

Sept 2018



Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed



Year 9 Curriculum Information



Pleckgate High School
Pleckgate Road
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BB18QA
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Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to Pleckgate High School, a thriving multi-cultural community that places the best interests of young people at the heart of everything we do. All students are challenged and supported to Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed.

We are a large secondary school situated on the northern outskirts of Blackburn with Darwen, comprising 1100 students and 170 staff with state of the art facilities that benefit both the school and local community.

At Pleckgate everyone is committed to providing the best educational experiences and opportunities for our students. At the heart of the school's work is a commitment to high quality teaching and learning and achievement for all: for our students to be safe, happy and successful developing as individuals into caring, responsible citizens who participate fully in school life and are proud of their achievements. Every student at Pleckgate is encouraged to have ambitious goals and everybody is responsible for creating a culture of high expectations and academic excellence.

We are proud of our achievements – our examination success, our extra-curricular programme, our charity work and our community involvement. We are committed to the pursuit of outstanding teaching and learning alongside the highest possible academic, personal and moral standards. This commitment is built upon a shared belief in hard work, self-reflection and a culture of respect and support for others.

This booklet has been produced to provide you with information about your child's learning at Pleckgate High School. This booklet is intended to share with parents the main aims of the curriculum and learning opportunities at school. I hope that you will find it useful and informative. I would welcome feedback and suggestions as to how it may be developed in future years.

Mark Cocker

Headteacher





The School Day Routine

Monday – Friday

7.30am	Breakfast Club
8.20am	Arrive at school and go to your Tutor room
8.30am	Registration and Tutor time/Assembly
8.50am	Period 1
9.50am	Period 2
10.50am	BREAK
11.10am	Period 3
12.10pm	Period 4
1.10pm	LUNCH
2.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	END OF SCHOOL



Aims of the Year 9 curriculum

Confidence building

Whether it be our extensive charity work, numerous educational visits or our partnerships with other local schools and colleges, you can be assured that your child will receive a well-rounded education that extends well beyond the classroom.

High expectations

We expect Year 9 students at Pleckgate to work consistently hard and insist that they produce classwork and homework of the highest possible quality.

Working towards option subjects

In Year 9 students take their options which allow them to prepare for public examination courses leading to GCSE or GCSE equivalent vocational qualifications at the end of year 11. A number of pupils will choose vocational based qualifications that are more suitable and are delivered by the school.

Wellbeing

PSHE is delivered to students through form tutor time and further supplemented by three super learning days during the school year which provide opportunities for students to develop an awareness of and respect for themselves and others.



Subjects Studied

Subject	Lessons per fortnight	Number of Groups
Mathematics	8 x 1 hour lessons	8
English	8 x 1 hour lessons	8
Science	6 x 1 hour lesson	8
Art	2 x 1 hour lesson	10
Performing Arts	2 x 1 hour lesson	10
Religious Studies	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
History	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
PE	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
Geography	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
Technology	2 x 1 hour lessons	10
MFL	4 x 1 hour lessons	8
Computing	2 x 1 hour lessons	8



Target Setting

Target setting for students is based on knowledge about expected rates of progress and data for each individual child. Teachers monitor progress carefully against these targets and plan lessons accordingly to ensure sufficient progress for all students regardless of their starting points in school.

Written and verbal feedback should usually include comments about what a student has done well and what they need to consider in order to make good progress. Parents are informed of progress against their child's targets in our termly school reports. It is important to remember that children will progress at different rates and a huge range of factors influence this rate of progress.

Subject teachers review student targets regularly. If a student is making excellent progress, the target will be revised upwards. When pupils do not meet their target in a number of subjects we need to explore the reasons why. There are a range of support strategies that we will employ to try to ensure individual pupils make good progress, and it is in these circumstances that the partnership between parents and school is most important.

At Pleckgate High School we work hard with all students and set challenging targets that will motivate etc. In 2018 the proportion of students achieving the threshold 4+ in English and mathematics last academic year was above last year's national average (71% vs 62% national average) and 66% for disadvantaged students, this shows that students at Pleckgate make excellent progress

Every student at Pleckgate is encouraged to have ambitious goals and we remain committed to the pursuit of outstanding teaching and learning alongside the highest possible academic standards.



Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Overview 2018/19						
Year 9						
Subject	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	Novel - Of Mice and Men	Writing to present a viewpoint 'Don't get me started' unit.	Power and Conflict Poetry Focus on five poems from 'conflict' cluster.	Short Stories Narrative writing	An Inspector Calls Paper 2 writing skills	Power and Conflict Poetry Complete final three poems from 'conflict' cluster. GCSE preparation
Maths	Averages and Range Representing Data Data handling Investigation	Calculations and Rounding Algebra the Basics Indices and Roots	Polygons and Angles Fractions	Rearranging and Solving Equations Factors and Multiples	Perimeter and Area Percentages Exponentials	Real life Graphs Sequences
Science	Cell Structure and Transport Atomic Structure Conservation and dissipation of energy		Cell Division & Organisation and the digestive system Periodic Table Energy Transfer by Heating		Organising Plants and Animals Structure and Bonding Electricity in the Home	
History	Jack the Ripper	Rise of Evil	Life in Nazi Germany	Treatment of Jews and the Holocaust	World War 2	Ancient Medicine
Performing Arts	DRAMA: Knowledge and understanding of drama	DRAMA: Study of set text – Blood Brothers	DRAMA: Live Theatre	MUSIC: Chords into jazz	MUSIC: From Transylvania to the Balkans	MUSIC: Film Music
Geography	Global development	Ecosystems	Coasts		UK Challenges	Changing cities
RE	Edexcel GCSE- Christian beliefs: The Trinity,		Edexcel GCSE- Marriage and the		Edexcel GCSE- Living the Christian Life;	



	Creation, The Incarnation, The last days of Jesus' life, Salvation and Atonement, Eschatology		Family; The importance and purpose of marriage, Contraception, Divorce, equality of men and women in the family, gender prejudice and discrimination		Christian worship, Sacraments, Prayer, Pilgrimage, Christian religious celebrations, local church, Church in the worldwide community	
PE	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion Games)	Accurate Replication (Gymnastics) Identifying and Problem Solving	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion, Net and Wall Games) Exercising Safely and Effectively	Exploring and Communication (Dance)	Outwitting Opponents (Invasion, Striking and Fielding) Performing at Maximum Levels (Athletics)	PE
Art	Iconic British Buildings/Pauline Townsend		3D Abstract Animal Chinese Opera Masks		3D Abstract Animal Chinese Opera Masks End of year assessment	
Technology	<p>Product Design</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design brief 2. Specification with links to sustainability 3. Recycling of plastics 4. Casting (pewter) 5. Processing recycled material. (plastic) 6. Forming recycled material. (plastic) 7. door/wall plaque project. 8. use of 2d design 9. create a production plan. <p>Apply knowledge and understanding of a range of materials and processes Plan and organise materials to understand its properties and characteristics.</p>		<p>Food Technology</p> <p>Provenance of ingredients Seasonality Macro-nutrients - Proteins, fats and carbohydrates Writing time plans</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheese and Onion Bread 2. Pesto Pinwheels 3. Orange and Cinnamon Swirl 4. Chelsea Buns 5. Quesadillas 6. Tortilla Wraps 7. Turkish Borek 8. Vegetable Spring Rolls 9. Chicken Casserole 10. Thai/Vegetable Curry 11. Carrot Cake 12. Fruit Cobbler 13. Lemon Cheesecake 14. Peach Crumble Cake 			



Modern Foreign Languages	Topics Healthy lifestyle Food Unhealthy habits Grammar Intensifiers Giving advice Tenses – use of future/past tense	Topics Illness and body parts Grammar Gender rules Use of tenses Visiting the doctor	Topics Education Grammar Opinions Use of tenses Genders reasoning	Topics Jobs and careers Grammar Use of future/conditional tenses Descriptive adjectives reasoning	Topics Relationships Grammar Present/past tenses Opinions Reflexive verbs	Topics Charity work Grammar Tense reasoning
Computing / ICT	Graphics and image editing		Python programming		Creative iMedia, business or computing project – completed in preparation for key stage 4 courses/options	



Extra-Curricular Activities

Your child spends more time at school than anywhere else except home. Schools can have a major effect on children’s health. Schools can teach children about health, and promote healthy behaviours.

Physical education classes give children a chance to get exercise. At Pleckgate we take this further through our bespoke Youth Sports Trust programme and our extensive extra-curricular offers.

PE Extra-Curricular Activities

Lunch 1.10pm – 1.45pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Hall	N/A	N/A	Cricket Nets	Cricket Nets	KS4 Badminton Boys and Girls (CAS/SC/BPI)
Activity Studio	N/A	Girls Badminton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fitness Suite	N/A	All Welcome	N/A	Girls	All Welcome
Field	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Rounders



PE Extra-Curricular Activities

After School 3.10pm – 4.10pm

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sports Hall	Rounders	Girls Football	Netball Yr 8, 9 (CAS)	Rounders	Girls Football (BRFC)
Activity Studio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fitness Suite	All Welcome	Closed Staff Only from 3.10pm or 4.45pm	Staff from 4.10pm	N/A	N/A
Astro, Fields	Cricket	Boys Football	Athletics Wildcats Girls Football	Cricket	Girls Football

Youth Sports Trust

Pleckgate High School is working closely with the Youth Sports Trust to develop the wellbeing of our students. As a school we are heavily involved with the trusts 'My Personal Best' programme. This allows students to develop not only physically through physical education, but also socially and emotionally. The aim of the programme is to develop life skills such as confidence, teamwork, communication, motivation, self-management and resilience to name a few.

Our school's belief is that developing the life skills and increasing the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of our students, results in increased achievement and attainment. Our overall involvement with the Youth Sports Trust has great benefits for our students' health and wellbeing and we are excited to be working closely with them.



Super Learning Days

At Pleckgate High School, all year 9 students will take part in Super Learning Days. These are whole days when students are taken off their traditional timetable and given deep learning opportunities.

Aims of Enrichment and Super Learning Days at Pleckgate High School

The aim of Enrichment and SLDs are to provide opportunities for students to develop in line with the values of Pleckgate High School: Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed. In practice this means:

- There are opportunities for students to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others throughout our SRE day. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help pupils to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables students to be aware of the personal choices they can make and prepares them to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and enjoying confidence in one's own ability.
- We provide chances for students to explore and question their own thoughts and feelings. This is enhanced further through our PREVENT days which are in line with the 2015 revised Prevent non-statutory policy. As a school we work in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority who deliver sessions not only to pupils but to staff.
- We give students the opportunity to engage with employers and further education providers to ensure future generations will benefit from quality, meaningful interactions that help them understand the links between courses, skills and the pathways they open up.





Homework

It is important that, as parents, you encourage your child to complete any homework set in school. Homework teaches your child to work independently whilst allowing them to review and practice work that has been covered in class. It helps your child develop positive study skills that will serve him or her well throughout life

At Pleckgate we recommend that year 9 students are given up to 30 minutes of homework per subject, per week.

Homework Timetable for year 9

Subject	Year Group(s)	Homework Information
Maths	Y9	Twice per week
English	Y9	Twice per week
Science	Y9	Once per week
History	Y9	Once per week
RE	Y9	Once per week
Geography	Y9	Once per week
Technology	Y9	Once per fortnight (dependent upon practical work)
Performing Arts	Y9	once per fortnight (dependent upon practical work)
Art	Y9	Two projects per half term
MFL	Y9	Once per week



Year 9 Options

We believe that pupils should be able to personalise their studies and that they should have the opportunity to achieve success from their studies. In order to facilitate this we try to provide a range of optional courses that are suited to pupils of different aptitudes and strengths. There are differing option choices that can be made, dependent upon which Pathway students undertake.

We are committed to providing a challenging and rewarding curriculum for all pupils. Each year we take care to review our optional curriculum and to introduce new opportunities that we believe will meet the needs of our pupils.

Some pupils will be encouraged to take a selection of subjects that will allow them to complete the English Baccalaureate.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself, rather the measure recognises where pupils have secured a C grade or better across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language.

The subjects we have included are designed to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression. For example, for pupils hoping to go to university, **The Russell Group guide on making informed choices for post-16 education** identifies 'facilitating subjects' at A level. These are subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open. The subjects they identify are those included in the English Baccalaureate – mathematics, English, physics, biology, chemistry, geography, history and languages (classical and modern).

Pathways

Based upon a student's academic performance, alongside the attitude they show towards their studies, school recommends one of three Pathways:

Pathway P

This Pathway is based upon the EBacc suite of subjects

Pathway Q

This Pathway allows a wider choice of subjects outside of the EBacc suite

Pathway C

This Pathway provides additional support in core skills

Please visit our school website for a full a full overview of the options process for year 9.



Support for parents

At Pleckgate High School we understand how important it is to ensure that Parents and Carers can be provided with all the information they need to help their children with their learning and development. To improve our understanding of this, we are currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership to help us to develop an outstanding and sustainable programme for parental engagement.

We run a range of support programmes for parents throughout the school year, including additional maths support sessions to help parents to get to grips with key skills within the maths curriculum in order to support their child's learning. Other events such as coffee mornings and parent feedback sessions also take place throughout the year and we would welcome and encourage parents to be involved in these events

Feedback

We hope that you have found this booklet informative.

We are always open to new suggestions so if you do have any further ideas for information to be included within the booklet please don't hesitate to get in touch by e-mailing the school via info@pleckgate.com





Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Secondary School OF THE Year
2016 & 2017



**Lancashire Telegraph Schools' Award
for two consecutive years**

“Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed”

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