





OUR MISSION

Through excellence in education we are an inclusive community, that embraces choice, opens doors and creates opportunities. With kindness and collaboration, we empower everyone to be the best version of themselves. We are confident, curious and creative individuals who contribute positively to our community.







RESPECT RESILIENCE ASPIRATION

DEAR STUDENTS,

The electives programme is designed to instil our vision of 'Excellence and Ambition' for all. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to take part in enrichment beyond the curriculum to realise their talents and interests to reach their full potential. With the electives programme, you can take part in three electives per academic year.

We would like you to pick one from each pillar academic, physical health and wellbeing and community. This will support developing your whole character.

ACADEMIC ELECTIVE

This will focus on driving deep knowledge beyond the curriculum learning. In this elective you will develop a disposition for lifelong learning and be highly confident in applying critical, enquiry-based and problem-solving approaches to conceptual and practical challenges.

PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELLBEING ELECTIVE

Part of physical health and well-being is paramount to leading healthy successful lives. In these electives you will develop strength, stamina, resilience, flexibility team-working and co-ordination skills. Additionally, wellbeing strategies which support positive mental health such as mindfulness.

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP ELECTIVE

We are a community school and are always looking to strengthen our links with the wider community. We have worked with residential care homes, primary schools, nurseries, church and food banks and we are passionate about how you can make a difference. Community and leadership pillars are designed to support you develop skills and talents to support others building their confidence, oracy, collaboration, project-based learning.

You should pick five electives that you would like to study in term 1. You must study from two contrasting pillars so pick electives in different pillars to support the selection.

Year 6 (new Year 7 students starting in September 2025): Please write down your choices on a piece of paper and bring with you on your transition evening in June.

Year 8 students: Please write down your choices in your masters of knowledge book. Your tutor will discuss the choices in reading with you.

If you are not successful with your first choices, you may be assigned this elective on a different term.

From Year 7 to Year 10 you will have the opportunity to take part in 12 electives which will strengthen your personal development and cultural capital.

Electives are part of our compulsory offer for all students. Therefore, once assigned these cannot be amended for timetabling purposes. Electives take place 2.35 - 3.30pm and commence Wednesday 10th September 2025 for term 1.

Please read the guide carefully before making choices to stretch and challenge your talents and interests.

Thanks in advance,

Miss G. Lowe (Assistant Headteacher)

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ANIMAL WELFARE

Open to:



Years 7 & 8



Introduction

In this elective you will learn about each small creature scientifically and then how to care for them. You will deepen your knowledge on adaptations to survive. Animal Care has arranged trips and visits to see a range of different animals in different settings and animals coming into school on rotation. We also have our own school pet rabbit, Rupert, that students care for.

What knowledge will I gain?

This will be an introduction to KS5 courses such as BTEC in small animal care.

What skills will I gain?

You will learn about various small animals (mice / gerbils / hamsters / rabbits) care, maintenance, health problems, gestation.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A Level Biology and BTEC animal studies. This will be an introduction into working with small animals and links to veterinary science.

Further reading and information



RSPCA: www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/care

DOGWISE: EXPLORING THE WORLD OF DOGS

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

Welcome to "Dogwise"! This elective course is perfect for dog lovers and curious minds alike. Over the term, you'll dive into the fascinating world of dogs, learning about their biology, behaviour, and the special bond they share with humans. Through fun activities and hands-on experiences, you'll gain a deeper understanding of our furry friends. Join us this autumn term for a journey of discovery, creativity, and fun! Please only choose this elective if you are not allergic to dogs as you might get the opportunity to 'Meet the Frenchie!

What knowledge will I gain?

By participating in the "Dogwise" elective, you will develop a well-rounded understanding of dogs, from their biology and behaviour to their roles in society and the environment. This knowledge will not only enhance your love for dogs but also equip you with practical skills for interacting with and caring for dogs.

What skills will I gain?

By participating in the "Dogwise" course, you will develop practical skills for interacting with and caring for dogs. These skills will not only enhance your understanding and appreciation of dogs but also equip you with practical abilities that are valuable in everyday life and future learning experiences.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study and careers?

The "Dogwise" course can serve as a foundation for various future careers related to dogs, animal welfare and veterinary science. You may consider jobs such as a kennel worker, canine hydrotherapist, dog rescue organisation worker, animal shelter manager, veterinarian or veterinary technician.

Further reading and information



Career Addict: www.careeraddict.com/dog-jobs



Indeed: www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/jobs-similar-to-veterinarian

DEBATE CLUB

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

In this elective, you will be given the opportunity to discuss and debate the biggest topical and moral issues across our world. You will learn to successfully argue and defend your points across to others in a fun and safe environment. A trip visit to see a debate / school debate to be arranged.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will have an understanding of big issues in the news. You will understand the diversity of different groups in society, learning about moral problems that affect society around us.

What skills will I gain?

You will gain the ability to analyse moral issues. To think outside the box by figuring out arguments to both agree and disagree on points regardless of own views, and the ability to evaluate the impact of big topics.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A Level English Language, religious eduction and theology. This could lead to further study in philosophy, ethics, sociology, criminology and law. Possible careers could be in: Law practice, journalism, business (ethics), charity or health & social care.

Further reading and information



Watching, listening or reading the news will help e.g. BBC: www.bbc.co.uk/news



Teens guide to debating and public speaking by Claire Duffy: 1459741781

FRENCH FOR **BEGINNERS**

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

French for beginners will give you an insight into the French language and culture and offer the opportunity for knowledge of another language as well as Spanish. Perfect for any aspiring polyglots!

What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn French from beginner level, including greetings and how to introduce yourself. Eventually we will move onto a range of topics to strengthen your language skills.

What skills will I gain?

Learning a language allows you to widen cultural capital with a wider view of the world around us. It shows that you are willing to take on a challenge alongside gaining extra interpersonal and cognitive skills. The brain uses a lot of power to learn a language and having knowledge of two shows that you have what it takes to use this. Language learning is impressive and shows you are willing to immerse yourself into something other than just your first known language.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A Level French and may inspire an interest in learning other languages. Future career options are plentiful and include interpreting, teaching, translation, international relations and business, event planning internationally or becoming a tour guide. Further options include copy writing, careers in customs, becoming an au pair or undertaking childcare work abroad or even becoming a flight attendant or subtitler.

SUPER SCIENTIST

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

If you love all things science, then this elective is for you! You will be working in groups to solve real life scientific problems - you will need to use all you know about science to discover a solution. You will be completing practical science experiments using a wide range of apparatus and use all you know about science to run your very own discovery.

What knowledge will I gain?

Scientific knowledge linked to Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering and Technology. The project process develops enquiry, problem-solving and communication skills.

What skills will I gain?

This elective helps young people become independent and reflective learners through enquiry-based project work.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will help you complete triple Science in GCSE (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

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ZOOLOGY

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

Zoology is the branch of science that studies animals – from tiny insects to giant whales! Zoologists explore how animals live, grow, behave, and interact with their environment.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will study animal habitats and ecosystems and learn about animal anatomy (body parts) and physiology (how their bodies work). You will gain knowledge about observing animal behaviour in the wild or in labs and find out what steps can be taken to help protect endangered species.

What skills will I gain?

You will gain scientific thinking skills including observation (carefully watching animal behaviour and noticing patterns) and hypothesis testing (asking questions and designing experiments to find answers). You will also gain research skills by learning how to find reliable information from books, websites, and scientific journals. Your communication skills will develop as we work on explaining complex ideas in simple ways, especially when talking about animal behaviour or ecosystems. By working with other students on group projects or field work and learning from others' perspectives our teamwork and collaboration skills will grow. We will learn to understand the importance of biodiversity and conservation and explore how human actions affect animals and their habitats.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study and careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE and A level science subjects. Future careers could include becoming a wildlife biologist, marine biologist, veterinarian, zookeeper or ecologist.

Further reading and information



Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/marine-biologist



National Careers: https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

FOREST SCHOOL

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

Forest School promotes independence and creativity through a learner-centred approach to outdoor education. It meets a range of developmental needs from communication and language to Physical development through hands-on, experiential learning in a natural setting. The safe, non-judgemental, nurturing environment allows learners to take risks and build self-belief and resilience.

What knowledge will I gain?

Environmental Awareness - Exposure to nature, understanding and appreciating the environment.

What skills will I gain?

Fine motor skills; through crafting with natural materials, social skills; like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving through group activities and shared experiences, emotional skills; building confidence, resilience, and self-esteem through challenges and exploration and cognitive skills through unstructured play and child-led learning in nature fuelling curiosity, imagination, and problem-solving.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

Forest school will enhance your life skills such as in gardening, cooking, and crafting. It will foster mindsets that are valuable in various professional fields and could lead to an interest in a career in the outdoors such as an instructor, adventure guide, activity leader, park ranger, horticulturist or arborist.

GOTHIC HORROR

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

You will explore a film studies elective that analyses elements of Tim Burton's cinema style. This will give students an insight into a potential future in film, media studies and film criticism. The horror genre is a popular interest and a Tim Burton theme has been chosen to suit students of secondary age. As media studies is something not offered currently in schools it gives you an opportunity to explore this area.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will gain a knowledge of cinematic features stop motion and the gothic cinema genre.

What skills will I gain?

Analytical skills of film and cinema techniques linked to media.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in media studies. Leadership skills and knowledge is highly valued by colleges, universities and employers. The course will provide students with a comprehensive foundation of skills, experiences and insights that are directly applicable to future careers.

Further reading and information



Various books on the art and cinema of Tim Burton will be offered to students to read.

LEGO CONSTRUCTION

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

This elective will help you learn to build and construct models. It will also support you with mental health and wellbeing.

What knowledge will I gain?

Improved knowledge of construction types and building to ratio and scale.

What skills will I gain?

Construction, problem solving, planning, making.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in BTEC construction. Careers in the construction industry and engineering could follow.

RACKET SPORTS

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

In this elective you will learn the rules and skills of table tennis, badminton and tennis.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will gain knowledge of sports not usually studied in PE lessons such as tennis and table tennis.

What skills will I gain?

Teamwork, communication skills, improved hand eye coordination and resilience.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in BTEC sport and A Level sports studies. This elective can support future careers in the fitness industry.

TRAMPOLINING

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

Looking for a fun way to get fit, learn new skills and defy gravity? Come and join the trampolining elective, where jumping is just the start.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn about the types of jumps, flips, twists and tricks. You will also learn about the health and safety aspects of using the equipment.

What skills will I gain?

Your balance, strength and co-ordination skills will improve and you will learn to challenge yourself to take risks as your ability and confidence grow. Trampolining is a really fun sport which is great for all abilities.

Which value does this link with?







How Does it Link to Future Study & Careers?

This elective will support future study in BTEC sport and A Level sports science. You could pursue a career in the fitness industry or professional sports industry as a trampoline coach, gymnast, fitness instructor or athlete.

YOGA & MEDITATION

Open to:

Years 7 & 8



Introduction

Find your calm and strengthen your focus with the yoga and meditation elective. Are you feeling overwhelmed by the pace of school life? Do you want to feel more grounded, focused, and in control of your thoughts and emotions? Then this elective is for you. In our Yoga and Meditation class, you'll learn how to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with yourself. Through gentle movement, mindful breathing, and guided meditation, you'll discover how to: reduce stress and anxiety, improve concentration and mental clarity, build emotional resilience and self-awareness, increase flexibility, strength and balance and feel more present and peaceful in everyday life. This isn't just about stretching or sitting still - it's about learning to live with intention. Mindfulness teaches us to be fully present in the moment, helping us respond to life with calm and clarity instead of reacting with stress or distraction Whether you're a beginner or already have some experience, this elective offers a safe, supportive space to explore your inner world and grow at your own pace.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn about mindfulness and mental clarity; practising techniques to manage stress, anxiety, and mental fatigue. You will explore breathing and energy awareness; exploring pranayama (yogic breathing) to calm the nervous system, discovering how breath connects to mood, energy, and clarity and learning how to use breathing techniques to improve sleep, attention, and relaxation. You will gain knowledge of yoga postures and physical awareness and meditation practices. You will explore philosophy, lifestyle, growth and self-reflection.

What skills will I gain?

You will gain skills in emotional regulation, breath and body awareness, meditation and relaxation techniques, life skills and personal growth.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support any future study and career. It could lead to an interest in working in the health and wellness, education, youth, corporate, creative or social sectors.

CAROL CONCERT SINGING CLUB

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

In this elective, you will prepare a range of music for the Christmas concert to be selected, rehearsed and performed for a live audience. Please note that all students who wish to be in the Christmas Choir must select this elective in term 1.

What knowledge will I gain?

Knowledge of repertoire, styles, artists.

What skills will I gain?

Performance skills, stage presence, vocal skills.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support future study in GCSE music. Possible careers could be in the entertainment business. Other skills include confidence building that can benefit all other careers.

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DANCE PRODUCTION

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

By signing up to this elective you will be committing to performing in the Key Stage 3 dance production. Tickets will be available for your family to watch.

What knowledge will I gain?

You will learn a variety of techniques and styles of dance to be a successful performer.

What skills will I gain?

You will learn the four key elements of dance; action (what you do), space (where you go), relationships (who you dance with) and dynamics (how you dance). Your teamwork, collaboration, technical dance, expressive and performance skills will all improve.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This would be a good elective for those studying or wishing to study BTEC dance. Future careers could include being a dance performer, choreographer or costume designer.

Further reading and information



Careers in dance: www.onedanceuk.org/programmes/careers-hub

VIDEO EDITING

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

The Video Editing Club offers students an exciting opportunity to explore the world of digital storytelling through film and media. Whether they're interested in YouTube, film production, or creating content for social media, students will learn how to craft compelling visual narratives. The club is designed to be hands-on, engaging, and accessible for beginners and those with some experience alike. Over the term, students will work on real editing projects using industry-relevant software and collaborate with peers to create their own short videos.

What knowledge will I gain?

Understanding of video editing principles and terminology, familiarity with the stages of video production: pre-production, production, and post-production, knowledge of storyboarding and planning for visual content, awareness of copyright and ethical considerations when using music, images, and footage, introduction to editing software such as Adobe Premiere Pro, Final Cut Pro, DaVinci Resolve or Filmora.

What skills will I gain?

Technical skills in cutting, trimming, and sequencing video clips, an ability to add transitions, effects, sound, and text overlays, creativity skills in visual storytelling and narrative pacing, problem-solving and critical thinking during the editing process, collaboration and communication when working on group projects and time management and organisation when handling media files and meeting project deadlines.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

Video editing is a crucial skill in today's digital-first world and is used across many industries beyond film and TV. This club introduces students to roles such as: video editor, film director or producer, content creator or influencer, animator or motion graphics designer, marketing and social media manager, journalist or digital news editor, game designer or multimedia specialist. By participating in this club, students gain a head start in developing a creative portfolio and foundational skills that are highly valued in media, communication, and tech-related careers.

YOUNG ARTIST

Open to:

✓ Years 7 & 8



Introduction

Unleash your creativity and showcase your talent in Longdendale's prestigious Young Artist Exhibition! In this exciting elective, you'll work towards creating a powerful, eye-catching piece of artwork—or a series of artworks—that reflect your unique artistic voice. From concept to final display, you'll explore techniques, experiment with materials, and develop your own personal style. The journey culminates in a professional-style exhibition where your work takes centre stage for the school community and beyond. Whether you're a painter, illustrator, or mixed media enthusiast, this is your chance to shine and be celebrated as one of Longdendale's emerging young artists.

What knowledge will I gain?

Students will gain a deep understanding of the creative process by developing, producing, and exhibiting a personal piece of artwork, while building practical art skills, visual literacy, and critical thinking.

What skills will I gain?

Creativity, artistic and technical skills; students will explore a variety of materials (e.g., paint, charcoal, ink, collage, digital tools) and techniques through guided workshops and personal experimentation. Teamwork; through peer feedback sessions, class discussions, and one-on-one support, students will learn to give and receive thoughtful critique.

Which value does this link with?







How does it link to future study & careers?

This elective will support study in GCSE and A level art and design. It could lead to a career as a: fine artist; developing personal artwork and exhibiting it, just like professional artists, illustrator; communicating ideas visually through drawing, painting, or digital work, graphic designer; exploring composition, colour, and message - core design skills; fashion/textile designer; understanding aesthetics and expressing personal style visually, animator/concept artist; building storytelling and visual development skills, photography; composition, theme development, visual narrative and set/interior design; working with themes, space, and visual impact.

RESPECT RESILIENCE ASPIRATION