



ISLEWORTH &
SYON SCHOOL
FINIS CORONAT OPUS

YEAR 8 MINI-OPTIONS 2024-25



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

We continue with our drive of maximising outcomes for all students. Up to now, your son/ward has been studying a wide range of subjects in Years 7 and 8.

There are increased demands with GCSEs, and an even sharper focus on core subjects. Therefore, we are going to provide further time in Year 9 for some chosen subjects, to improve knowledge, understanding and develop application so higher levels of progress can still be made.

To find this time for more in-depth study of subjects, your son/ward needs to make some choices of study in Year 9. The choices are:

Two subjects from: **computing, geography and history**

and

Two subjects from: **art, design & technology, drama and music**

Students will make four choices, as well as three reserve choices. Your reserve selections must not be the same as your previous choices. Please note that all options are preferences, but they cannot be guaranteed.

In Year 9, the four chosen subjects will then have increased lesson time, while the other three subjects will not appear on your son/ward's timetable. The focus on the selected subjects will be to develop the knowledge, application, and skills to be highly successful at GCSE and then at post-16 level, if appropriate. Creative subjects in particular form a vital part of a broad and balanced curriculum and our intention is that all students develop an appreciation for life-long learning in many areas. We still encourage students to make time for personal interests and hobbies at home and through the range of extra-curricular opportunities at school.

This information booklet provides more details on the subjects available. Information on the process, some frequently asked questions and the key dates are contained within.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via email:

smcalinden@isleworthsyon.org.

Thank you for your support.



Mr S McAlinden
Assistant Headteacher - Year 8 & 9



Block One

The online form will ask you to pick your TWO preferred choices from Block One plus ONE reserve.

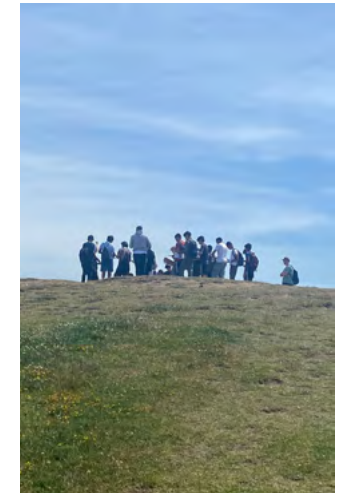
Computing

Students will focus on the three strands of the computing curriculum, through project-based activities. These strands are:

- Computer science
- Information technology
- Digital literacy

Through these strands, students will be developing the necessary practical skills to support progress throughout Year 9 and further into Key Stage 4. Throughout the projects, students will also be taught the theory and knowledge behind each of the areas listed below.

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Programming
- Computer systems and networks
- Cybersecurity



History

Students will develop use of three main historical skills used at GCSE - knowledge and understanding, explanation and analysis, analysis of source utility - through these units:

WORLD WAR I

- Reasons for WWI
- Trench warfare
- Legacy of WW1

INTERWAR YEARS & THE RISE OF HITLER

- Treaty of Versailles
- Russian Revolution
- Rise of Hitler & Nazi Germany

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

- Main events of World War 2
- Truman & Hiroshima
- Reasons for dropping the bomb and its effects

GENOCIDE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

- The Holocaust
- Rwandan genocide
- Bosnian genocide

ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

- Reasons for the conflict
- Events and life in Israel & Palestine
- Legacy of the Arab Israeli Conflict

Geography

In Year 9, students will be developing transferable skills which will support English, maths and science, and develop your ability to debate and form an opinion through geographical investigations. Through the Year 9 course, students will learn about major issues facing society at the moment, including climate change, aid and natural hazards. Year 9 units include:

LIFE ON THE EDGE

This unit considers the different ecosystems around the world and the influence of human activity on them.

FIELDWORK

This unit allows students to apply their geographical understanding outside the classroom.

CHANGING WORLD

This unit looks at climate change and the impact that this is having on our society and the environment.

DOES AID HELP?

This is the study of development around the world, how countries interact with each other and the implications that aid has on those communities.

HAZARDOUS WORLD

This unit studies the cause, impact and management of natural hazards globally, including tectonic and climatic events.

Block Two

The online form will ask you to pick your TWO preferred choices from Block Two plus TWO reserves.

Art & Design

Art & design encourages students to be both adventurous and enquiring, at the same time as being expressive with their work.

In Year 9, students will get the opportunity to develop practical skills with project-based activities as well as exploring the work of art from different times and cultures.

They will also be taught to pay attention to presentation and detail in their finished work, the perfect preparation for GCSEs.



Year 9 art & design projects will include:

- Dragons and skateboards
- 'Day of the Dead'
- Mixed media collage work
- Pop art
- Print making



Design & Technology

Students will engage in a variety of creative and practical activities. They will be taught the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in an iterative process of designing and making. In particular, students will develop their abilities in the following areas:

- Embedding programmable electronic devices into an electronic product
- Using Computer-Aided Design to produce realistic 3D images of product ideas.



- Using different mechanisms to transfer both forces and motion within a product of your own design
- Presenting design ideas and manufacturing plans using both orthographic and isometric drawing techniques
- Using different electronic input, output and processing components
- Using a laser cutter and CNC (Computer Numerical Control) router to manufacture a product.



Drama

The focus in Year 9 is on developing the key drama skills of rehearsal, performance, analysis and evaluation. Students will apply these skills to more challenging, mature and adventurous work. The course is split into:

- Interpreting and performing scripted drama, which is applied in a GCSE-style performance assessment of a piece of scripted drama.
- Developing the ability to work as an independent ensemble of performers.
- Developing skills to write constructively and incisively about performance.

- A focus on how drama skills and techniques can be applied to the scenarios related to a true crime case.

Year 9 drama projects will include:

- An actor prepares
- Scripted project
- Modern practitioners
- Devising project
- Writing about performance
- Justice and drama

Music

The focus in Year 9 is on developing musicianship through the acts of performing, appraising and composing - the three key strands studied at GCSE level.

Students will explore several different genres of music, different instruments and advanced aspects of music technology. Year 9 music projects will include:

- African Drumming - advanced rhythm (performance focus)
- Popular song - composing original songs and arrangements
- Ground Bass and variations (performance focus)
- Riffs & Loops - performing and composing using music technology
- Latin American fusion (performance focus)
- Music for special events (composing tracks for a school album)

Next Steps

FRIDAY 3 MAY	Year 8 information assembly about Mini-Options process. Electronic booklet emailed to students and parents/carers.
FRIDAY 10 MAY	Online form emailed to students.
FRIDAY 17 MAY	Deadline for completing online form.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT ARE THE BEST REASONS FOR CHOOSING MY SUBJECTS?

- You enjoy these subjects.
- You are good at these subjects.
- They may link to future career aspirations.

IF I DROP A SUBJECT NOW, CAN I STILL TAKE IT AS A GCSE OPTION?

It will be possible to study a subject in Year 10 if you have not studied it in Year 9. However, you will need to show that you have continued to develop your skills in this area, through other activities inside and/or outside of school.

I AM HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING - WHAT CAN I DO?

- Speak to your subject teachers, your form tutor, and/or Mr McAlinden.
- Research careers, apprenticeships and degrees linked to the subjects that you are interested in (Unifrog).





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