



Year 9 Super-curricular activities 2025-26



Name:

Tutor group:

Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door and can be lots of fun! You may choose to complete some of the optional activities in this booklet to extend your classroom learning (they're called 'super-curricular' activities). These are particularly helpful when thinking about making your GCSE option choices: which subjects make you want to find out more about? **(Be sure to bring your work in or take pictures of the activities you complete to show your teachers so that they can reward you with achievement points. If you complete 12 activities and cut out the record sheet at the back of this booklet to give into your college reception you will also get the open-mindedness badge to reward your curiosity.)**

Biology

During Year 9 in Science you will learn about a range of topics including organ systems, growth and differentiation and Photosynthesis. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



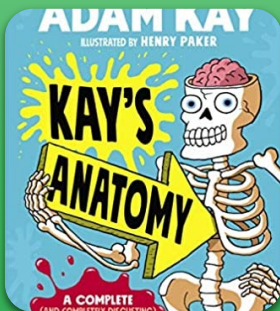
- Get involved with our science club.
- Research a famous Biologist and their contributions to their chosen field.
- Create a model to explain a process/theory that you have studied recently.

WATCH/LISTEN



- 'The Green Planet' on BBC iplayer.
- Operation Ouch! on BBC iplayer.
- <https://www.amoebasisters.com/> for lots of Biology videos.

READ



- 'Kay's Anatomy' by Adam Kay
- The Science Book: big ideas simply explained.

VISIT



- The Thackray Museum of Medicine, Leeds.
- Life science centre, Newcastle.
- Take a virtual tour of the Natural History Museum.

Visual Arts and Performing Arts

During Year 9 you will learn and develop a wide range of skills in the fields of Art, Drama, Dance and Music. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



Get involved with extra curricular dance opportunities such as Dance4 to experience live performance opportunities. See Miss Crossley for more details.

Get involved with extra curricular Music opportunities such as choir and Jam Band to experience live performance opportunities. See Mr J Williams for more details.

Have a go at drawing yourself using a mirror, or asking somebody you know to sit still for 30 minutes whilst you draw them.

Get involved in Drama extra-curricular activities. See Mr Wilson for more details.

WATCH/LISTEN



Listen to 'The Dance Podcast' on apple podcasts or follow tutorials in multiple different styles on YouTube.

search Youtube for the BBC Modern Masters episodes. Watch and learn about Picasso, Warhol, Dali or Matisse.

Watch 'Tiny Desk' Music concerts on YouTube

Ask Mr Wilson for a Drama Online code to access live theatre footage from the National Theatre.

READ



Read 'The Dance Cure' by Dr Peter Lovatt.

Visit www.tate.org.uk/kids and explore the quizzes and artist stories.

'DNA' by Dennis Kelly to support with Performing Arts Lessons.

read <https://blog.landr.com/music-production/> to discover more about Music Production

VISIT



Visit local and online dance classes, workshops and productions to experience live dance performance.

Go to your favourite place; this could be your garden, a park, a building, somewhere on a walk etc. Take a seat and create a drawing of what you see. As you are working, think about why you enjoy that particular place.

Local free Live Music Performances . With an adult, perhaps attend gigs at The Flying Circus in Newark

Chemistry

During Year 9 in Chemistry you will learn about a range of topics including Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Energy and Matter and using the Earth's resources. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO

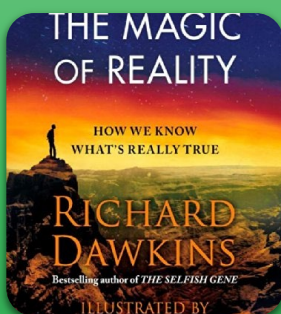


- Make a list of objects in your house made of one element alone, and a list of objects made of compounds.
- Joining atoms together to make molecules using this link.
<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/build-a-molecule>
- Dip into some chemistry news topics
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/>



WATCH/LISTEN

- Give into your curiosity and explore the Periodic Table
<https://www.rsc.org/periodic-table>
- Listen to a podcast about an element
<https://www.rsc.org/periodic-table/podcast>



READ

- Fun Science: A Guide to Life, The Universe & Why Science Is So Awesome – Charlie McDonnell
- The Magic of Reality – Richard Dawkins
- Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World – Rachel Ignotofsky



VISIT

- The Discovery Museum
- Science and Industry Museum
- Make a virtual visit to the Science Museum and explore some of the objects and stories

Computing

In Y9 computing you will further develop your skills in all three of the computing strands, IT skills, Computer Science and Creative Media. The super-curricular activities below build on your classroom work to give you fresh challenges and expand your knowledge and skills.

DO



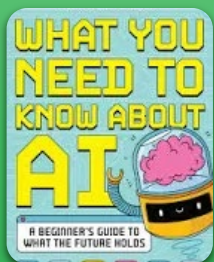
- Try creating some AI Art using Dall-E
<https://openai.com/index/dall-e-2/>
- Try some of the Hour of Code Activities and learn the basics of a new programming language <https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn>

WATCH/LISTEN



- Watch the Crash Course on Computing video series and find out about key moments in the development of modern computing
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5nskJZ_GoI
- Watch 'How to Become a Game Designer' on Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMXf0e8n2Oc>

READ



- What You Need to Know About AI: A beginner's guide to what the future holds by Brian Johnson
- Be up to date with current affairs by reading the major news stories each day. Reliable news sites include BBC News (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>), Sky News (<https://news.sky.com/uk>) and The Independent (<https://www.independent.co.uk/>)

VISIT



- Visit the Cartoon Museum, London which preserves the best of British cartoons, caricatures, and comics.
- Visit Derby Computer Museum where you can see, touch and use/play with pre 1999 computer, gaming and portable technology.

Design Technology

During Year 9 in Design & Technology you will learn, develop and refine a wide range of practical and design skills. Furthermore you will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the designed world. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

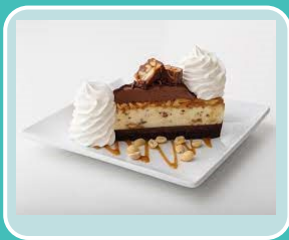
DO



Design and make prototype packaging for a new mobile phone.

<https://technologystudent.com/despro2/development1.htm>

WATCH/LISTEN



- Follow the link below to learn how a cheesecake is made in industry
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efSxVSnRTSc>
- Write a blog post to explain how the cheese cake is made...

READ



- HackSpace magazine is the new monthly magazine for people who love to make things and those who want to learn. Grab some duct tape, fire up a microcontroller, ready a 3D printer and hack the world around you!
(<https://hackspace.raspberrypi.com>)

VISIT



- Home to iconic locomotives and beautiful collections, you can wander through halls and explore the stories, places and engineering marvels behind the railways. See world-changing inventions like *Rocket* and the Japanese Bullet Train. Admire the splendour of royal travel including Queen Victoria's 'palace on wheels' and stand face-to-face with the world's fastest steam locomotive, *Mallard* (<https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/visit>)

English

In your Year 9 English curriculum you'll be studying a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as having the opportunity to develop your reading, writing, speaking and thinking skills. The super-curricular activities below build on your classroom work to give you fresh challenges and expand your knowledge and skills.

DO



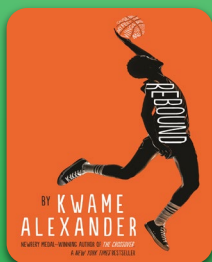
- Write your own diary or blog, expressing your thoughts and feelings
- Play word games, such as Wordle and Wordmeister. A wide range are available here: <https://www.games.co.uk/games/word>
- Write to people and organisations to express your views: the school principal; local newspapers; your local MP; famous figures

WATCH/LISTEN



- Watch YouTube video on the history of the English language <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEH2GkuRIHs>
- Watch 'Noughts and Crosses' on the BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p082w992/noughts-crosses>
- Watch 'The Hate U Give', available on a range of streaming platforms

READ



- Read books suggested on the 'School Reading List' for Yr9 students: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks3-pupils/suggested-reading-list-for-year-9-pupils-ks3-age-13-14>
- Be up to date with current affairs by reading the major news stories each day. Reliable news sites include BBC News (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>), Sky News (<https://news.sky.com/uk>) and The Independent (<https://www.independent.co.uk/>)

VISIT



- Visit a local beauty spot and describe what you experience with all your senses
- Visit your local library and take advantage of resources, activities and competitions
- Visit a bookshop and ask staff for their recommendations. (e.g. Wonderland in Retford, Neverland in Newark and Waterstones in most large towns and cities)

Geography

During Year 9 in Geography you will learn about a range of topics including Development Dilemmas, Asia Ventura : Place Detective and if you choose Geography for GCSE then also Hazards and Rivers. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.



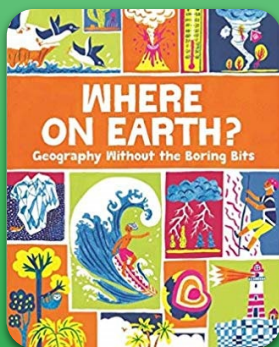
DO

- Investigate and action 5 ways in which you can reduce your carbon footprint
- Litter pick in your local area
- Create a diary entry of someone who may have experienced a major earthquake

WATCH/LISTEN



- Our Perfect Planet - Episode 1 Volcano, Episode 3 - Weather & Episode 5 - Human (BBC iPlayer)
- Russia with Simon Reeve (BBC iPlayer)
- 1 of the following films - San Andreas, The Day after Tomorrow, Impossible or Storm Chasers
- Try to catch The Daily Climate Show on Sky News



READ

- Lost in the Amazon by Tod Olson
- One Half from the East by Nadia Hashimi
- The Disaster Days by Rebecca Behrens
- Aftershocks by Anne Fine
- Song of the River by Gill Lewis

VISIT



- Visit a Asian origin restaurant to experience their food and possibly their customs (Indian, Chinese, Nepalese for example)
- Walk across the Humber Bridge, at the mouth of a river - what do you notice about it, compare it to the rivers around here?
- Visit the Idle Valley nature reserve
- Go flood defences spotting on the River Trent
- Investigate the 3 different courses along a river - maybe start with the upper course in the Peak District.

Global Awareness

During Year 9 in Global Awareness you will learn about a range of topics including relationships, bullying, careers, money management, world issues, current affairs, and many other things. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning



DO

Develop your communication skills by contributing to class discussion, joining debate club or presenting in form time.

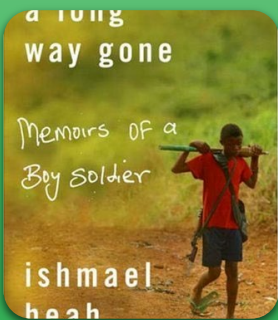
Each week, take a walk in nature and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Start a diary/journal where you reflect on your day/week, and focus on you and how you feel.

WATCH/LISTEN

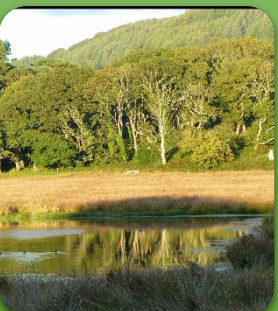


- The evening news once a week.
- The Netflix programme 'My Octopus Teacher', to learn about the mysteries of the deep.
- Listen to 'Science Friday', a source for entertaining news about science - brain fun for curious people.
- Watch BBC's 'Earth' to learn more about the place we call home.



READ

- Aneesa Marufu's *The Balloon Thief*, an epic adventure that explores racism, misogyny and discrimination.
- Judy Blume's *Are you there God? It's me, Margaret*, a book about growing up and the confusing world of religion.
- *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah - a true story of war through a child's eyes.



VISIT

- A Nature reserve, such as Idle Valley.
- Visit and join a local library.
- Switch off phones, TVs and other technology to take a walk, eat, talk or play games with family and friends.
- Join a local club, such as a local choir or sports team.

History

During Year 9 in History you will learn about a range of topics including WWI, Hitler and the Holocaust and then the most significant events since 1945. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

Don't forget to look at the super curricular display in the bridge for some extra meanwhile elsewhere activities!

DO



- Create a model of boat/aircraft/tank that might have been used during WWI or WWII. Why not research all about that specific piece of technology used in war. Lincoln was the birthplace of the tank so why not read about 'Little Willie' and then try and make your own version!
- One of the most important events in the 20th century was the fall of the Berlin Wall - why not make your own version of the Berlin wall and graffiti the reasons why it fell.

WATCH/LISTEN



- 1900-1918: War Horse, Suffragette, Private Peaceful, 1917, Battle of Hill 60
- WWII: Britain's darkest Hour, Battle of Britain, Dunkirk, Imitation game, Goodnight Mr Tom and the railway children
- 1945- Pride, Hidden figures, Let him have it, goodbye Lenin
- **NOTE:** some films do contain violence or scenes you may find upsetting. Make sure you ask your parent/carer before watching them.

READ



- Your reading learning journey in your history book gives lots of ideas of books that would be great to look at to support your learning. These books are a variety of non fiction and fiction.
- Tom Palmer has made many books about this period: Resist, Armistice Runner, After the War, Over the Line, D-Day dog, spitfire, From Auschwitz to Ambleside, Artic Star and Fly boy.

VISIT



- There are a huge number of places that you can visit to support learning about history.
- Locally: Lincoln Battle of Britain Museum and Memorial, Duxford Air museum, Lincolnshire Aviation heritage Centre and Newark Air museum.
- London: Imperial War museum, Science Museum (space race exhibition), and many others!
- Tell us about where you have been and how it has related to what we are studying

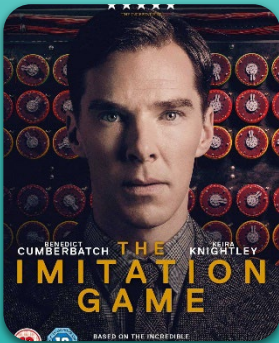
Mathematics

During Year 9 in Mathematics you will learn about a range of topics and how to apply these to problem solving. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.



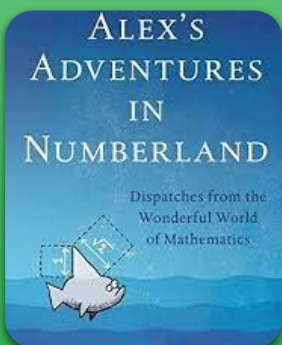
DO

- Complete a sudoku puzzle is a logic-based, combinatorial, number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 subgrids contain all of the digits from 1 to 9.
- Complete a maths puzzle from a newspaper/daily blog.



WATCH/LISTEN

- The '*Imitation game*': The nail-biting race against time by Turing and his code-breaking team during the darkest days of WWII. It is a 12A so ask for permission first.
- **Numberphile** - youtube. Videos about numbers and mathematics. Videos by Brady Haran since 2011.



READ

- **Alex' Adventures in Numberland** by Alex Bellos: This groundbreaking book reclaims maths from the geeks. Mathematical ideas underpin just about everything in our lives: from the surprising geometry of the 50p piece to how probability can help you win in any casino.



VISIT

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum: Thinktank, Birmingham's award winning science museum, offers an enlightening and fun packed day out for the family. You will find four floors of hands-on exhibits and historical collections that will amaze and inspire you, showing you the science of the world all around us.

Philosophy and Ethics

During Year 9 in Philosophy and Ethics you will learn about a range of topics including how people deal with different ethical issues, what GCSE looks like in Year 10 and 11 and whether war causes peace or conflict. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



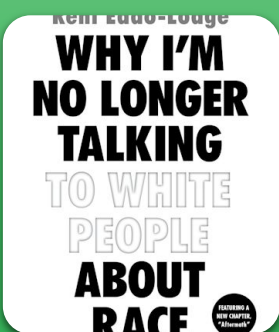
- Find a GCSE Philosophy and Ethics student and ask them 3 questions about the GCSE course before you make your options choices.
- Research and celebrate a religious festival by exploring the things that people do, wear, eat etc.

WATCH/LISTEN



- Watch the movie 'Bend it like Beckham' and consider the issues that the main character faces as a woman and as a Sikh.
- Listen to a podcast from Philosophy24/7. Specifically the 'Avatar' episode about people existing in virtual worlds.

READ



- 'The Hiding Place' by Corrie Ten Boom to see how others are treated even in times of conflict.
- My Sister's keeper by Jodi Picoult to understand how other people make decisions about ethical issues.

VISIT



- Next time you are in a city, take a look at the diversity of the people around you. Compare this to where you live. Do you imagine that the city is more or less accepting of others? Why?

Physical Education

During Key Stage 3 in Physical Education you will learn about a range of topics including; how to overcome an opponent, problem solving, developing and repeating techniques and analysing performances. These will be achieved through sports and activities, including; association football, badminton, handball, gymnastics, trampolining and athletics to name a few. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



- Participate in an Inter College sports event
- Attend an extra-curricular sports club at Tuxford Academy.
- Represent the Academy and your club in a competitive sporting fixture against another school.
- Take part in a recreational activity e.g. cycling, swimming, walking, running.
- Record a physical activity session each week using apps such as Strava or Apple Watch

WATCH/LISTEN



- An annual sporting event e.g. Grand National, FA Cup final, Wimbledon.
- Watch Sports Personality of the Year
- Watch a sports documentary, e.g. The Last Dance, Future of Womens Football
- Watch a youtube clip about a sport which is being studied in a unit of work in PE.
- Watch a programme/documentary around health and well-being

READ



- An autobiography about a sporting icon.
- A sports magazine e.g. cycling/golf/fishing.
- An article from a newspaper focussed on sport.
- The rules associated with sports studied in Physical Education.
- A media platform e.g. BBC Sport

VISIT



- A local leisure centre, e.g. Retford, Ollerton, Newark
- A live sporting event.
- Clumber Park, Sherwood Pines to take part in a 5km park run.
- Any facility associated with sport in the UK e.g. a climbing centre, skiing centre, Sherwood Pines (Red run)
- An international sporting venue e.g. Olympic Stadium, Nou Camp, Wimbledon.

Physics

During Year 9 in Science you will learn about a range of topics including. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



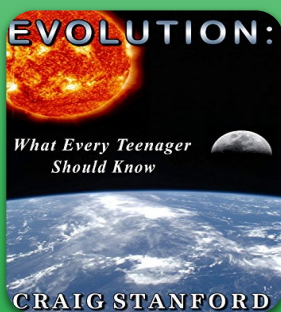
- Go star-gazing on a clear, dark night. Can you spot the International Space Station? Can you identify any constellations?
- Follow the Royal Observatory Greenwich on Twitter to see their live feeds and photos of space

WATCH/LISTEN



- The documentary 8 Days to the Moon and Back - all audio is from the real archives of the first moon landing
- The film The Theory of Everything

READ



- The Physics of Superheroes by James Kakalios - explores whether the powers and feats of the most famous superheroes are plausible

VISIT



- Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester
- Cromford Mills, Matlock Bath (one of the oldest mills in the world and one of the places where the industrial revolution began)
- Eureka!, Halifax (lots of hands-on physics)

MFL

Throughout Year 9 we continue introduce students to the exciting new world of Spanish, French or German speaking countries, exploring their customs and festivals and their way of life. You learn how to sound like a native and by the end of the year you will be able to talk about a multitude of real-life topics and themes! We promote the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. We practise these skills by studying topics on my world, school and free time. You may choose to complete some of the activities listed below to extend upon your classroom learning.

DO



- An app that allows you to learn languages using games <https://www.duolingo.com>
- Start learning today with flashcards, games and learning tools www.quizlet.com or create your own Blooket!
- Complete a task from our cultural menu set for homework.
- Use Memrise - practise a language using video clips of native speakers and fun games.

WATCH/LISTEN



- You can watch any film or a series you already know in the language you study with subtitles. www.languagelearningwithnetflix.com/
- Follow some YouTubers who talk about French, Spanish and German.
- Watch a Disney song in the language you are studying.
- HelloTalk connects you to people who speak the language you want to learn.

READ



- Choose a book from this list to discover new literature from a new culture matadornetwork.com/read/8-foreign-language-books-every-english-speaker-needs-read/
- Read a foreign newspaper.
- Visit this website to practise reading skills www.atantot-extra.co.uk/index.php
- Use spreeder.com to type in a foreign text and outwit the reader - so much fun against the clock!!!

VISIT



- Visit music/dance festivals in Leeds to discover other cultures and traditions. (This is linked to activities suggested by CEA.)
- Visit a Christmas market either in the UK or abroad and look for foreign cuisine and influences.
- Visit Paris, Madrid or Berlin - actually or virtually!
- Visit historical sites when on holiday to know more about the culture.

Super-curricular activities record



As you complete the activities fill in this record. Once you complete **12 activities** you will receive 10 achievement points. You will also be awarded your **open-mindedness badge** (if you haven't already earned it) to reward you for your curiosity.

Your name:

Activity 1

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 2

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 3

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 4

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 5

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 6

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 7

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 8

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 9

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 10

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 11

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:

Activity 12

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?

Parental signature:



Once you have completed 12 activities and filled in this record sheet, cut it out and **give it into your college reception**. You will then receive the open-mindedness badge and 10 achievement points by the end of the half term.