

# YEAR 9 DEEP LEARNING

OPTIONS BOOKLET 2026



# INTRODUCTION

Our Year 9 Deep Learning programmes are part of our personalised, enriching, and ambitious curriculum commitment to all students. Deep Learning courses are designed to build confident learners and employability skills - leadership and coaching, teamwork, written and verbal communication, organisation, problem-solving and initiative - that will prepare you for future success in your GCSEs, further education, work and life.

You will follow one Deep Learning course alongside your core subjects in year 9. We understand that you all have your own particular talents and interests, so we operate an option system where, dependent on demand and staffing, we will allow you to follow your preferred course. If we feel that you would benefit from studying one course in particular, we will discuss this with you.

You will be asked to rank the available subjects on a simple online form sent to your school email, and will be allocated to a course based on your preferences.





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# 05. ACTING SKILLS

Lead teacher: Ms Lupton



On this course, you will build your confidence and creativity by participating in various acting exercises and activities, providing opportunities for you to draw inspiration from professional performers and to share your skills with others. You will visit the theatre and see live productions as well as create your own.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will build on your existing knowledge and understanding of dramatic convention as well as improving your performance skills and confidence. You will explore scripts practically as well as devise your own pieces and learn how to critically evaluate your own skills, as well as those of others.

You will gain extensive performance experience as well as a greater understanding of the performance process as a whole. You will learn skills such as vocal projection and clarity, characterisation and improvisation, and have the opportunity to explore your own imagination.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Vocal Skills
- Physicality
- Performing a script
- Devising

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ACTING SKILLS?

You should choose this option if you enjoy working collaboratively to create interesting and original work, learning about the inner workings of theatre, and performing to an audience. Qualifications in drama are useful in any career which requires confidence, teamwork and communication.

# 06. DANCE

Lead teacher: Mrs Little



In dance, you will build your confidence and creativity by participating in dance activities, providing opportunities for you to draw inspiration from professional dancers and choreographers, and to share your skills with others.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

On this course, you will participate in a variety of skills-based workshops where you will study different styles of dance and learn about a range of professional choreographers. You will learn the components of dance, develop skills and techniques to improve your ability to perform, and devise dances. You will gain performance experience as well as a deeper understanding of the performance process. You will have the chance to choreograph your own routines and lead your peers to perform and share your work in front of other students, and occasionally, live audiences.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Components of Dance (action, space, dynamics, relationships, etc)
- Dance Styles and their History
- Choreographic Devices
- Arts Inspiration (research and presentation)

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE DANCE?

You should choose dance if you enjoy practical lessons, working collaboratively with others, sharing ideas, and being creative. Qualifications in dance can lead to careers in film, TV, advertisements, stunts, personal training, and the arts. Choosing dance will allow your confidence to grow, help strengthen your communication skills, decision-making and ability to evaluate.

# 07. LANGUAGE SUPERPOWERS



*Lead teacher: Mr Walters*

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

On this course, you will explore a variety of world languages and cultures through games, challenges, presentations, music, and communication activities. You will develop confidence in speaking, listening, teamwork, and leadership while improving your understanding of French and other global languages. You will also explore different cultures from around the world, including music, traditions, and cuisine, with opportunities to sample foods from different countries as part of the course. You will also have opportunities to work with younger students and develop valuable presentation and collaboration skills.



## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- How languages connect and influence each other
- Pronunciation, patterns, and decoding unfamiliar words
- Languages in music, media, and popular culture
- Travel and real-world communication skills
- Translation, quizzes, and language challenges
- Student-led language presentations
- Famous multilingual people and global careers

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE THIS COURSE?

You should choose this course if you enjoy communication, culture, and discovering new ways to connect with the world. Languages can lead to careers in travel, business, teaching, media, diplomacy, and cybersecurity. You may also have opportunities to take part in competitions such as the GCHQ (where actual spies work), Language Challenge, where language and problem-solving skills are used together in real-world scenarios.

# 08. MUSIC COMPOSITION

Lead teacher: Mrs Richardson



This course will give you an hands-on experience of different composition techniques, how they can be used to create different genres of music, and how you can compose in them using the same tech and software used by professional music artists and producers.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will learn different starting techniques for composition, including how to compose from melodies, rhythms, chord sequences. It will show you how music can be built up from starting ideas, how to notate musical ideas and use the computers to help record your work. You will have a go at writing your own song to a given genre using these ideas that might include keyboard, drums, guitars and vocals.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Chance Music
- Pop Music
- Ground Bass
- Film soundtracks

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE MUSIC?

It will give you an idea of how to use music technology to record compositions. It is good if you have an interest in the use of ICT in music, and you will get the opportunity to write and record your own songs towards the end of the year.

# 09. PROGRAMMING CLUB

Lead teacher: Mrs Eastwood



In Programming Club, you'll dive into the world of coding using different languages to create programs that solve real problems - like designing a homework-excuse generator, a joke maker, a custom password creator, or even tools to help run a business. You'll also develop and build your own maze, puzzle, and action-packed games!

## GET READY TO UNLOCK THE SKILLS THAT REAL TECH PROFESSIONALS USE EVERY DAY!

You'll work as part of a creative team, using your communication, problem-solving and design skills to produce an entry for the **SCA Games Design Competition**. Not only will your team create a game idea - you'll pitch and present your concept directly to industry experts, just like real game designers do. You'll also have the chance to compete in the **UK Bebras Challenge**, a national programming competition that puts your logical thinking to the test.

Along the way, you'll master text-based programming with Python, build your own website using HTML, and create interactive games in block-based languages like Scratch. You'll also explore how networks work - how computers communicate, how data travels around the world, and how security keeps everything running safely.

You'll learn the principles of professional web design, developing digital products that are trustworthy, well-designed and easy to use. And with strong digital literacy at the heart of everything you'll do, you'll gain practical, lifelong IT skills that will support you in school, future studies and the world of work.

# 10. SPORTS LEADERS

Lead teacher: Miss Brooks



## BECOMING A SPORTS LEADER

Our Sports Leadership qualification is designed to use sport and physical activity to help you develop and enhance your leadership skills, whilst helping yourself and others stay physically active.

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE WILL I GAIN?

You will be undertaking the '**Sports Leaders UK: I can lead**' qualification. You will learn and demonstrate important life skills such as:

- Effective communication
- Organisation
- Teamwork
- Confidence
- Performance analysis
- Coaching

All this whilst learning to lead basic physical activities to younger people, your peers, older generations and within the community!

## BECOMING AN ACTIVE LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY

The sessions use sport to deliver fun and engaging physical activities with other students and within the community. You will plan, lead and evaluate sports and physical activity sessions over a number of taught hours and then demonstrate your leadership skills as part of your assessment. This specialism develops confident, healthy leaders through sport and physical activity.



# II. SOCIAL SCIENCES

Lead teacher: Mrs Dymond



Social science is the branch of science devoted to the study of human societies, behaviour, and relationships. It investigates how people interact, behave, and influence the world around them. This subject will teach you about how people grow and develop throughout their lives, how we can help people with different needs, how people interact socially, culturally; and careers linked to the areas of childcare, sociology and health and social care. Key disciplines include childcare, health and social care, sociology, psychology.

## TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Research the life of a famous celebrity
- Learn about further education and careers in social science
- Explore health and safety issues
- Learn how to feed someone with dignity and respect
- Explore ideas of disability and additional needs
- Find out how toys / TV programmes / story books can influence growth and development
- Investigate effects of regional/cultural differences
- Understand what safeguarding is
- Consider how gender affects education and society
- Learn about how different cultures and countries punish criminals
- Debate whether we should have the death penalty in the UK
- Investigate whether nature or nurture has the greatest impact on growth and development.

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE SOCIAL SCIENCES?

Social science is about “real life”. This course will give you an understanding of how and why people behaviour or act in particular ways – knowledge that could help you in many future jobs or careers. In addition, you will develop employability skills such as leadership and teamwork, communication skills (written and verbal), problem-solving and initiative, organisation and interpersonal skills. You will take part in debates and be encouraged to express your opinions on a variety of topics; complete group research and projects that you will present to the rest of the group; use your creative skills to write a children’s book; use your skills and empathy to feed an “elderly person” with dignity and respect.

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