



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome to Year 9

This letter aims to provide you with an overview of year 9 in order for you to have an understanding of the curriculum, pastoral work and key dates for the year. You will be provided with further details of any specific events nearer to the time.

Pastoral overview

This year there will be an emphasis on GCSE preparation, organisation and independence for all students. We will be running a variety of active tutoring sessions for students to engage with and will be encouraging organisation and independence around school to prepare them for the world of employment.

We are also focusing on students' attitude to learning (ATL) in lessons. We have five descriptors which students are working towards; these are 'willing to learn, reflective, determined, resilient and self-motivated'. Students can demonstrate outstanding attitudes in class by being focused, paying attention at all times, producing high quality written work, setting themselves goals to achieve, not giving up and reflecting upon their work and actions in the classroom. As a year group, our focus this term is to demonstrate more reflective and resilient behaviours.

In addition to this, we are also focusing on employability skills. Students are learning to demonstrate key skills that will enable them to be successful in the workplace after full time education. We will be asking students to provide examples inside and out of school when they have shown self-motivation, aspiration, accountability and entrepreneurial traits.

The following table gives a list of the year 9 pastoral team. Please make contact with your child's tutor if you have any questions or concerns that relate directly to the welfare or progress of your child. If they are unable to assist you in your query, they will pass it on to the head of year. For any general or attendance queries please continue to use the contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk email or phone the main school reception. Our office hours are Monday and Tuesday 7.30am – 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 7.30am – 4pm and Friday 7.30 – 3pm.

Mrs K. Gray is the senior leader who oversees all pastoral work and Mr J. Tomasevic is the senior leader linked to the curriculum and achievement of this year group.

| Role | Name | Contact details |
|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Head of Year | Miss Suzanne Detton | sdetton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk 0115 896 4949 |
| Tutor of 9.1 | Miss S Dickson | sdickson@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk |
| Tutor of 9.2 | Mrs G Johal | gjohal@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk |
| Tutor of 9.3 | Dr L Whotton | lwhotton@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk |
| Tutor of 9.4 | Mr G Landa | glanda@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk |

All students spend the first 20 minutes of each day with their tutor; the table shows the overview of the activities undertaken during this time.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Positives and Negatives Attendance Planner signing | Active Tutoring | Assembly | Numeracy Ninjas/Employability | Quiz/Literacy/Current Affairs/Tune of the week |

This year your child will develop an understanding of the following topics through our active tutoring programme:

- *Charity focus*
- *European day of languages*
- *Black History Month*
- *National Poetry day*
- *Careers*
- *Online safety*
- *Anti-bullying*
- *Equality*
- *Mental Health*
- *Assessment preparation*
- *British Values*
- *How to be a good citizen*
- *PRIDE Month*
- *Employability*
- *Air pollution*
- *Plastic pollution*
- *Literacy and Numeracy*
- *Attitude to Learning*

Curriculum

Year 9 sees our pupils begin their GCSE curriculum journey by learning new knowledge and skills for each of their core and options subjects. Given this new level of academic challenge, students need to understand the increased importance of having an excellent attitude to learning in all lessons and completing all set homework. It is essential that all pupils use their knowledge organisers in study sessions to become better at factual recall, while continuing to enjoy the varied enrichment curriculum that we offer. Please refer to the attached year overview for a more detailed summary of the Year 9 curriculum. There are also knowledge organisers and further details available on the website (click the study support link on our website homepage).

In year 9, students are invited to take part in an enrichment pathway that will develop a suite of employability skills and/or provide them with a qualification. Some pathways consist of a different topic each term (e.g life skills: First Aid, Basic Food Hygiene and Hospitality) and some take a whole year (Duke of Edinburgh).

With respect to the GCSE timetable, year 9 pupils are placed in sets for English, maths and science and are taught in largely mixed ability classes for all other subjects. All pupils are challenged and supported in equal measure so that they maximise their potential by the end of key stage 4. We decide which set a pupil is placed in by using their formal assessment data as well as knowledge of their classwork. We regularly review the settings and make decisions to move pupils when necessary.

Key Dates

The table below shows the key dates for this year group. All key dates can be seen on the school website under the information tab and further events may be added during the course of the year.

| Date | Event |
|------------------|--|
| 18 October 2019 | Year 9 Ambition Trip to the University of Nottingham |
| 23 October 2019 | Achievement Assembly |
| 10 December 2019 | Whole school pantomime trip |
| 13 December 2109 | Christmas Achievement Assembly |
| 12 February 2020 | Tutor Review Day |
| 13 February 2020 | Achievement Assembly |
| 26 February 2020 | Year 8 & 9 Vaccinations |
| 01 April 2020 | Easter Achievement Assembly |
| 02 April 2020 | Year 9 Parents Evening |
| 20 April 2020 | Year 8 & 9 Vaccinations |
| 01 May 2020 | Vaccinations for year 9 |
| 20 May 2020 | Achievement Assembly |

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|---------------|---|
| 22 May 2020 | Year 9 & 10 Reward non-uniform day |
| 03 June 2020 | Year 9 Holocaust trip |
| 08 July 2020 | Sports Day |
| 14. July 2020 | Achievement Assembly and Attendance party |
| 16 July 2020 | Summer Concert |

We hope that you find this information useful and please do refer to the school website for further general information, the email address contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk to contact the school office or your child's tutor (as above) for individual queries.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Brown
Head of School

Mrs K. Gray
Senior leader – pastoral

Mr J. Tomasevic
Senior leader

Miss S. Detton
Head of Year