

Sept 2021



Pleckgate

HIGH SCHOOL

Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed



Year 9

Curriculum Information

Pleckgate High School
Pleckgate Road
Blackburn, Lancashire
BB18QA
Headteacher: Mr Mark Cocker

Call **01254 249134**
Email info@pleckgate.com
Visit pleckgate.com



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Welcome from the Headteacher and Head of School

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. We were awarded 'Outstanding' status by Ofsted in 2019 and were described as a school that the 'local community can be proud of, that provides an outstanding education for all its students'.

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. We provide all our students with 1:1 home learning devices so that our students can learn successfully at home or in school and parents have a good knowledge of the curriculum offered by the school. We also work hard in making sure our students are 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 extremely proud of our achievements and all our students – 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 helpful in preparing you and your child for their third year at Pleckgate.

Mark Cocker



Headteacher

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Head of School





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
1.40pm	Period 5
2.40pm	END OF SCHOOL



Aims of the Year 9 curriculum

Confidence building and developing independence

As your child has completed their second year at Pleckgate, they are now familiar with the regular routines and systems in place at school and can begin to flourish and gain experience in other aspects of school life. 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.

Working towards option subjects

Your child will also make their first important decisions about their future in Year 9, when they decide their option choices as to which subjects they will study at GCSE for the remaining two years of their education at Pleckgate. More information about our options process can be found [here](#) and further in this booklet*

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. Ofsted commented on the excellent progress students make at Pleckgate and the 'very high expectations teachers have' ensures that students and staff work successfully together to allow each child to achieve their full potential.

Reading School

All students have access to our online reading platform myon.co.uk which offers a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to suit all interests and abilities. We encourage students to read widely and regularly and we offer a well-resourced library that students can access at break and lunchtime, as well as after school. We also encourage parents to read regularly with their child as we know that a child who reads well makes excellent academic progress in all subject areas.

Specific development of numeracy and literacy

Due to the last twelve months, students have missed time out of school and may have some gaps in reading, writing and mathematics. We have a well organised team in both the English and mathematics departments, who have resources and strategies in place to support your child to catch up in both literacy and numeracy. This support is offered to your child in addition to their regular curriculum and has proven success at Pleckgate. We offer this support to students in Year 7 and 8 but for those who require additional support, this one to one catch up is offered for students in Year 9 so they can continue to make progress in all subjects.

Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Students' well-being is very important to us; students are supported by a strong pastoral team who know your child very well and are able to support them with any difficulties they may face both academically and pastorally. Students have weekly assemblies and daily tutor time, where they have the opportunity to discuss, share ideas and ask questions with members of staff they know well.



Enrichment Days

At Pleckgate High School, all year 9 students will take part in Enrichment Experiences. These are whole days when students are taken off their traditional timetable and give opportunities to promote self-esteem, leadership and responsibility. Students also work with local colleges, employers and other schools to have meaningful interactions to help them develop confidence and provide advice and guidance about their future steps. As part of our personal careers, advice and guidance programme, students in Year 9 take part in a range of option events including visits from a range of people following different career paths such as accountants, doctors, solicitors, dentists, actors, artists, engineers and entrepreneurs who are all happy to answer questions about their role and skills needed.



RSE Curriculum

RSE stands for Relationships and Sex Education; it is now compulsory for schools to deliver this new curriculum although parents have the right to withdraw their child, if they wish from the sex education aspects. However our staff have the correct training and experience to deliver the information they need to allow them to develop healthy and safe relationships. We also want to make students encourage self-respect and consideration of others as well as preparing students as to how to avoid unnecessary dangers and risks. You can find out more about our RSE curriculum [here](#)



Homework

We are grateful to parents and carers who check and monitor the home learning of students. We provide each child with a 1:1 learning device so they can record homework through Google Classroom. Parents can check this daily so that they are aware of homework that has been set. Please see the guidance on homework below.

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

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yr 9	English Maths	Maths	English		

Subject	Year Group(s)	Homework Information
Science	Yr 8	Once per week
MFL	Yr 8	Once per week
Humanities	Yr 8	Once per week
Technology	Yr 8	Once per fortnight (dependent upon practical work)
Music	Yr 8	Once per fortnight
Art	Yr 8	Two projects per half term



Subjects Studied

Students are organised into two academic bands. P and Q are then taught within these sets. Codes are used for class sets, for example 9p/En1 is the top set in P band for English, 9q/Ma5 is the bottom set in Q band for maths. All lessons are taught for 60 minutes.

Year 9 is the last year in which students will study all of the subjects below, they will make decisions as to which subjects they wish to continue to study during the year. . All students continue to study the following subjects in key stage four:

- English Language and English Literature
- Science, Separate or Combined
- Mathematics, students in the accelerated pathway also study further mathematics
- Religious Studies
- PE, not examined

Subject	Lessons per fortnight	Number of Groups
Mathematics	8 x 1 hour lessons	10
English	8 x 1 hour lessons	10
Science	4 x 1 hour lesson	10
Art	2 x 1 hour lesson	12
Music	2 x 1 hour lesson	12
Religious Studies	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
History	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
PE	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
Geography	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
Technology	2 x 1 hour lessons	12
MFL	4 x 1 hour lessons	10
Computing	2 x 1 hour lessons	10

Year 9 Options

At Pleckgate we believe that students should be able to personalise their studies and that they should have the opportunity to achieve success. In order to facilitate this we try to provide a range of optional courses that are suited to students 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 students. Each year we take care to review our optional curriculum and to introduce new opportunities that we believe will meet the needs of all our students. Some students 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 students have secured a grade 5 or better across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a modern foreign language.

The subjects we have included are designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to them in terms of future progression. For example, for students 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

Personal Careers Advice and Guidance

We offer personalised advice and guidance to all students before the options process is complete. This includes information briefings from heads of departments who explain what their subject involves at GCSE and potential career opportunities there are; assemblies and parent briefings to explain the timescales, process and explain the different pathways. We also plan Year 9 parents evenings and full reports prior to the options process in order that parents and students can speak to subject teachers and be as informed as possible before making any final decisions.

Please visit our school website [here](#) for a full overview of the options process for year 9.

Target Setting and Reports for Parents

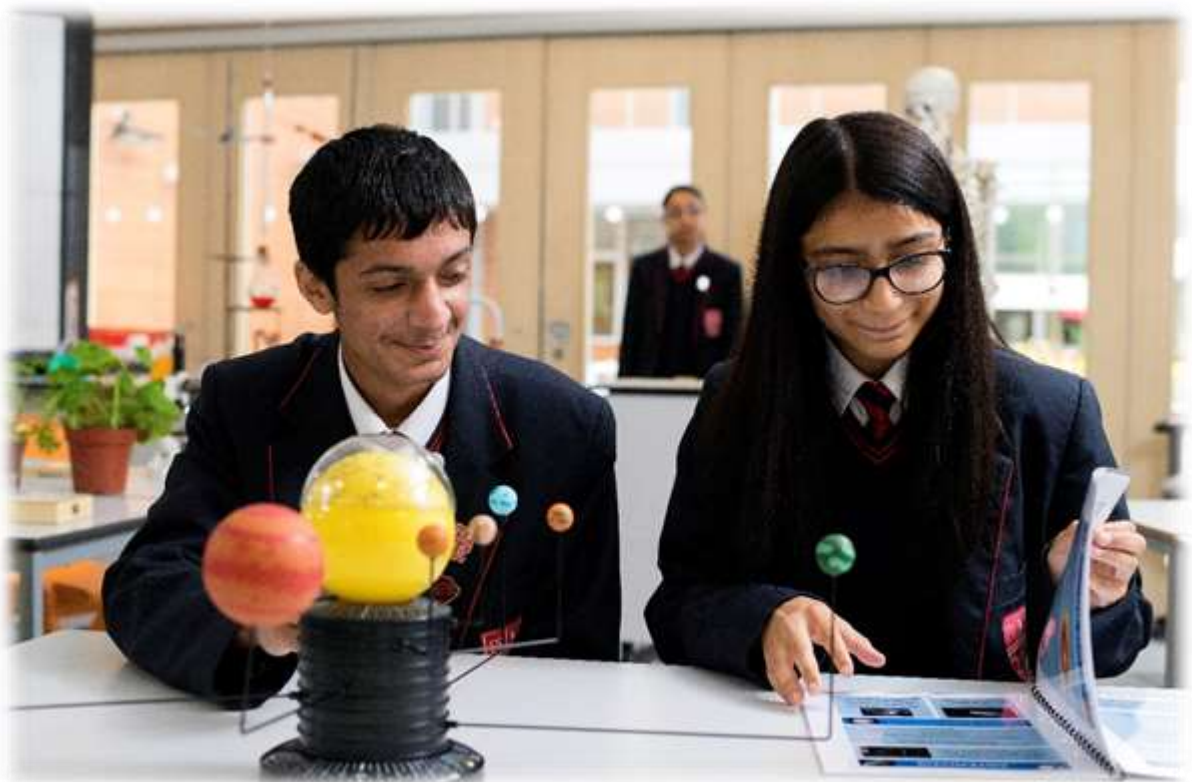
Target setting for students is based on knowledge about expected rates of progress and data for each individual child. Teachers monitor progress carefully against these targets and plan lessons accordingly to ensure sufficient progress for all students regardless of their starting points in school.

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.

Each child is aware of their minimum expected target for each subject and it is important to take this into consideration when making option choices; a child should be able to show an interest and enjoyment in each subject but a good aptitude at the same time. Discussions with subject teachers are important before making any final decisions on subject choices.

Subject teachers review student targets regularly. If a student is making excellent progress, the target will be revised upwards. When students 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 students make good progress, and it is in these circumstances that the partnership between parents and school is most important.

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.





PE 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.



After School 2.50pm – 3.50pm

	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



Support for parents and key staff

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. Our school website found [here](#) has a wealth of information regarding curriculum, pastoral care, school policies and who to contact for specific information.

Mr Cadman is the Head of Year 9 and is responsible for overseeing the pastoral care and academic achievement of the Year group.

Mrs Patel is the Pastoral Support leader who works closely with Mr Cadman and is responsible for the safety and welfare of children in Year 9.

Ms Knowles is the SENCO who is responsible for supporting any student with special educational needs in school.

Miss Morris is Assistant Headteacher and is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is attached to Year 9. She also works closely with Mr Cadman in supporting the students participating with regards to the options process.

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 do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing the school via info@pleckgate.com

