Science	Comp. Science	Geography	History	Art	PE	Tech	PSHE
Hours	7	7	6	3	4	4	2	4	4	1

Alongside these subjects, pupils will select two further courses to study for four hours per fortnight. The vast majority of pupils will study a chosen language and Religious Studies. However, we appreciate that there are some pupils who would benefit from an adjusted model.

Pupils must now select one of:

**FRENCH      SPANISH      RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Pupils then have a choice to select another one of these subjects or choose from a subject below.

**MANDARIN      MUSIC      DRAMA      BUSINESS**

There will be only one group of each of these additional subjects and they are designed specifically for pupils who are passionate in those areas. Please read the subject information before making any decision.

**Pupils MUST study a language in Year 9 to continue it at GCSE; all other subjects can be studied at GCSE even if they are not studied in Year 9.**

We ask that you think carefully about the choices to be made. This is not a time to discard subjects because you don't like them, but to continue with our standard curriculum unless there is a subject that a pupil is very passionate about. During Year 9, pupils will select their GCSE options and this will be the time to make full decisions on GCSE courses.

This is the first opportunity pupils have to make an impact on what they study, and if their choice is not possible, it can feel like a disaster. Please be warned that there are limited spaces available and although we do everything we can to give every student the subject they select, it is not always possible.

If too many students opt for a subject, Reepham High School reserves the right to decide a pupil's suitability for a course. When doing so, we consider:

1. Late applications. If the subject choice is full or oversubscribed when the form is received, then the student will be referred to their reserve choice. It is very important, therefore, that students meet the deadline given.

2. Reports. These are checked for attitudes to learning (effort, homework, behaviour - but not achievement in the subject). The Head of Department will be consulted where reports do not give sufficient information. A waiting list will be formed in the case of referral to a reserve choice.

## Typical Choices and Examples

### The Standard option:

If a pupil feels that they do not have a particular calling to one of the four optional subjects, they should pick:

Religious Studies **AND** French or Spanish

### The Linguist's option:

There are three possible languages that a pupil can study, so a passionate linguist would pick either:

French or Spanish **AND** Mandarin

or

French **AND** Spanish

### The Musician's option:

If you are musical and enjoy the subject, this will give you an opportunity to develop your skills with similar students. You should pick:

Religious Studies or a language **AND** Music

### The Theatrical option:

This is for those who are passionate about performing arts. Ideally you would be someone who already attends Drama club and supports school performances. You should pick:

Religious Studies or a language **AND** Drama

### The Business option:

If you feel that you would like to take business at GCSE, but may find an academic subject challenging, the business option gives you the opportunity to understand key principles and gain a foundation of knowledge in the subject. You should pick:

Religious Studies **AND** Business

**SUBJECT**

**DESCRIPTIONS**

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In Year 9, pupils will continue to develop their philosophical, moral and ethical exploration into their own beliefs and those held by other people around the world, through debating unanswerable questions. The topics will include:

- Philosophy for life - Is a unicorn better in real life or in your mind?
- Life after death - What is the cost of life?
- Relationships and families - What is love? How do you make choices?
- Crime and punishment - Why do people commit crimes?
- Religious practices - What is the image of religion?
- Religion and art - How do we as humans express our beliefs?

All these topics will incorporate the opportunity for pupils to enhance their questioning skills, which will improve their written and verbal abilities, through creating well-rounded arguments. Pupils will also relate the topics to current affairs and personal experiences, allowing them to develop their understanding of the world around them. This will all be done through the use of different types of media, presentations, group work, debating and written work.

The development of knowledge, understanding and evaluation this year will act as a foundation for those deciding to opt for a GCSE in Religious Studies.

## **Good to know:**

- If you want the option of taking Religious Studies at GCSE you are advised to take it in Year 9.
- Subject contact: [Ireid@reephamhigh.com](mailto:Ireid@reephamhigh.com)

# FRENCH

## **Main topics:**

- Unit 1: Holidays
- Unit 2: Healthy living
- Unit 3: Media
- Unit 4: Global and international dimensions - environment, citizenship & volunteering.

## **Key skills being developed:**

- Speaking: accent and pronunciation, starting to develop asking questions in French, describing photos
- Writing: using correct spelling and accents
- Reading and listening comprehension (including using authentic materials)
- Knowledge and understanding of grammar (present, near future, past and conditional tenses)
- Translation from French into English and English into French
- Cultural awareness
- Developing more advanced expression in written and spoken French

## **Textbooks available to pupils in lessons only:**

- Expo 3 Rouge, ISBN: 9780435385 934 & Expo 3 Vert, ISBN: 9780435385 347

## **Books/resources pupils might find it useful to have access to at home:**

- French / English bilingual dictionary

## **Good to know:**

- This option is only available to pupils who have studied French in Year 8.
- If you want the option of taking French at GCSE you must take it in Year 9.
- French is classified as an EBACC subject. Find out more at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc)
- Subject contact: [mteillet@reephamhigh.com](mailto:mteillet@reephamhigh.com)

# SPANISH

## **Main topics:**

- Unit 1: Shopping and city life
- Unit 2: Media
- Unit 3: World of work
- Unit 4: Healthy living

## **Key skills being developed:**

- Speaking: accent and pronunciation, starting to develop asking questions in Spanish, describing photos
- Writing: using correct spelling and accents
- Reading and listening comprehension (including using authentic materials)
- Knowledge and understanding of grammar (present, near future, past and conditional tenses)
- Translation from Spanish into English and English into Spanish
- Cultural awareness
- Developing more advanced expression in written and spoken Spanish

## **Textbooks available to pupils in lessons only:**

- ¡Mira! Rojo 3, ISBN: 9780435391638 & ¡Mira! Verde 3 ISBN:9780435391645

## **Books/resources pupils might find it useful to have access to at home:**

- Spanish / English bilingual dictionary

## **Good to know:**

- This option is only available to pupils who have studied Spanish in Year 8.
- If you want the option of taking Spanish at GCSE you must take it in Year 9.
- Spanish is classified as an EBACC subject. Find out more at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc)
- Subject contact: [bpelaz@reephamhigh.com](mailto:bpelaz@reephamhigh.com)



# MANDARIN CHINESE

This is an accelerated course in Mandarin Chinese for pupils who may wish to take this language as a GCSE option. If you are a keen linguist looking for something different this may be a perfect choice.

## **Main topics:**

- Unit 1: Pinyin system, Chinese basic characters & friends and family
- Unit 2: Leisure time & school
- Unit 3: Food and drink & holidays
- Unit 4: All about me & local environment

## **Key skills being developed:**

- Speaking and listening in Mandarin
- Reading and writing Chinese characters
- Translation from and into Chinese
- Cultural awareness
- Past, present and near future tenses

## **Textbook in class:**

- Jin bu 1 – ISBN 978-0435041137 & Jin bu 2 – ISBN 978-0435041144

## **Good to know:**

- This option is only available to pupils who have studied French and Spanish in Year 8.
- If you want the option of taking Mandarin at GCSE you must take it in Year 9.
- Mandarin is classified as an EBACC subject. Find out more at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc)
- Subject contact: [tli@reephamhigh.com](mailto:tli@reephamhigh.com)

# BUSINESS

Pupils in Year 9 focus on developing the skills that will help them if they wish to undertake the full GCSE course, and give them employability skills for later in life.

An academic base is formed through the understanding of key terms and the general workings of the main areas of a business, including operations, marketing, finance and human resources. This is supported through a range of trips and activities to allow the students to engage practically with real businesses and take part in activities they may do in the future as the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Year 9 Business students play a key role in overseeing their own business within school, 'Pen Station', giving great entrepreneurial experiences to the cohort.

## **Good to know:**

- This is an introductory course to Business. You do not need to take this course to choose Business at GCSE.
- Subject contact: [rhill@reephamhigh.com](mailto:rhill@reephamhigh.com) and [mpittaccio@reephamhigh.com](mailto:mpittaccio@reephamhigh.com)

# DRAMA

The Year 9 Drama course will introduce eager pupils to all aspects of the theatre and the performing arts. Taught over four lessons per fortnight, pupils will have the opportunity to explore performance-related concepts and skills, including acting, directing, lighting, costume, sound and set design, and to begin to develop their own particular areas of interest. The course will also help to develop the pupils' confidence in singing as part of an ensemble and performing alongside a live band.

Subject to application, the class will participate in the National Theatre Connections Festival. This exciting opportunity will involve rehearsing and performing a play both at school and at a local partner theatre (usually The Playhouse, or The Garage) in Norwich; with the ultimate potential to be invited to perform at the National Theatre in London, following a visit from one of the National Theatre's own associate directors. Through this programme, learners will not only hone their pre-existing acting talents, in an encouraging and supportive classroom environment, but will also become involved in the technical aspects of theatre production.

In all senses, they will learn to be first class, confident communicators, helping them thrive both academically and in life.

## **Good to know:**

- Currently Drama is not a guaranteed subject offered as a GCSE; it will be taught in September 2020 but provision the following year will be dependent on demand.
- Only students who show a clear interest in Drama and theatre production should choose this course.
- Subject contact: [hriley@reephamhigh.com](mailto:hriley@reephamhigh.com)

# MUSIC

Students will complete performing, composing and listening activities based around the following topics:

- Film music
- Popular music
- New directions in classical music
- The key periods in musical history
- Instrumental music
- Vocal music

In performing activities, students will be given opportunities to rehearse and perform both solo and group (ensemble) pieces within the style of music they are studying. They will learn effective practice and rehearsal techniques in order to make the best progress on their chosen instrument. Students will also look at what makes a good performance and start learning how to communicate through the language of music.

In composing activities, students will learn to write their own pieces in the style of the music they are studying (see above for list of topics). They will learn how to write idiomatically for different instruments and to create contrast within pieces of music, as well as how to use the elements of music to convey different moods and evoke various emotions within the listener.

Through listening to and studying music within the topic areas, students will learn how to analyse pieces using the musical elements. By studying music in different styles, the students will learn how composers create different moods, create contrast and structure pieces of music. The students will then apply this knowledge in the composing and performing activities. Students will also study basic music theory.

## **Good to know:**

- It is highly desirable to take Music in Year 9 if you want the option of taking Music at GCSE.
- Only students who have a clear interest in Music should choose this course.
- Subject contact: [ggreen@reephamhigh.com](mailto:ggreen@reephamhigh.com)

**Please return to the email and follow the link to complete the 'choices' form.**