


# Year 8 Curriculum Information Presentation


Miss Gilbert - YAC welcome

Ms Lankester & Mrs Vanderpere-Brown -  
The options process and curriculum  
model



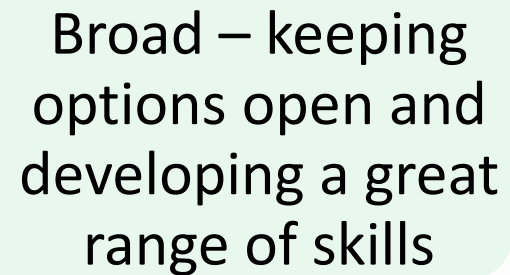


# Curriculum Presentation 2024

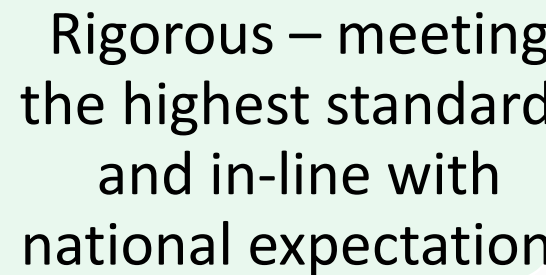


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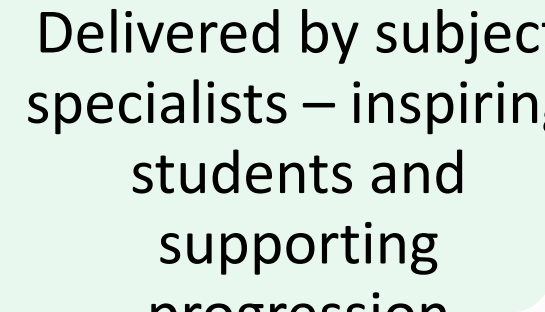
# Our curriculum is



Broad – keeping options open and developing a great range of skills



Rigorous – meeting the highest standards and in-line with national expectations



Delivered by subject specialists – inspiring students and supporting progression

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# What do we aim to see?

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All students making great progress



All students achieving outcomes that make them proud



All students enjoying their learning and feeling inspired about their future choices



All students being prepared for life after SWCHS

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# Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

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All students follow a rich and broad curriculum that keeps their options open and prepares them for their future.

**Key Stage 4 CORE  
GCSE subjects**

English  
Language

English  
Literature

Maths

Science

Geography  
or History

A  
Language



# **Non examined core subjects**

PSHE (including relationships and sex education)

CEIAG (including financial education)

PE

Core Computing

CORE RE

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# Two further choices

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- To personalise their learning and play to their strengths
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# Two further choices

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## Art GCSE

- 3D Art
- Art and design
- Textiles
- 3D design – Architecture

## Business GCSE

Computer Science  
GCSE and/or BTEC  
Digital Information  
Technology

## Dance GCSE

## Drama GCSE

Food Preparation  
and Nutrition GCSE

Health and Social  
Care GCSE

## Music GCSE

PE (GCSE with  
Theory)

An additional  
Humanities or  
Languages GCSE  
choice

Design and  
Technology GCSE -  
Timbers or Metals

## RE GCSE



**So what about Year 9?**

# The Year 9 Curriculum (Key Stage 3) CORE

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Science

Geography

History

A Language (French, German, Latin, Spanish)



## **Year 9 also includes**

PSHE (including relationships and sex education)

CEIAG (including financial education)

PE

Core Computing

Core RE

# Three further choices

## Art

- 3D Art
- Art and Design
- Textiles
- 3D design – Architecture

Dance

Drama

Music

Computer  
Science and/or  
BTEC Digital  
information  
Technology

RE GCSE

Design and  
Technology -  
Timbers AND  
Metals

Food Preparation and  
Nutrition

A second language

Health and Social  
Care

PE (with Theory)

Business

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# Thinking ahead

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Textiles, Graphics, 3D Art, and Art are all the SAME GCSE (ART)

- students can only choose 1 of these options for Year 10
- they may choose two for Year 9

The Language choice for GCSE must have been studied in Year 9

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# Closing doors?

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- There are genuinely no bad combinations and students will not be closing future pathways with their choices. We are aware that students change!
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We offer 45 different Sixth Form courses... nearly all of which can be accessed from the SWCHS Core.

For example:

Computing

Drama

Health and Social Care

Classical Civilisation

Business

Geography

History

Psychology

Criminology



# Making the right choices

1

Don't choose a subject because of a teacher

2

Avoid being overly influenced by friends' decisions

3

We recommend that students only take ONE new subject

# The Year 9 choices process

- The deadline is March 25th. In advance of that :-
  - Assembly explaining process to students
  - Information booklet with course details is sent home
  - Progress Check - w/b 4th March
  - Parents Evenings in March (S side – 14th, W side - 21st)
  - Choices form sent home - 18th March

Choosing  
Languages  
for Year 9



# Languages for all



- In today's global economy, companies are increasingly dealing across international markets and need good linguists. This is also a skill for life.
  
- Languages are very important here at SWCHS and are part of the core provision:
  - Everyone does 2 languages in Years 7 & 8
  - Everyone does at least 1 language in Year 9
  - Almost everyone does at least 1 language in Year 10 & 11 for GCSE
  
- Reasons for learning languages:
  - Provides students with knowledge and understanding of other cultures
  - Equips pupils with skills to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - Encourages pupils to appreciate and celebrate difference and diversity
  - Enables pupils to study and work in other countries
  - Enhances employment prospects

# Languages in Year 7 and 8



- Students in Years 7 and 8 study French and German. Students in total get 3 lessons per fortnight in each language. Classes are taught in mixed ability groups.
- This approach ensures that all students get a comparable experience across both years and in so doing they learn one Latin-based and one Germanic language.
- In Years 7 and 8 we teach students a variety of topics and within this they learn key grammatical structures and vocabulary. These key grammatical structures are revisited throughout the course to help build student confidence.
- Our programme of work is also attached to a coursebook and an online platform called Kerboodle.
- During Years 7 and 8 students are regularly assessed in a variety of skills. For example, coming up in January, Year 8 students will have a Listening, Reading and Writing assessment. Scores are benchmarked. From this we can ascertain the Attainment Band a student is achieving in each language. This might vary by language.
- Additionally, some students will have been offered the opportunity to do a block of Latin in Year 8 for one term. This course has been targeted at our more able linguists.

# Languages in Year 9



During their final year at Key Stage 3, students study at least one language.

Students have the following options:

- **To continue with one language**
  - Students will get 5 language lessons per fortnight.
- **To continue with two languages**
  - For one language, students will get 5 lessons within their timetable during normal curriculum time.
  - For their second language (French or German) students have 3 hours within their normal timetable in Year 9 only. They also must attend **two** twilight sessions, one hour per week, after school on a Friday.
  - If students decide to continue with two languages into Year 10, all lessons will be taught within normal curriculum time.

# Language Options



Students can choose to study **one or two** of the following languages:

- GCSE French
  - GCSE German
  - **GCSE Spanish\***
  - **GCSE Latin\***
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- Students have already studied French and German for two years.
  - Spanish, however, is taught from scratch. This means the pace of the course is more demanding and faster, but will suit students who enjoy languages and a challenge. Therefore, students must demonstrate a clear aptitude in their language learning in Years 7 and 8 and **MUST have achieved a Forecast Attainment Band of at least ABOVE in one language in their Year 8 Spring Progress Check in order to study GCSE Spanish.**
  - We want to make sure that students make the right choice for them and would cope with the demands of a fast-paced GCSE Spanish course.
  - **Latin is only available as an option to those students who have attended and completed the Latin course in Year 8.**

# Language Options beyond Year 9



- In Year 9 there will be another options process.
- In Year 10, the vast majority will continue with at least one language to GCSE.
- The Government expectation is that 90% should take a language at GCSE.
- The school will therefore decide during Year 9 which students might be allowed to drop a language.
- Everyone else will continue with at least one or two languages to GCSE.
- **All four language options have progression to an A level course beyond GCSE.**



# Language Options for Native Speakers

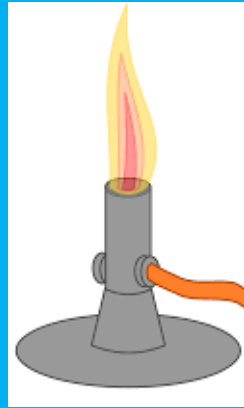


- It is generally suggested that fluent native speakers take a different language to their home language, but this can be flexible.
- Depending on the language, there may well be an opportunity to do the GCSE qualification in their native language without doing the full GCSE course.
- Students may have to enter as private candidates if we do not have the relevant in-house expertise to conduct the Speaking examination.
- We currently follow the AQA exam syllabus, and there are GCSE exams in the following subjects: French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Bengali, Urdu, Modern Hebrew, Chinese and Panjabi.
- Please contact the schools Exams Officer in the first instance if you want your child to take a GCSE in one of the above languages.

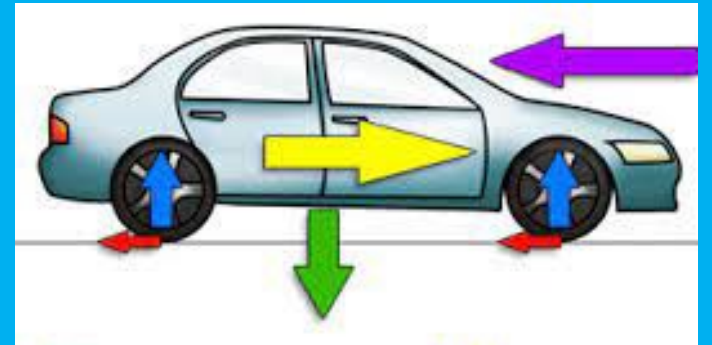
# Year 9 Spanish Enrichment



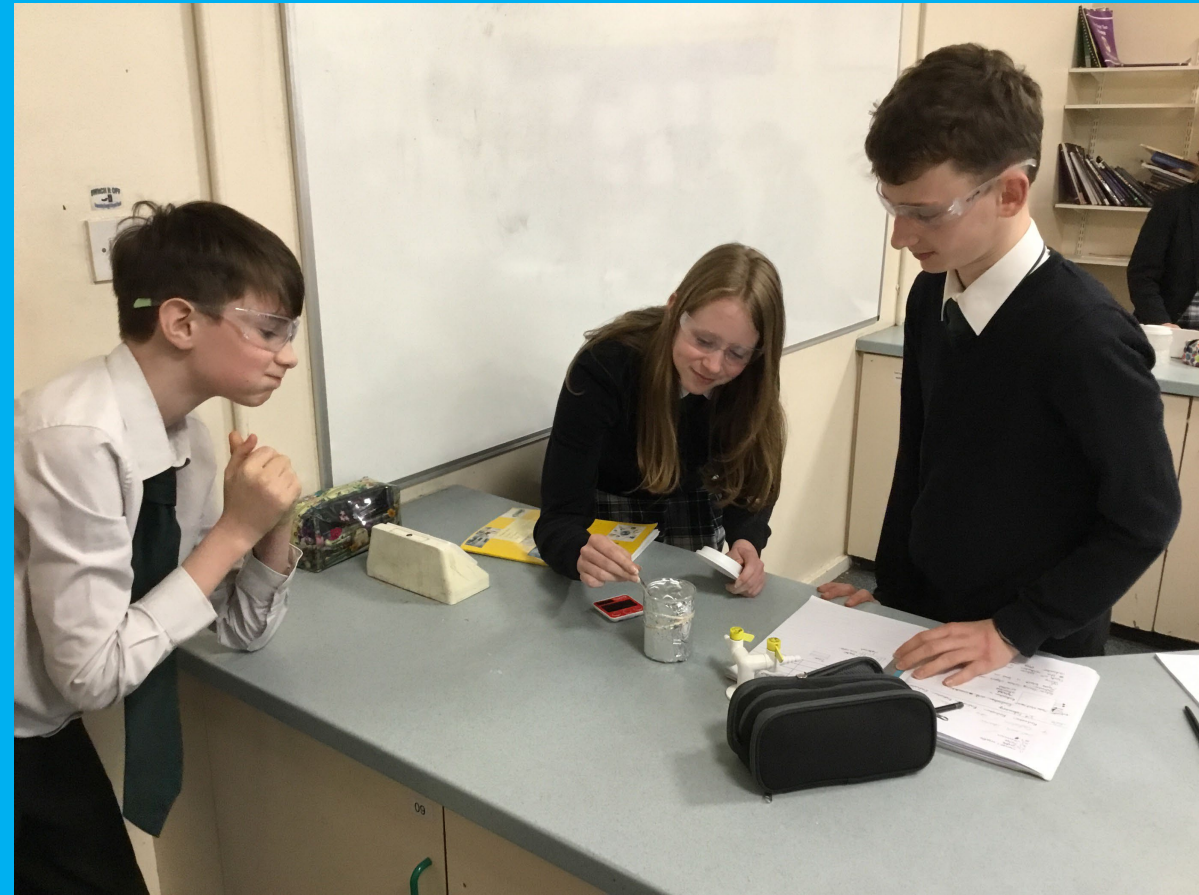
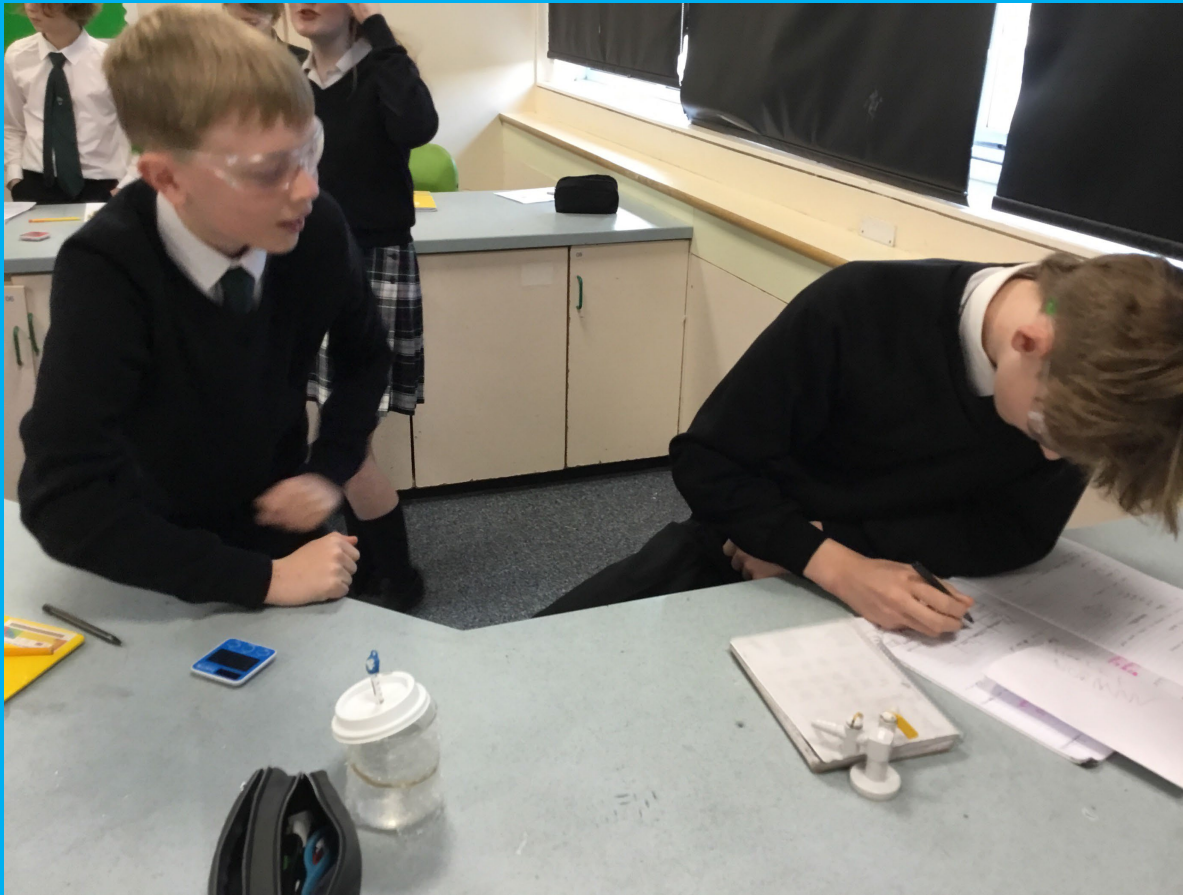
- A very small minority of students will be approached with a view to doing a one year Spanish Enrichment course in Year 9. This is not to be confused with the GCSE Spanish course.
- The Languages team work with the Year team and the Learning Support team to identify individuals, who we feel would benefit from such a programme. Students who have done this course have found this very enjoyable and rewarding.
- Students who follow this course will **NOT** continue with Spanish beyond Year 9.



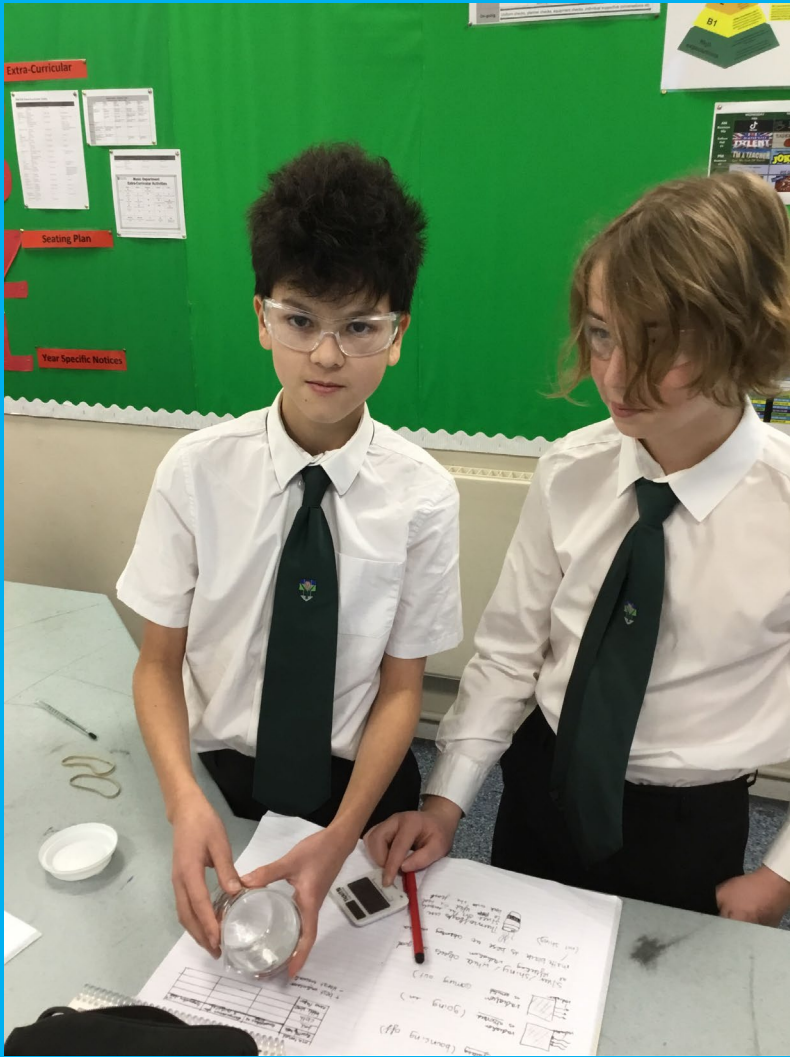
# Year 8 Science



# Practical science is a priority in lessons...



# Practical science is a priority in lessons...



# ...and in Year 8 Science Club



# Looking forward to Year 9...

- Mixed ability groups in Year 9 with small support groups for students needing support with basic concepts
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics taught separately by subject specialists
- Course written by SWCHS to cover fundamental knowledge and skills to equip students well for starting GCSE science in Year 10
- Decisions made at end of Year 9 about which GCSE pathway (Combined Science or Triple Science) individual students will follow

# Key Stage 4 Science (Years 10 and 11)

	<b>Combined Science</b>	<b>Triple Science</b>
Who is it for?	The vast majority of students at SWCHS and nationally	The students with the highest aptitude and interest in science who want extra challenge and opportunities to gain a deeper understanding ( 2 classes – max 66 students)
Course structure / teaching	Topic-based with biology, chemistry and physics topics delivered by subject specialists.	Taught as separate subjects - Biology, Chemistry and Physics delivered by subject specialists
GCSEs awarded	2 GCSEs with grades up to 9/9 (Higher Tier) up to 5/5 (Foundation Tier)	3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
Timetable allocation	10 hours per fortnight	12 hours per fortnight (extra lesson on Friday afternoon introduced in 2021-22)
Equips for A-Level Sciences?	Yes	Yes



# For further information....

[mgwyer@swchs.net](mailto:mgwyer@swchs.net)

**Maths**



Curriculum

At home

Assessments


Enthusiasts


## Three easy wins

- Be positive about maths

‘When mothers told their daughters that they were not good at maths when they were at school their daughter’s achievement declined almost immediately.’

Eccles & Jacobs, 1986

‘Maths is hard’  ‘Maths is about noticing and reasoning’

‘I’m not a maths person’  ‘No one is born good at maths. Anyone can learn.’

- Be calm and open minded

Parents’ maths anxiety reduced their child’s learning of maths... **The parents’ maths knowledge did not turn out to have any impact, only their level of math anxiety.**

Maloney et al., 2015

- Discuss estimates, distances and times, costs, measurements, and jobs that use maths

Curriculum

At home

Assessments

Enthusiasts

# Homework

- Support videos for the entire Year 8 course Dr Frost Maths




86 Find terms of a sequence given a term-to-term rule.

Mastery: 0/100

Practise

OR NARROW DOWN

VIDEO DIFFICULTY

- |  |                         |   |     |
|--|-------------------------|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> E86: Exam Practice: Find terms of a sequence given a term-to-term rule. | <a href="#">Example</a> |    | 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K86a: Find a later term in an arithmetic sequence.                      | <a href="#">Example</a> |  | 1   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K86b: Find a later term in a geometric sequence.                        | <a href="#">Example</a> |  | 2   |

- How did your teacher solve this problem?
- What do your notes say?
- Can you explain it to me in your own words?
- Shall we look it up together on DrFrostMaths?
- Can we use these counters to represent the problem?

# Maths in Year 9

- **Teaching and learning continues in line with years 7 and 8**
- **There are no major grouping changes going from Y8 to Y9**
- **Maths tiering decisions are not finalised until students are well into key stage 4 in year 10 (and, in some borderline cases, not until after the Y11 mocks).**

# English Literature and Language

Miss R Jermy  
Director of English

## Year 10 and 11

- **Two GCSEs.**
- **No tiers of entry.**
- **Flexible groupings.**
- **Assessing reading, writing and engagement with a range of literature.**



# **Y8 Curriculum Information Presentation**

