

Year 9 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Year 9 Welcome Evening. It was a pleasure to share our plans for the year ahead and highlight the many opportunities available to our students.

A Positive Start to Year 9

Year 9 students have made an excellent start to the academic year. They have returned from the summer break with positive attitudes towards learning, settled quickly into school routines, and adapted well to their new classes and option subjects. We have been particularly impressed by the maturity, resilience, and enthusiasm shown across the year group, and we look forward to building on this momentum throughout the year.

Meet the Year 9 Team

This year, the Year 9 team consists of Mr Cripps, Head of Year, and Mr Evans, Assistant Head of Year. Following the start of Miss Searle's maternity leave, Mr Evans has taken responsibility for supporting the wider cohort.

Our Year 9 motto remains:

"Aim High, Be You"

This reflects our commitment to encouraging every student to be ambitious, embrace opportunities, and celebrate their individuality.

Celebrating Success

At Glenthorne we strongly believe in recognising and rewarding achievement. Throughout the year students can earn:

- Achievement points
- Positive postcards home
- Staff shout-outs
- Recognition in assemblies
- Awards at end-of-term celebrations

Rewards acknowledge not only academic success but also effort, resilience, kindness, leadership, and contributions to school life. One of the highlights of the year will be the Year 9 rewards trip to the ice-skating event in July, alongside our annual Glenthorne Celebrates awards evening.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We encourage every Year 9 student to become involved in school life beyond the classroom. A wide range of clubs and activities are available before school, at lunchtime, and after school, covering areas such as sport, music, drama, dance, technology, debating, and much more.

Research consistently shows that involvement in extra-curricular activities can help young people develop confidence, resilience, and strong friendships. Information about this term's activities has been shared with students and is available on the school website.

YEAR 9 – AUTUMN TERM Enrichment & Extra-Curricular					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME	Mindfulness Colouring - AO3 Contemporary Dance - D25 MFL - EAL Club - BB8 MFL - Film Club - B10 PE Handball Sports Hall PE Fitness A Week, Fitness Suite English - Card Game Club AO8 Week A, AO9 Week B Music - Vocalise - DH1 Beginners Dungeons & Dragons Library	Music Tech Club, DHM DT - Think.Design.Make, JO2 PE - Badminton & Table Tennis, Sports Hall English - Debate Club Week A Only, AO6 Drama - Actor Boys, PDH DT - Plant to Plate, BB18 English - Lyrical Writing, A37 Science - Silver Crest Award J01 Dance - Street Club, D25 Book Quiz, Library	Dungeons & Dragons Library English - Classics Club AO4 Philosophy Club, A19	Drama Senior Company PDH Science - Bronze Crest Award, J01 Manga Club, Library Chess Club, DH10 PE Football - MUGA X Cohort A Week Y Cohort B Week Music Elite, Selected students only, DH5	Music - Song Writing, DH1 Games Club, Library Dance - Musical Theatre Jazz, D25 English - Murder Mystery Club, AO2 Art Production Club, B19 English - Poetry Club Week B only, A37 History Club, A21 Bookings Club, Library Science - Engineering & Robotics, J03 Science Club, J01
AFTER SCHOOL	Dance Phase 8 Auditioned Group, D25 Dance BD1, D25 Drama Spotlight Seniors PDH Music - Orchestra, DH4 PE - Girls Football, MUGA PE - Gymnastics and Trampette Club, Gym	Dungeons & Dragons Library PE - Netball Netball Courts WSP Rehearsals, PDH	Dungeons & Dragons Library DT - Design Den, BB4	PE - Basketball, Sports Hall WSP Rehearsals, PDH	Dance Performance Group, D25 Drama - LAMDA PDH Music - Jazz Band Hall

Challenge Week

One of the most exciting events in the Year 9 calendar is Challenge Week. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of experiences, including:

- Educational visits
- On-site activities
- The residential trip to Belgium
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award programme

These experiences help students develop teamwork, leadership, independence, and resilience while creating lasting memories.



Wellbeing and Student Support

The wellbeing of our students remains one of our highest priorities. We recognise that adolescence can bring challenges, and we have a comprehensive range of support available, including:

- House Buddies
- Homework Club
- One-to-one listening support
- One-to-one interventions
- Challenge It, Change It

We want students and families to know that support is always available. If concerns arise, we encourage parents and carers to contact us so that we can work together to provide the right support at the right time.

Social Media and Online Safety

As young people gain greater independence online, parental involvement remains extremely important. While social media can support communication and social development, it can also expose young people to risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, negative influences, and online safety concerns.

We encourage parents to:

- Maintain open conversations about online activity.
- Limit time spent on social media platforms.
- Avoid allowing mobile phones in bedrooms overnight.

Many issues dealt with in school begin on large group chats that are most active late in the evening when students should be sleeping. Limiting access to devices overnight can help improve sleep, concentration, wellbeing, and academic performance.

Key Dates for the Year Ahead

Please make a note of the following important events:

- **Parent Evening:** 25 November
- **Glenthorne Celebrates:** 2 December (Invite Only)
- **In-Class Assessments:** Week beginning 14 December and 4 January
- **Whole School Production - Annie:** 26, 27 and 28 January
- **Trips and Visits:** Including Bletchley Park (CompSci Students) and Sadler's Wells (Drama Students)

These events provide valuable opportunities for students to develop academically, socially, and personally.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support of Year 9. The partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping young people succeed. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure every student can truly thrive

Mr S Cripps
Head of Year 9

