

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Year 9 Curriculum Map: Spring Term 2024



The purpose of this curriculum map is to give you a general outline of what your child is learning in school during this term. We are hoping that this will allow you to support more effectively and further enable you to have an open dialogue about learning. Each department has made suggestions as to activities that will further support learning in their subject 'outside the curriculum'.



Subject	What we learn	Outside the Curriculum
Art	During this term students continue to develop their confidence and creative aptitude by experimenting with a variety of processes and techniques. The area of inspiration is Surrealism. Students will research several artists for inspiration and work with ink, watercolour and discover how to generate original surreal images. They will develop their observational drawing skills and produce a creative outcome.	Practise your drawing and mixed-media skills. Students can also take an interest in photography and practise this skill at home. Visit local art galleries and enjoy seeing art and photography with family and friends.
Computer Science	Python Programming. Students will build upon work done in year 8, solving more complex problems using - Outputs - Inputs and Variable Storage – Sequence - Selection – Iteration. The focus of this unit of work is on getting students to understand the process of developing programs, the importance of writing correct syntax, being able to formulate algorithms for simple programs and debugging their programs. The unit also covers more complex programming skills, that range from accessing an individual element to manipulating the entire sequence. Students will then use the skills learnt to complete a small programming project.	For programming students will use the online Python IDE: https://replit.com/new/python3
Design	In DT students will refine their skills learnt in previous years to make an edge-lit desktop sign. This will involve a wide range of traditional workshop techniques and more modern technology such as CAD and laser cutting. This assignment will also involve wiring, soldering and circuits. Students will then promote the product and produce the necessary packaging. They will move on to design and then cast their own pewter jewellery, pendant or key fob. In Food and Nutrition students will be increasing their skill-base by practising different methods of cooking. This will equip them for feeding themselves and others, healthily in the future as they will be able to transfer the skills and knowledge they gain across a wide variety of recipes. Students will use their skills in the food room to develop their own recipe kit to make a meal suitable for a chosen culture. In Textiles students combine their skills from year 7 and 8 to make a mask based on the theme of culture. Hand stitches are combined with sewing machine skills to get artistic effects. Aqua fleece is used to make a 3D textile object.	Students should watch the following clip on YouTube to reinforce how important DT is to their lives and the world around them. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ILSEDVSAp4 They could also try and use the skills they have learnt in school to make or mend something? How about buying a shelf from a DIY store and putting it up? Naturally, always do these activities with an adult. Practise higher level kitchen skills at home by making a range of bread and pastry products. Develop presentation ideas by watching Great British Bake Off and other cookery programs. Visit a variety of retailers to explore textiles for a range of target markets including high end fashion at the Mailbox and the iconic Selfridges store in the Bullring.
English	In the Spring term we are looking at "Voices and Views" exploring a range of extracts by different writers. Students will be analysing how writers shape their work for specific effects and to appeal to identified audiences as well as drafting and crafting their own writing for a range of purposes. Students will study how writers structure their arguments and use different techniques before experimenting in their own writing and presentations. We are also studying a new unit on novels selected by the students, where they will plan and write an analytical response to their text. The independent aspect of this unit allows students to explore a range of challenging literary texts and develop their essay writing skills.	Students would benefit from supporting their study independently in any of the following ways: reading other texts by the same author they are reading; seeing a performance of a play, including Shakespeare; reading and writing poetry; watching debates where they happen on television (political/ news programmes as well as <i>Room 101</i>) as well as reading discursive editorials in broadsheet newspapers such as <i>The Times</i> or <i>The Independent</i> .
Drama	Students will be building on last term's text work and will develop their understanding of drama techniques and performance styles. They will be using a range of stimuli for their devising tasks and will be introduced to some practitioners and their working styles. They will consistently evaluate their characterisation and analyse the effective use of performance skills to communicate meaning to an audience.	Students could research different drama practitioners such as Stanislavski and Brecht and a history of theatre. They could look at different improvisation games that could be used as potential warm up activities in Drama lessons. Visit the theatre or local productions to experience more live theatre.
French	During the Spring Term, students will explore the imperfect tense to compare what life was like in the past, and what life is like now. They will explore this through describing themselves, school life, and the world. In the second half of the spring term, students will go on to describe their lifestyle considering different diets, healthy habits and environmental actions.	Use online website such as www.linguascope.com to revise and extend key vocabulary and www.languagesonline.org.uk to practise verb tenses. Reading French books/ magazines in the school library and language classrooms. Embrace the wide offer of movies and TV shows in French streaming platforms.
Geography	In the first half of the spring term students will be studying a unit on Europe ; investigating a range of human and physical geography topics such as our energy mix, living near volcanoes, the EU and dark tourism. Then we will focus on The Middle East , studying its physical geography and resources such as oil and water.	Investigate Dubai's Palm Island – how was it constructed? What problems has it faced? Would you consider this to be sustainable development?

History	Aspects of the Twentieth Century. Students will be given the opportunity to study various aspects of the twentieth century between 1945-75, the main focus will be the Cold War and how it developed.	Why not read 'The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared' by Jonas Jonasson.
Maths	In Number , we convert between fractions and decimals including converting recurring decimals to fractions. We look at rational and irrational numbers. We calculate the bounds and error intervals of both rounded and truncated values. In addition, we will begin to explore the manipulation of surds. In Algebra , we substitute values into and rearrange a wide variety of formulae. We look at simultaneous equations by algebraic and graphical means. Linear inequalities are introduced. Our sequence work is extended to look at Geometric sequences, including those involving surds. In Geometry , we extend our work on transformations to include enlargements with negative scale factors. We will combine the transformations of reflection, rotation, translation and enlargement and work on inverse transformations.	All students have a log-in and password for the Dr Frost website through which they can find maths challenge papers, puzzles and further thinking questions. TEAMS will include student support booklets for each unit of work studied.
Music	During the first half term students will be studying jazz and improvisation . Students will listen to a range of jazz style pieces from different decades of the 20 th century and identify musical characteristics. Students will learn to improvise on the keyboard (or their own instrument if they prefer). They will then use the skills they have learnt to compose a jazz style piece. In the second half term students will look at the Music of South Asia , learning about how raga and taal are used as the basis of classical music in the region. Students will then improvise using raga and composing their own pieces using features studied in lessons on the music computer program Sibelius. Students will also listen to and discuss other musical styles from the region, including Bhangra.	Join an extra-curricular music group (Gospel Choir, Chamber Choir, String Ensemble, Sinfonia, or one of the Wind Ensembles). If you haven't got a keyboard at home you may like to consider getting one – they are not too expensive and are a fun and easy way to develop your Music skills. Listen to music on the radio– try to listen to music in a different style / genre to which you are used to. Attend a live performance or concert: http://www.thsh.co.uk/events
PE	During the spring term students will follow a course in fitness, football and either badminton or tag rugby. Students will also have the opportunity to perform at the 'Evening of Dance' in February. Students will have the opportunity to continue to develop confidence at umpiring/refereeing and taking on leadership roles. Students are encouraged to develop and use their analysis skills and develop key characteristics needed to be an effective coach, learning how to give feedback and make decisions to help improve performance.	Look out for our extra-curricular activities weekly plan and join in some of the activities. Get involved in the Evening of Dance. Make sure that you are making every effort to take part in regular exercise. A minimum of 1 hour a day is recommended. Research different sporting activities to try out in our area. Visit the www.change4life website for ideas on how to improve your active, healthy lifestyle. Watch the videos, take the tests and work as a family. Watch top class performances live, on the TV or on the internet to help your own performance and to see how the officials and coaches carry out their roles. Listen to how the experts analyse performance. Feedback is vital to help you to learn. BBC Sports Academy has a wealth of information.
Religious Studies	In the first half of the term, students will be continuing their work on investigating whether or not God exists . They will be grappling with many philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God, and will consider their own personal thoughts on the issue. In the second half of the term students will investigate ideas about Spirituality . They will consider spiritual concepts and debate whether you need to be religious to be spiritual . Students will develop their skills in evaluation and learn how to argue in a concise and effective manner. Students will be encouraged to discuss their own beliefs as well as show empathy for the beliefs of others.	What do you all believe at home about the existence of God? How could someone counter your beliefs? Discuss as a family. http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/0/ has lots of links to current religious and philosophical debates that students could follow. It is useful for them to be able to see how RS impacts upon real life situations.
Science	Biology: Students will be working through the organisation topic looking at how the various organs systems work in the Human body Chemistry: Students will begin by looking at the development of the periodic table and the properties and reactions of certain groups in the table. They will then go on to study the different types of bonding within materials and learn why the arrangement of atoms in a material dictates its properties. Special emphasis will be placed on the importance of nanotechnology. Physics: As part of GCSE Physics, students will complete the topic on energy, including conservation of energy, energy efficiency, heat transfer, and forces and energy. They will start studying waves, including water waves and wave speed.	There are several podcasts that can support students with these topic areas that can be found here GCSE Science podcasts - The organisation of plants and animals - BBC Bitesize Students could research the uses and benefits of nanotechnology, paying particular attention to news reports and documentaries. Students could look for ways in which their home is insulated. They could visit websites such as https://www.uswitch.com/insulation/guides/insulation-types/ and see how insulation can be improved. Also, when on journeys, look out for examples of renewable energy installation such as wind turbines and solar panels.
Spanish	Claro 1 Unit 6 : Talking about the subjects you study and giving your opinions on them using a variety of phrases; describing a school timetable; talking about school facilities; discussing extracurricular activities; talking about future plans. Students will learn some complex grammatical structures to enhance their speaking and writing.	Students are encouraged to use the website www.languagesonline.org.uk to practise material learned in class. It is also useful for students to engage in conversations in Spanish with friends.