Y9 Parent/ Carer Information Evening

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Tonight…

- Key dates for the year ahead
- How you can support your child at home
- How you can support your child in school
- What to expect from Year 9

Welcome

Mrs Wilson
Vice Principal

Michelle Norman
Learning Progress Manager

Ms Webster
Pastoral Learning Lead

Celia Alcock
SENDCO

Louisa Morgan
Assistant SENDCO

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Academic Progress and Key Dates

- **18th October** Careers Assembly by External Provider
- **Wk beg. 20th October** Data Collection 1
- **Wk beg. 4th February** Data Collection 2
- **19th February** Options Open
- **20th/21st February** Creative Careers Trip
- **26th February** Y9 Parents' Evening
- **11th March** Y9 Options Close
- **Wk beg. 13th May** Data Collection 3

Curriculum Design at Aston

- **The curriculum allows more flexibility**- students are timetabled in half year groups and can move between sets as and when their teacher feels appropriate for their academic progress.

- The curriculum design at Aston now allows students to have **equal access to curriculum** pathways, sets and opportunities moving through the school.

- The curriculum design **allows for academic changes** in your child as they mature through their secondary school journey.

Y9 Curriculum

‘To ensure that the academy delivers an **ambitious curriculum** that continues to **raise aspirations and standards** for **all groups of learners** in every school year’

Core Subjects:

Maths
English
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Ebacc Subjects:

Geography
History
Modern Foreign Languages (French or Spanish)

Option Subjects:

RE
PE
Music and Drama
IT
Design Technology (DT, Food, Art, Art Textiles)

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Assessment and Data Reports

- All students in Key Stage 3 (Y7,8,9) will be assessed using the same process way:
  - Classwork/ live marking- Assessment for learning, continuous in class
  - Milestone assessments in class (formative, low stakes assessments)
  - Summative Assessments at the end of a learning journey- approx 3 each year

- Data Reports will be sent out 3 times in Y9 where, for each subject they are studying, students will get the following:
  - Age related grade

    (Age related; Approaching standard; Greater depth; Greater depth+)
  - Effort grade

Y9 Options

After Christmas- Form period and assemblies are focussed on Options/ Careers and next steps

19th February- Options process opens- packs sent to parents.

26th February- Y9 Parents Evening

11th March- Y9 Options Deadline

The Importance of Attendance

Name

AVP/ Pastoral Learning Lead

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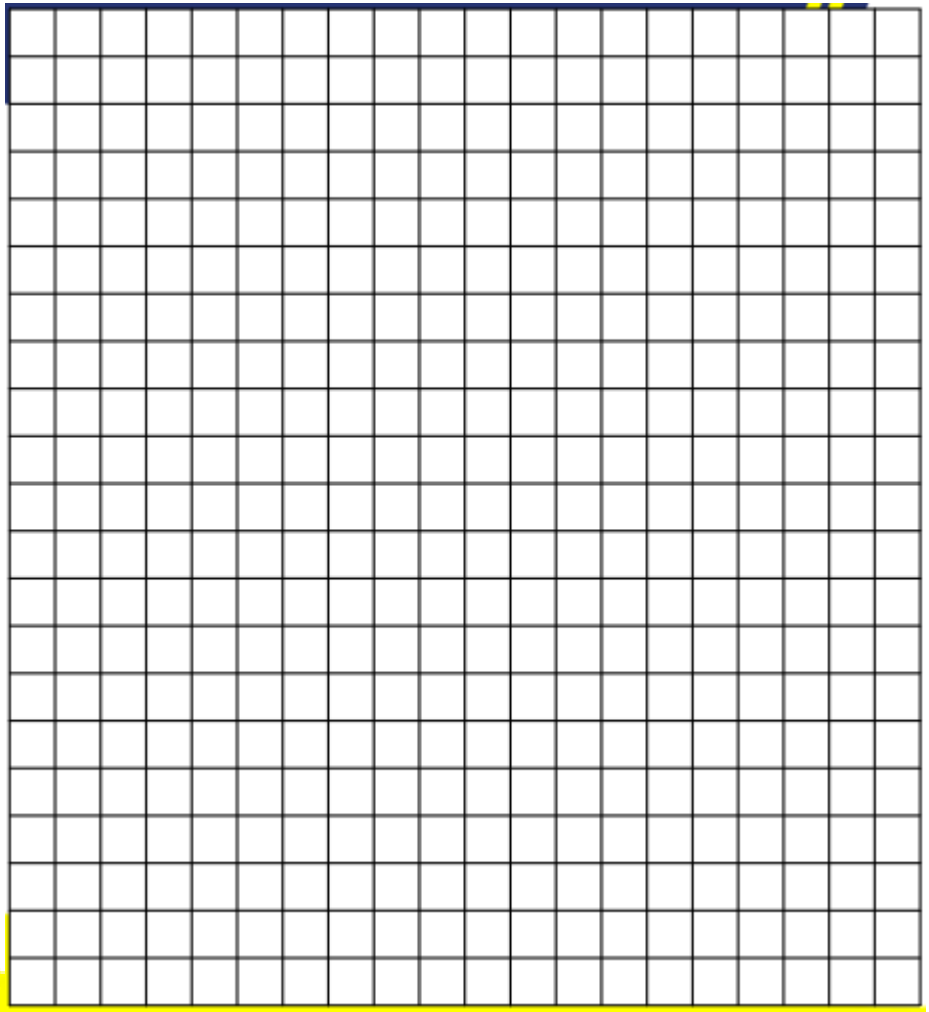
100% Attendance

- ✔ Each square represents a school week.
- ✔ Square one is your child's first week in Reception.
- ✔ The final square is the week of their final GCSE exam.



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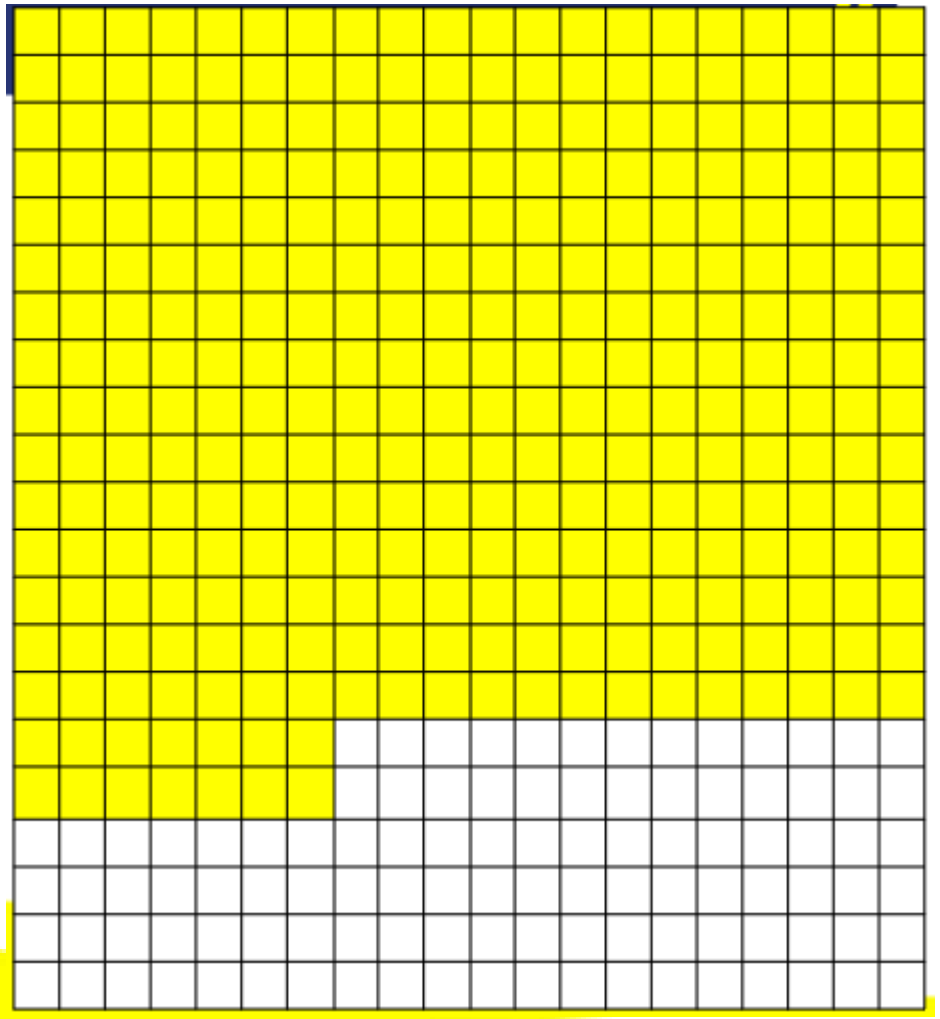

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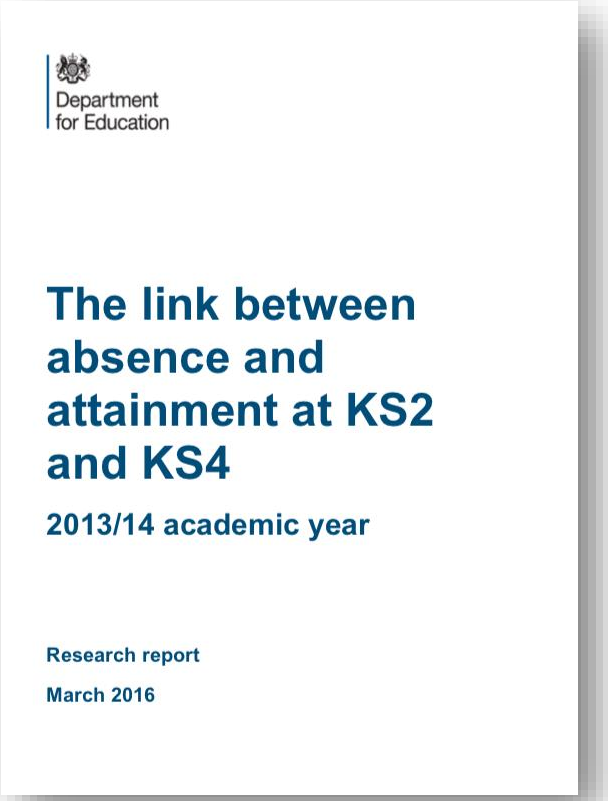
The Importance of 100% Attendance


Department for Education

The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4

2013/14 academic year

Research report

March 2016

Research Report - Link between absence and attainment

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The Importance of 100% Attendance

Key points for Y9 Parents:

- Please get in touch if you are concerned that illness or injury may result in non-attendance; there is lots we can do to support your child remaining in school
- Year 9s will be working hard on new content in every single lesson; one missed day means 5 hours of lost learning
- Independent 'catch-up' will never match being in front of specialist teachers

Attend and Achieve

Student Wellbeing

What is Mental Health

Understanding what mental health is

Two things to remember from this session:

1. Mental health is different from mental illness.
2. We all need to accept the challenges in life and learn ways to cope with them.

What does the World Health Organisation say?

"Mental health is a state of wellbeing in which the individual realises their own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to their community."

We can sum it up with…

"Mental Health is a state of mind that helps us to respond to challenges in life."

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Student Wellbeing

Help and Support

- Talking to people can make a big difference. Make use of friends, family, teachers, form tutors and other staff in school.
- Remember to try to live a healthy lifestyle – get enough sleep, eat well and exercise.
- Use Kooth – they are available to support you.
- Don't bottle things up.

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Extra Curricular Enrichment

Term 1 Extra Curricular Letter was sent to you on Friday 8th September with clubs starting from today.

This includes - Sports Clubs, Subject Clubs and House Activities.

A new letter will be sent to you at the start of each term with the new clubs and opportunities available.

All clubs are FREE and run from 3:10pm - 4:10pm with some fixtures slightly longer - please encourage your child to come and get involved.

Core Subject Information
Maths, English, Science

Y9 Maths Curriculum

Algebra | Statistics | Geometry | Number | Ratio

- In year 9 students will study a vast range of topics within our 5 golden threads.
- Topics will build on learning from Y7 & 8. The topics belong to our 5 golden threads and they are mixed up throughout the year to help balance students exposure to the various areas of maths.
- The greatest weighting of lessons is around Number and Algebra in Y9. An increased proportion of lessons, compared to Y7&8, focus on Algebra to allow greater depth and understanding in this strand in preparation for KS4.

Y9 Maths Curriculum

Algebra | Statistics | Geometry | Number | Ratio

- Students are not just taught maths, they are taught the applications of the skills outside of the classroom and how they can be useful in everyday life and their future.
- Y9 students will have a full finance week in the final term of the year focusing on managing their finances and will conclude the week with a budgeting task.
- Our curriculum in KS3 enables students to be fully prepared to access the OCR GCSE Maths curriculum in KS4.

Calculators

- A vital part of the student equipment list is a scientific calculator.
- 2 out of 3 GCSE Maths Papers will require use of a calculator. Lessons, milestones and assessments will reflect this.
- It is an expectation that students bring their own calculator every day.
- We recommend the Casio FX83GT CW at most supermarkets [released July 2023].
- Students with the Casio FX83GTX or Casio FX95 do **not** need to purchase new calculators.

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How can you support your child in Maths

- Catch up with your child about what they're learning about, and it's ok if they're finding something tricky - maths can be very difficult.

- Maths homework is moving to an online programme called Sparx. They will be set weekly homework - check in with them how they're getting on. They will be able to use their books to help them complete this as it runs alongside our curriculum. There are 100s of videos to help improve student understanding if they are finding a topic particularly challenging or to help extend their knowledge further.

- Communicate with us, we're happy to help. Use our learning journey on the website to see where you're child is at and if you need any support with previous topics or something coming up then get in touch.

Y9 English Curriculum

Term 1:

Study of Shakespeare - ‘Twelfth Night’ - Gender, Shakespearean language, the conventions of a Shakespearean comedy, the structure of a play - plot, characters, form, dramatic devices, non-fiction texts relating to key themes

Alongside

Poetry which explores the representation of women - Either select poems from Carol Ann Duffy or Maya Angelou - poetic devices, poetic form, writer’s message, comparison, and analysis

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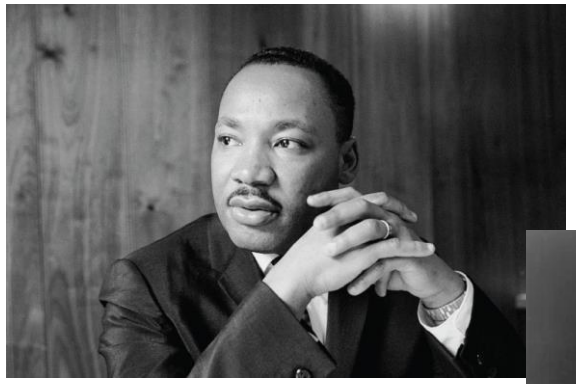
Y9 English Curriculum

Term 2:

Speeches from rebel voices - study of rhetoric and how the spoken word has been used by iconic figures over time; understanding the impact of social and historical context on language

Alongside

Creative writing around the globe - study of vocabulary, technical accuracy, and creative writing through study of destinations across the world



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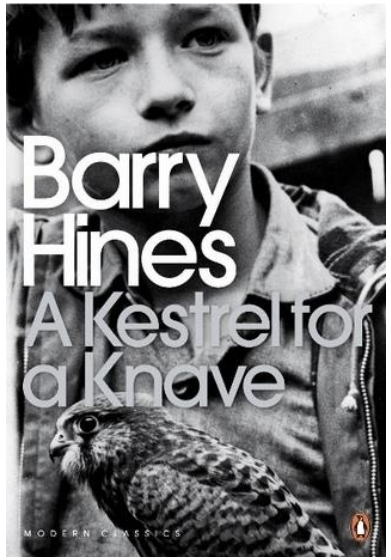
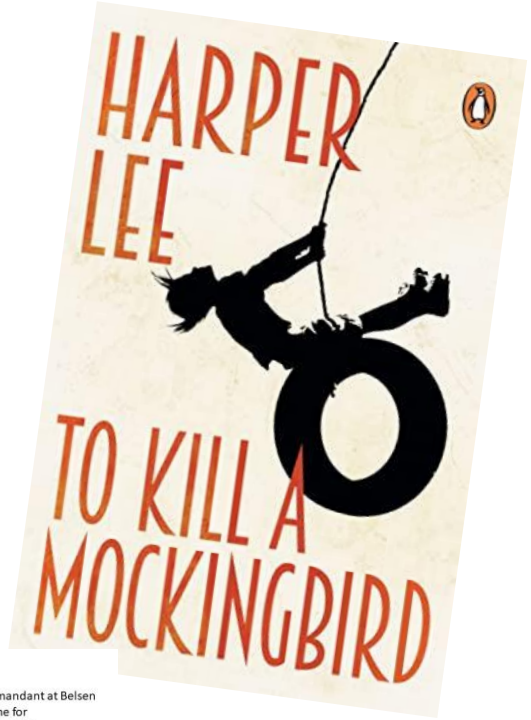
Y9 English Curriculum

Term 3:

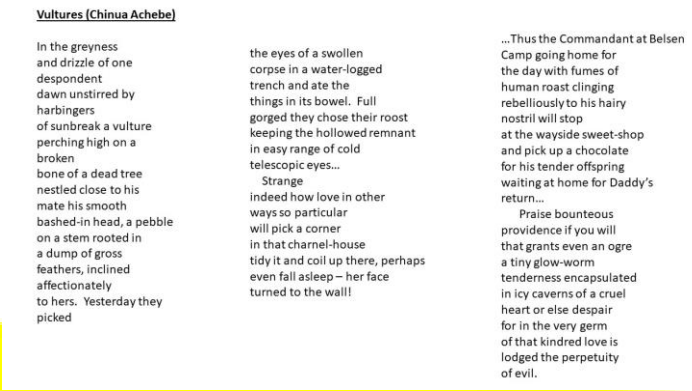
Study of a modern novel linked to society - ‘Kestrel for a Knave’ or ‘To Kill a Mockingbird - plot, structure, character, the role of social and historical context, analysis of writer’s craft and opportunities for creative writing





Alongside

Poetry from other cultures - a more in-depth analysis of more complex poetry from across the globe - form, structure, writer’s craft, the narrative of a poem



Vultures (Chinua Achebe)

In the greyness
and drizzle of one
despondent
dawn unstirred by
harbingers
of sunbreak a vulture
perching high on a
broken
bone of a dead tree
nestled close to his
mate his smooth
bashed-in head, a pebble
on a stem rooted in
a dump of gross
feathers, inclined
affectionately
to hers. Yesterday they
picked
the eyes of a swollen
corpse in a water-logged
trench and ate the
things in its bowel. Full
gorged they chose their roost
keeping the hollowed remnant
in easy range of cold
telescopic eyes...
Strange
indeed how love in other
ways so particular
will pick a corner
in that charnel-house
tidy it and coil up there, perhaps
even fall asleep – her face
turned to the wall!

...Thus the Commandant at Belsen
Camp going home for
the day with fumes of
human roast clinging
rebelliously to his hairy
nostril will stop
at the wayside sweet-shop
and pick up a chocolate
for his tender offspring
waiting at home for Daddy’s
return...
Praise bounteous
providence if you will
that grants even an ogre
a tiny glow-worm
tenderness encapsulated
in icy caverns of a cruel
heart or else despair
for in the very germ
of that kindred love is
lodged the perpetuity
of evil.

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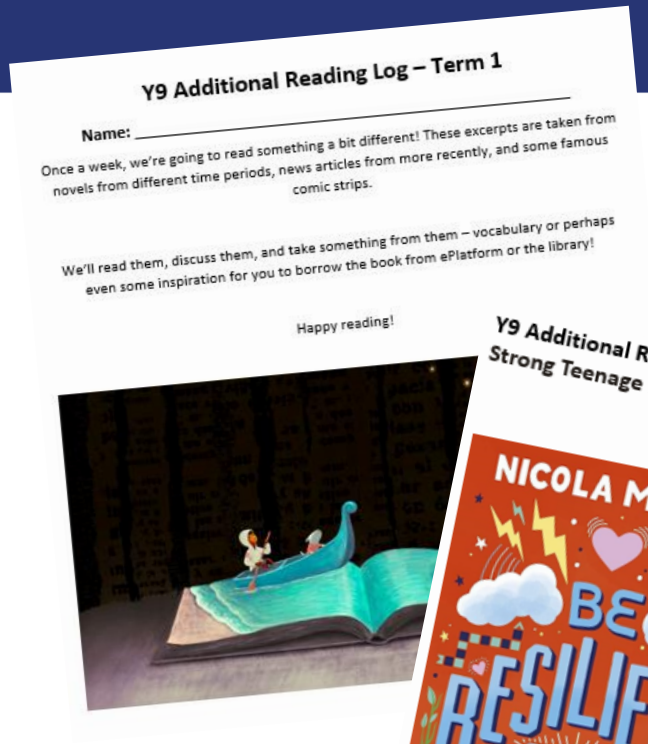
Y9 English Curriculum

Reading

One English lesson per week is called ‘Reading’.

In this lesson, 10-15 minutes are dedicated to students reading a pre-selected excerpt from a text to try to promote reading for pleasure.

Time is devoted to the discussion of this text



Y9 Additional Reading Log – Term 1

Name: _____

Once a week, we’re going to read something a bit different! These excerpts are taken from novels from different time periods, news articles from more recently, and some famous comic strips.

We’ll read them, discuss them, and take something from them – vocabulary or perhaps even some inspiration for you to borrow the book from ePlatform or the library!

Happy reading!

Y9 Additional Reading 10 – ‘Be Resilient – How to Build a Strong Teenage Mind for Tough Times’ by Nicola Morgan

An Overview: The author of *The Teenage Guide to Stress* provides a toolkit for devloping mental resilience, from building support groups to nurturing an optimistic outlook. The essential teenage guide to building resilience for challenging times, from award-winning well-being expert Nicola Morgan, author of the bestselling *Blame My Brain* and *The Teenage Guide to Stress*.

Some events in life will always be out of our control, whether it's a global crisis or a traumatic event at home - but *Be Resilient* shows that the power to cope is in our hands.

Discover how to develop the skill of mental resilience in this fascinating guide from award-winning author and teenage brain expert Nicola Morgan. From building a support network to building optimism, find positive, practical advice for preparing for, coping with and bouncing back from the toughest of times. Authoritative and backed by the latest science, this is a reassuring companion for teenagers everywhere.

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How can you support your child in English?

Reading - every text type - novels, short stories, comic books, packaging, formal letters, newspapers, leaflets, online - blogs, reviews, biographies, autobiographies, 21st Century English forms

Sharing their English work with you at home

Theatre visits/ visiting places of note linked to English - author's houses/museums

Discussion with class teachers about areas of strength and improvement

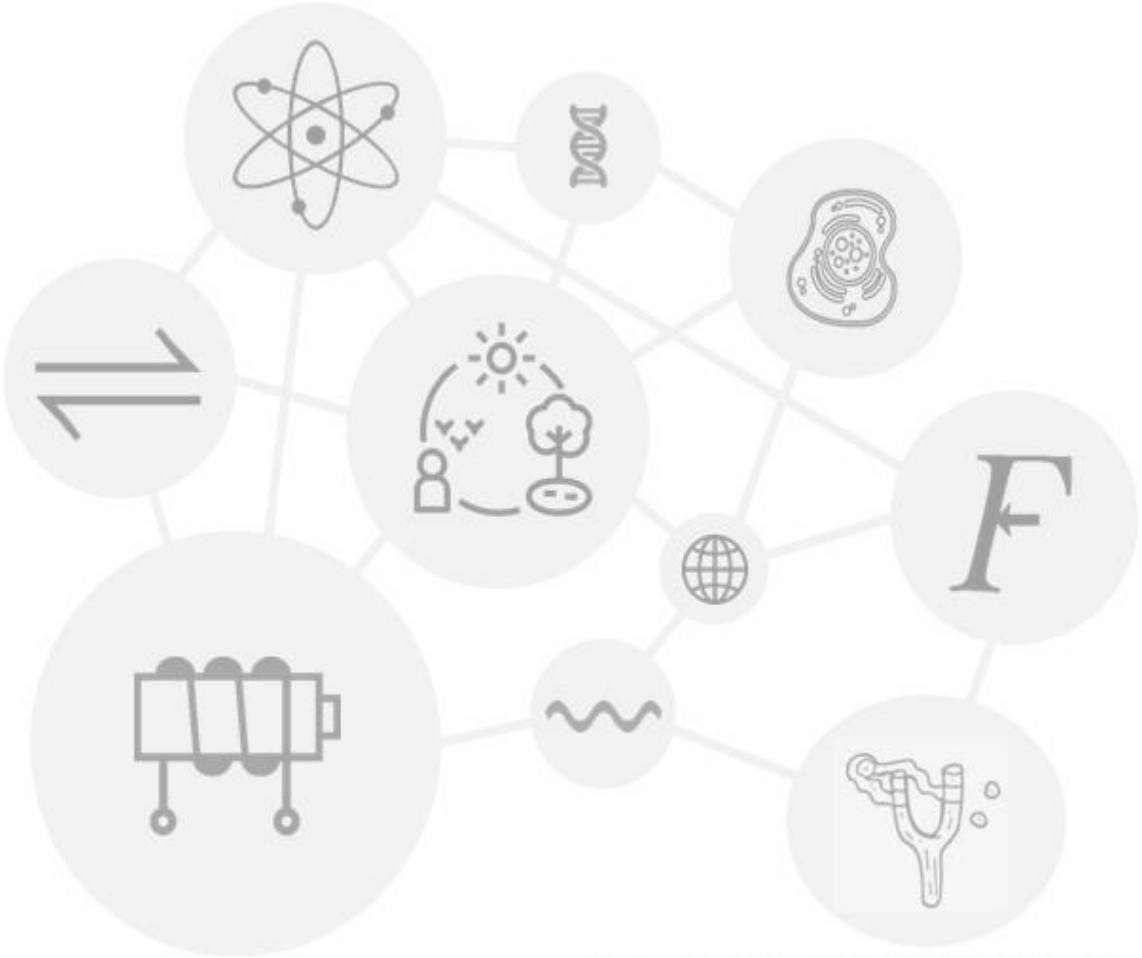
Spoken language - promoting wider discussion - debate, persuasion, developed answers

Y9 Science Curriculum

Knowledge and skills structured around the 10 Big Ideas in Science

- Why are some genetic diseases more common than others?
- How can we reduce our carbon footprint to help mitigate climate change?
- How do motors work in electric cars?

Opportunity to develop scientific practical skills to enable them to be informed and confident scientists.



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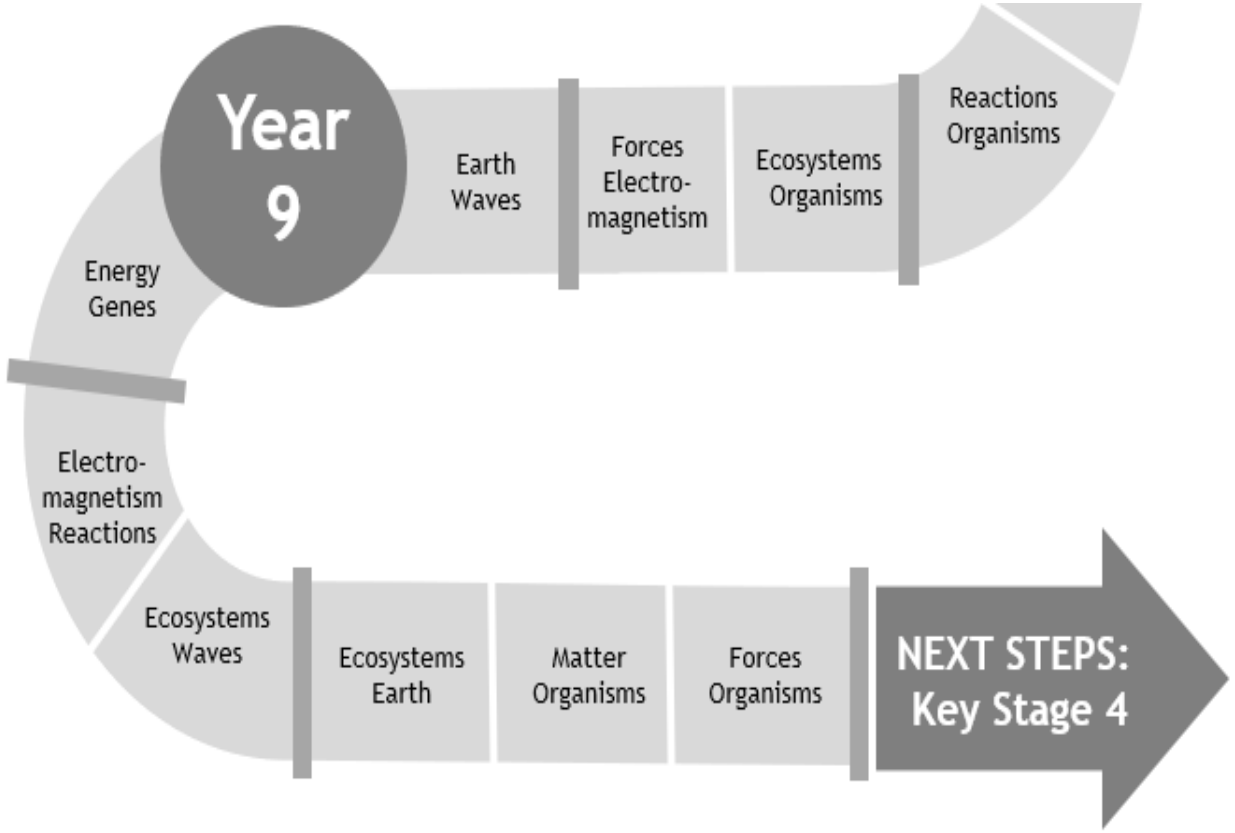
How can you support your child in Science

- Discuss their learning with them- asking how does what they've learnt link to the world around them

- Support them completing their Home learning Quizzes through Google Classroom

- Review your child exercise book and use it to quiz them on what they have learnt about



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All Subject Curriculum Plans

- Browse through the school website for the individual curriculum plans for your child this academic year.

- All students are responsible for their own exercise books and will be bringing them home to support with home learning and revision- ask your child about their learning compared to the curriculum plan.

- https://www.astonacademy.org/page/?title=Subject+Areas&pid=55

General support at home

- Discuss your child's learning with them- use the curriculum journeys as a starting point (website) and complete *'Things I have Learnt In Today's Lesson'* in the planner
- Ensure your child has the correct equipment needed for school
- Check your child's planner for home learning, deadlines and communication from Form Tutor
- Encourage your child to develop good study habits- ask about Milestones and Summatives and offer to quiz them by using their exercise books.
- Encourage your child to attend extra curricular and enrichment activities outside of class.

Parental Support

- **Pre-Loved Uniform**
- **Free- school meals** Free school meals – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- **Family Support-** They can offer a wealth of family support or can signpost out to other agencies if they are unable to help Family Support – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Contact us at Info@astonacademy.org