



MARLING
SCHOOL

KS3 OPTIONS 2025-26

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

- 2025-26 Year 9 - KS3 Options -

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ART AND DESIGN

Why study Art and Design?

Art stimulates both sides of the brain and allows pupils to learn to use their senses. It promotes self-esteem, while teaching pupils to respect the individual identities of those around them. Pupils are encouraged to think openly and to have confidence in their opinions on life and the world around us. Art represents a culture of questioners rather than a culture of responders and through enquiry pupils often offer more than one solution to a problem.

Art provides a common ground across racial stereotypes, barriers and prejudices. Studying art gives pupils the chance to learn how to think critically. Since most questions regarding a piece of art do not have a specific answer, pupils are encouraged to come up with their own solutions to questions. This process is a good way to practise and hone pupils' critical thinking skills, and is something that can be used throughout life.

In year 9 the emphasis will be given to the production of 'units' of work showing a sustained line of enquiry in a number of endorsements within the Art and Design suite. This will include modules in:

- **Fine Art** – Drawing, Painting, Mixed-media, Printmaking.
- **Graphic Communication** - Design for print, Advertising and Branding, Package Design, Typography, Illustration.
- **Photography** – Location Photography, Studio Photography, Experimental imagery using Adobe Suite.
- **Three-Dimensional Design** – Relief, sculpture.

Good planning, reference gathering, use of media and presentation will be encouraged to further pupils understanding of the methodology required to access the GCSE Art and Design suite. Pupils should be able to make a valid assessment of their potential for success on a GCSE course. All work is continually assessed and may be considered for the portfolio submission in Year 11.

Course content:

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes and new media and technologies. It is a course where pupils can work in appropriate art, craft and design disciplines. Pupils will be expected to extend their knowledge and practical skills outside class contact time to support each module.

Fine Art – Pupils will explore a range of disciplines within Fine Art which will allow them to respond aesthetically and intellectually to a given theme. They will communicate their ideas through visual and tactile elements such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, composition, rhythm, scale, structure and surface through drawing, painting, mixed-media and printmaking.

Graphic Communication – Pupils will develop skills to realise personal intentions relevant to graphic communication including how sources relate to a given brief which will have a commercial focus specific to the creative industries. Pupils will look at different forms of representation, brand identity, intended message, target audience and working with clear parameters determined by audience expectations and requirements. They will communicate their ideas through visual and



tactile elements such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, pattern, composition, stylisation, simplification, scale and structure.

Photography – Pupils will develop skills to realise personal intentions relevant to Photography by using digital methods. They will spend some time in specialist rooms, which will enable them to submit a variety of work exploring techniques and processes, using new technologies including Adobe Creative Suite. Responses to these will be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate the pupils' understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

Three-Dimensional design – Pupils will use relevant three-dimensional design to develop personal intentions to a set theme. Ideas and intentions will include the use of figurative and non-figurative forms of representation, stylisation, simplification, exaggeration, the relationship between form and surface embellishment, constructional considerations and imaginative interpretation and will evidence the following visual and tactile elements such as colour, line, form, tone, texture, space, proportion, decoration, scale structure, shape and pattern.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why study Computer Science?

Computer science is a fascinating and rewarding subject that will equip you with valuable skills for the future. By studying computer science, you will learn how to design, develop and test software, algorithms and systems that solve real-world problems. You will also explore the principles and concepts that underpin computing, such as logic, data structures, networks and artificial intelligence. If you are interested in how computers work and how they can be used to improve our lives, then computer science is the subject for you.

Course Content

This course will allow you to deepen your understanding of programming, allowing you to grow your independence and apply your creativity to developing programs. The course will give you a taster of what studying GCSE Computer Science is like, so you are able to work out if it is the option for you whilst also acting as a bridging course to the GCSE. We will build on the topics that you have covered in Years 7 and 8 to enhance your knowledge and understanding of Computer Science.

By studying Computer Science you will:

- Build on your programming skills, learning to program in Python.
- Apply your programming knowledge to real life problems such as AI, Machine Learning and Cyber Security.
- Learn to work with your peers to design, develop, debug and refine programs being able to increasingly apply your creativity e.g. Machine Learning models and game development.
- Discuss new technologies, the ethical implications and how they impact our everyday lives.

But won't I be studying Computer Science anyway?

As part of the core curriculum, you will have 1 lesson of Computer Science on your timetable across a fortnight. This will mainly focus on Digital Literacy skills and E-Safety. If you have enjoyed studying Computer Science in Year 7 and 8 and would like to learn more about programming, problem solving and how the computer works. If you have a passion for programming, developing new projects and would like to learn more, Computer Science might be the right choice for you.

Future Pathways

Computer science opens many opportunities for further study and career development in fields such as engineering, science, medicine, business, education and entertainment. Many courses such as engineering at university require some form of computer programming so this course may be a great place to develop your skillset. You will also develop your creativity, critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills, which link to many other subjects, and you career beyond school.



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Course contents

The Course will give you the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Why choose this course?

The course is highly practical and involves experimental work as well as learning how to cook a variety of highly skilled dishes. If you are interested in nutrition, then this is the course for you as you will be learning about the requirements of the human body and is a great support for anyone looking at medical school in the future.



MUSIC

In Year 9, the emphasis of music lessons will continue to focus on the development of **performing**, **composing** and **listening** skills. This will be achieved through the study of a wide variety of musical styles, including popular music, film music, and classical music, and students can explore their own musical cultures in an arrangement task. The course aims to equip students with a body of musical knowledge, skills and vocabulary, along with numerous opportunities to perform as a soloist, and as part of an ensemble.

Why Choose Music in Year 9?

Develop Valuable Skills: Studying music isn't just about playing notes; it's about discipline, teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance. These skills are not only valuable in the world of music but also in all aspects of life. Learning music has been linked to improved cognitive abilities, including enhanced memory, attention, and problem-solving skills.

Cultural Awareness: Dive into the diverse Year 9 Music curriculum, from classical to contemporary, jazz to rock, and other musical fusions from around the world. Explore different genres, cultures, and styles, and broaden your musical horizons.

Boost Your Confidence: Performing in front of an audience, whether it's a small group or a large crowd, builds confidence and self-assurance. Year 9 Music offers numerous performing opportunities to showcase your musical talents in a supportive environment! Experiencing music in a live setting can enhance musical appreciation and understanding.

Join a Vibrant Community: Music brings people together! Whether you're a Grade 5 pianist, a beginner Guitarist, or passionate about Music Technology; in Year 9 music classes, you'll be part of a supportive community of fellow musicians, where you can share your passion, collaborate on projects and even form your own band!

What to Expect in Year 9 Music:

Instrumental Instruction: You don't need to play an instrument to take part in Year 9 Music lessons. We encourage students to further develop keyboard skills from Years 7 and 8, and with more opportunities for group work in Year 9 Music, you are also offered the opportunity to bring in your own instrument, or use department instruments, to further explore musical performance and composition, at a level that suits your musical ability.

Film Music Composition: Discover the art of composing your own movie soundtrack! From arranging to writing melodies, you'll have the opportunity to unleash your creativity and bring your musical ideas to life, using either live instruments or music technology such as Bandlab.

Music Theory and History: Delve into the fundamentals of music theory and explore the rich history of musical traditions. You will gain a deeper understanding of how music works, the cultural contexts in which it thrives, and the historical significance of different musical periods.



Active Listening: Year 9 Music will further develop your understanding of the elements of music, such as melody, harmony, rhythm, and instruments, through a range of listening activities, where you will analyse and discuss different aspects of a piece of music.

Access to Resources: Take advantage of state-of-the-art facilities, including practice rooms, recording studios, and a vast library of sheet music and audio recordings!

Technology Integration: There will be more opportunities for you to incorporate technology tools such as music streaming platforms, virtual instruments, and digital audio workstations into your music lessons.

The Year 9 Music topics include:

Film Music

Musical arrangements and cover versions of a range of works

The Beatles

Composition

Western Classical Traditions

Music Theory

Future Pathways

Studying Music in Year 9 will equip you with the skills needed for further study at GCSE and beyond. While not every student may pursue a career in music, the skills acquired through music education are highly transferable and applicable to a wide range of professions. From critical thinking to problem-solving, creativity to collaboration, music education prepares you for success in any field you choose to pursue.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why study Physical education?

- If you have an interest and passion in playing regular and competitive sport.
- Are considering studying GCSE PE or Sport in higher education - e.g. A Level PE and at university.
- If you are interested in a career in PE/Sport teaching, sports coaching, sports lecturing, sports management, physiotherapy, sports nutrition & personal training.
- Want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise.
- Want to improve your own performance in a range of sports roles.

COURSE CONTENT:

Theoretical content:

- Unit 1 - Introduction to body systems and principles of training in health and fitness.
- Unit 2 - Preparing and planning for Health and Fitness.

Content:

Unit 1: Introduction to body systems and the principles of training in health and fitness

- **What's assessed:**
 1. Understand the structure and functions of the body systems and how they apply to health and fitness.
 2. Understand the effects of health and fitness activities on the body.
 3. Understand health and fitness and the components of fitness.
 4. Understand the principles of training.

Unit 2: Preparing and Planning for Health and Fitness

- **What's assessed:**
 1. Understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness.
 2. Understand how to test and develop components of fitness.
 3. Understand how to apply health and fitness analysis and set goals.
 4. Understand the structure of a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely.



LATIN

Why begin to study Latin in Y9?

For a few hundred years shy of 3,000, Latin has been a spoken language constantly developing other languages since its use in the Roman Empire. It is the source of many words in the English dictionary and has had a profound impact on words in the European Union.

Reasons to learn:

1. Understanding Your Language

A great deal of the English vocabulary has been derived from Latin words. By learning where these words came from, you gain a deeper appreciation of the language, and a greater understanding of what impact words actually have. English isn't the only language that has derived words and meanings from Latin. A great deal of European words and meanings have been assimilated into cultural languages. It is a testament to how much of an impact the Roman Empire had centuries ago when civilized cultures were forming. Learning Latin will therefore help you with your French/German/Spanish.

2. In the Know

A lot of Latin words and phrases are still in use today. Understand the real meaning of "ad hoc" can help those understand computer networking better, for example. Knowing what the meaning of these used phrases that are still in use could help in many areas of your life such as: law, medicine, and politics. By understanding Latin, you could prevent becoming a victim to misunderstanding.

3. Bragging Rights

It's not every day that you run into someone who can read or even speak Latin! It's a rare and well-respected skill.

4. Developing your knowledge of an Ancient Culture

It is such a thrill to learn about the Romans – they were such a fascinating people. By developing our knowledge using sources, especially those written for example by an infantry soldier stationed on Hadrian's Wall 2000 years ago, we gain an insight into Roman daily life. *(Adapted from an article by Ken Myers on Omniglot.com)*

5. Learning Latin at Marling is fantastic!

We follow the Cambridge Latin Course which teaches Latin through a series of stories set in Pompeii, Roman Britain and Egypt. Class sizes are generally small but mighty. But don't be fooled – it's not all Horrible Histories and Rotten Romans; Latin is a challenging language to learn and so you need to be ready to keep up with the fast but exciting pace of learning.

And the best reason of all to learn Latin? Because it is an infinitely interesting and rich subject!

Future Pathways

Studying Latin in Year 9 equips you with the language skills needed to take Latin at GCSE as well as providing you with a sound knowledge of Classical Roman history. Latin is a very well-respected subject which looks great on a CV and starts a lot of conversations!



LANGUAGES – FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH

Why continue studying a language?

Learning a modern foreign language equips you with a life skill; and being able to speak two foreign languages broadens your horizons still further! There is an ever-growing need for competence in modern foreign languages in a wide variety of professions, so the career implications of studying a wider variety of modern languages are considerable.

Learning a Language helps you to:

IMPRESS PEOPLE – Speaking another language has sadly become a rare skill amongst the British – why not buck the trend!?

INCREASE YOUR BRAIN POWER – Researchers from University College London has shown that **learning other languages altered grey matter** – the area of the brain which processes information – in the same way exercise builds muscles.

IMPROVE YOUR EMPLOYABILITY – We live in an increasingly globalized world and companies are constantly expanding overseas and dealing with clients from all over the world. Between two candidates with the exact same skill set and experience, the person who is can speak another language is arguably much more likely to get the job.

BECOME MORE OPEN-MINDED – Learn about other cultures, travel and put your language to good use, make new friends and perhaps even study or work abroad! (Adapted from <https://lingholic.com/>)

Next year's scheme of work is still under review, but will include work on the key skills, plus revising and learning new aspects of Grammar. Key themes are likely to include holidays, food, festivals, and healthy living as well as learning about French, German and Spanish speaking countries. School trips in Year 9 have previously run and we hope to do so again.

Language learning is a cumulative process and the course, therefore, builds on what has gone before, aiming to make students both competent and confident in using the language appropriate to a wide variety of topics and situations. The emphasis throughout is on language as a practical tool of communication, with extensive use of the target language in the classroom, use of authentic television, video, computer-assisted learning, audio and reading materials. In particular, the Modern Languages Department puts a great emphasis on the use of Information Technology innovation and creativity in language learning.

Future Pathways

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Languages in year 9 prepares you for the challenges of GCSE whilst giving you the opportunity to learn about the language and culture of other countries. All lessons aim to incorporate some, if not all the key skills at GCSE: speaking, listening, reading, writing and translation, subsequently boosting your confidence and abilities.



PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Why study Philosophy and Ethics?

Philosophy and Ethics is a fascinating and rewarding subject that will equip you with valuable skills and knowledge for the future. Such as being able to weight up arguments, formulate responses to difficult questions to develop ‘know why’ knowledge. By studying Philosophy and Ethics you will learn how the perennial questions about life have been answered. For example, why does anything at all exist, what is the meaning, purpose, and value of life, think why this world seems special, what happens after death, how should we think about the environment, medical ethics, social ethics and more.

Course content:

This is a broad course that follows the exam board Eduqas. It includes:

- Human rights – Censorship, Extremism, Wealth and Poverty and more
- Good and Evil – The death penalty, theories of punishment and more
- Life and Death issues – The origins of everything and humans, ethics of the environment and medicine and more
- Relationships – equality, the family, marriage, divorce, contraception and more
- Islamic and Christian Beliefs and Practices

But won't I be studying Philosophy and Ethics anyway?

As part of the core curriculum, you will have 2 lessons of Philosophy and Ethics on your timetable across a fortnight. These will mainly focus on the foundational topics for those doing the short GCSE qualification. These lessons are useful and complement doing the full GCSE. Taking this option full GCSE course will combine and extend the core content to mean you are very well prepared for academic success doing the full GCSE.

What to Expect in Year 9 Philosophy and Ethics:

- **Engaging debate and dialogue:** Learning to articulate reasons not just views, and evaluate others viewpoints strengths and weaknesses.
- **Fully resourced and supported curriculum:** Revision Guides, texts and a dedicated website and YouTube channel extend and support the classroom work.
- **Visits and Visitors:** Meeting people of different viewpoints and engaging with them.

Future Pathways

Philosophy and Ethics opens many opportunities for further study and career development in many fields such as medicine, business, education and entertainment. By way of Oxbridge courses such as PPE, HSPC, or Russel group course such as Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies. Philosophy and Ethics equips students with a body of philosophical, ethical, and religious knowledge and skills that prepares them for real world life in an ever more religiously and ethical diverse connected society both locally and globally.

You will develop your creativity, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills, which link to many other subjects and your career beyond school. If you are interested in the big questions, and how non-religious worldviews and religious traditions have addressed them to improve our lives, then Philosophy and Ethics is the subject for you!