



WYCOMBE ABBEY SCHOOL
HONG KONG
香港威雅學校



Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong Year 9 Curriculum Overview Booklet



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Welcome to Year 9

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Senior School at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong. Year 9 marks the beginning of a significant and transformative chapter — the start of a three-year journey that bridges the intellectual breadth of Prep with the academic depth and rigour of external examinations.

This stage is carefully designed to challenge, inspire, and prepare students for the demands of IGCSE and beyond. It is a time when curiosity is sharpened, independence is strengthened, and potential begins to crystallise into purposeful ambition.

Based at our Kowloon City campus, our Senior School provides an environment thoughtfully tailored to the needs of maturing learners. Here, academic excellence is pursued alongside character development, leadership, and global awareness.

Through personalised guidance, high expectations, and a culture of encouragement and mutual respect, we support every student in discovering their strengths, refining their aspirations, and building the confidence to make a meaningful difference in the world.

“Students at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong thrive in a personalised educational environment, supported by a combination of small classes, teachers who genuinely care, and cutting-edge digital technologies.”

— Rob Fox, Headmaster



Our Senior School Experience

A FUTURE-FOCUSED EDUCATION

We believe in a holistic education that prepares students for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. Our curriculum is built upon several key pillars:

- **Academic Rigour:** We follow the **National Curriculum for England**, preparing students for **IGCSEs** and eventually **A Levels**.
- **World-Ready Communication:** We are an **English-medium school**, and while all classes are conducted in English, we dedicate significant time to **Mandarin Chinese**, ensuring our students develop strong cultural understanding and language proficiency.
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Through our dedicated **iSTEAM** and leadership modules, students develop the practical skills needed to innovate and lead.

INDIVIDUALISED SUPPORT

Our intentionally small school community ensures that every student is known, valued, and supported.

- **Small Class Sizes:** Classes are capped to ensure high teacher-student interaction.
- **Extended Learning:** Our unique **After School Clinics** provide subject specific support until **7:00 PM**, allowing students to master complex concepts in a guided environment.
- **University Mentorship:** From Year 9 onwards, our **Super Curricular Programme** provides bespoke guidance for students aiming for the world's top universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, HKU, and the Ivy League.

We look forward to partnering with you and your child at this important stage of their educational journey. Together, we will nurture the confidence, resilience, and curiosity they need to succeed.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND REWARDS

We empower students to lead real change and recognise their positive contributions to the community.

- **Student council:** Students can apply for leadership roles in teams focused on the school community
- **Rewards System:** We utilise a variety of rewards, including verbal praise, house points and commendations.
- **Celebration Assemblies:** Held at the end of each term, these assemblies showcase academic and practical achievements while recognising students who exemplify our core values.



Vision for Year 9

As students enter Year 9, our priority is to:

Utilise Cutting-Edge Innovation:

We integrate advanced tools, such as AI-powered learning and Microsoft Showcase School technologies, to provide targeted academic interventions and foster unparalleled achievement.

Develop Entrepreneurial Skills:

Through our dedicated programme, Year 9 students learn the fundamentals of problem solving, teamwork, and decision making within real world business contexts.

Nurture Emotional Wellbeing:

We focus on more than just core academics; our supportive community ensures that every student's emotional and social growth is prioritised during these critical transition years.

Foster Global Adaptability:

We prepare our students to understand the nuances of a British curriculum, ensuring they have the critical thinking skills to succeed at top boarding schools and universities worldwide.

Our Teaching Philosophy

Teaching is a dynamic partnership between expert educators and ambitious students. Our approach is rooted in the belief that every child can achieve high levels of performance when provided with the right tools, environment, and mindset.

INNOVATION LED INSTRUCTION

Teaching at WASHK is enhanced by our status as a **Microsoft Showcase School**. We leverage technology not as a distraction, but as a catalyst for deeper learning:

- **AI-Powered Personalisation:** Our teachers use AI tools to analyse student performance in real time, allowing them to provide targeted academic interventions tailored to each individual's needs.
- **Digital Integration:** Through the daily use of OneNote, Teams, and tablets, students and teachers collaborate seamlessly, preparing for the professional environments of the future.

EXTENDED LEARNING: THE AFTER SCHOOL CLINICS

Teaching does not stop when the final bell rings. Unique to our Senior School is the provision of After School Academic Clinics:

- **Subject Specific Expertise:** Available until 7:00 PM, these sessions allow students to work one-on-one or in small groups with specialist teachers.
- **Mastery Learning:** These clinics provide the time and space for students to revisit difficult topics, ensuring they move toward their IGCSE and A Level exams with complete confidence.

"The teachers and staff really demonstrate that they care about each student's development... they take the time to get to know your child."

— Rachael Ho, Parent

OUR FIVE CORE TEACHING PRINCIPLES

Our teachers utilise a consistent framework to ensure every lesson is high impact and purposeful:



High Challenge

We set the bar high, encouraging students to engage with complex concepts that stretch their thinking and build academic stamina.

Explanation & Modelling

Teachers provide clear, expert demonstrations of new concepts, "thinking aloud" to show students the steps towards mastery.

Purposeful Questioning

We use deep, inquiry based questions to probe understanding and spark the intellectual curiosity that defines a WASHK learner.

Scaffolding & Support

While we maintain high expectations, we provide the necessary "scaffolds"—temporary supports that help students reach high level goals independently.

Effective Feedback

Learning is an iterative process. Students receive regular, actionable feedback that helps them understand exactly how to improve their work.

Curriculum Overview

Our Year 9 curriculum provides a broad, balanced, and rigorous British education that prepares students for the challenges of IGCSEs and beyond.

CORE SUBJECTS AND TIMETABLING

All Year 9 students undertake a diverse curriculum delivered by subject specialists on a one-week timetable. The curriculum includes:

- Mathematics
- English
- Chinese
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy & Religion
- Art & Design
- Music
- Drama
- iSTEAM
- Entrepreneurship
- Physical Education (PE)
- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

A BESPOKE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Our curriculum follows the **National Curriculum for England**, setting high targets for knowledge, understanding, and action. However, we recognise the diverse international backgrounds of our student body.

- **Bridging the Gap:** The Year 9 curriculum is specifically designed to be bespoke. It covers essential elements of the UK National Curriculum while providing a robust foundation for those who may not have studied under the British system previously.
- **IGCSE Readiness:** This tailored approach ensures that all students, regardless of their prior educational background, gain the specialised skills and knowledge required to successfully access and excel in their IGCSE courses in Year 10 and 11.

THE 1-9 GCSE GRADING SCALE

We use a modern British **1-9 grading system** to track and report student achievement. This scale provides a nuanced reflection of a student's capabilities as they prepare for formal qualifications.

- **Top Tier Achievement:** Grades **7, 8, and 9** represent the highest levels of academic success, with a Grade 9 being awarded for exceptional performance.
- **Strong Pass:** A **Grade 5** is considered a "Strong Pass" by international and UK standards.
- **Indicative Progress:** While Year 9 is a transition year, the grades assigned serve as a vital indicator of a student's trajectory toward their final IGCSE outcome.

HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

We believe that a single grade cannot capture a student's full journey. Therefore, we use a multi-layered approach to track progress:

- **Monthly Assessments:** Frequent monthly snapshots, which include student's up-to-date grades, provide an immediate snapshot of each student's current progress, allowing for quick adjustments and timely encouragement.
- **Termly Formal Assessments:** In-depth assessments occur at the end of each term to measure cumulative learning and mastery of subject content.
- **Professional Teacher Judgment:** Grades are not determined by test scores alone; our subject specialists consider classwork, homework, and engagement in the learning process.

Curriculum Overview

FLUID PERFORMANCE SETTING

We use performance setting in core subjects to ensure that the level of challenge and the pace of the curriculum are precisely matched to each student's current needs.

Subjects with Performance Sets

In Year 9, students are placed into sets for the following subjects:

- **Mathematics:** Students are grouped by ability to ensure they master complex algebraic and numerical fundamentals at an appropriate pace.
- **English:** Performance sets allow for targeted support in developing advanced analytical and literacy skills.
- **Chinese (Mandarin):** Given our intensive commitment to bilingualism, students are set to ensure they can effectively progress toward high level fluency and cultural literacy.

How Sets Are Determined

Placement is not fixed and is based on a range of robust internal and external data points:

- **Internal Assessments:** Performance in Key Assessments throughout the previous academic year is a primary factor.
- **Baseline Data:** We utilise standardised external assessments, such as **CAT scores**, **IXL Baseline** to provide an objective measure of a student's potential and current standing.
- **Teacher Judgment:** Our subject specialists provide qualitative insight into a student's effort, classroom participation, and readiness for more advanced content.
- **Set Movement:** A student's placement in a set is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure students are placed in the most suitable learning environment.

STUDENT KIT LIST

Every Year 9 student is expected to have the following "ready-to-learn" kit every day:

- **Stationery Essentials:** Blue/black pens, HB pencils, a 30cm ruler, eraser, and sharpener.
- **Mathematical Tools:** A scientific calculator (Casio recommended) and a full geometry set (protractor, compass).
- **Organisational Tools:** A sturdy backpack to protect digital devices.
- **Hydration:** A refillable, non-spill water bottle to remain hydrated throughout the extended school day.



Mathematics

“Mathematics is the music of reason.”

— James Joseph Sylvester



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Mathematics in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong is designed to bridge the gap between foundational concepts and the higher-level thinking required for the **Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics**. We focus on building “mathematical fluency”—the ability to apply skills confidently to both familiar and unfamiliar problems.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is organised into five key areas, ensuring a balanced and comprehensive mathematical education:

Number	Mastering fractions, decimals, percentages, and indices, along with an introduction to standard form and surds.
Algebra	The “language of maths.” Students learn to manipulate expressions, solve linear and quadratic equations, and work with sequences and functions.
Geometry and Measures	Exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, trigonometry, circle theorems, and transformations.
Statistics and Probability	Learning to collect, represent, and analyse data using sophisticated measures and calculating the likelihood of complex events.
Ratio, Proportion, and Rates of Change	Understanding the relationship between different quantities, vital for both science and real world finance.

KEY SKILLS

- **Algebraic Manipulation:** Building the confidence to rearrange and solve complex formulas.
- **Logical Proof:** Moving beyond getting the “right answer” to showing a clear, step-by-step logical process.
- **Data Interpretation:** Learning to “read” the world through graphs, charts, and statistical trends.

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS AT WASHK?

- **Fluid Performance Setting:** Students are placed in sets based on their current attainment. This ensures they receive the right level of support or “stretch”.
- **Accelerated Pathways:** High-performing sets may begin IGCSE content early, allowing them to tackle more challenging “Further Maths” concepts later in their school career.
- **Real World Context:** We don’t just teach students how to solve for x ; we show them how algebra and statistics are used in real-world fields like engineering, economics, and technology.
- **Digital Integration:** Using tools like **OneNote** and **Teams**, students can access interactive graphing software and video tutorials for independent study.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN MATHEMATICS

- **Show Your Working:** In Mathematics, the process is as important as the result. Clear working helps you find your own mistakes.
- **Practise Daily:** Maths is a skill like playing an instrument; it requires short, regular practice rather than one long session.
- **Master the Calculator:** Ensure you are familiar with your scientific calculator’s functions, especially for trigonometry and powers.
- **Don’t Fear the “Stuck”:** Being stuck is where the best learning happens. Use it as a prompt to look back at your notes or ask a question.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Positive Attitude:** Avoid saying “I was never good at maths.” Encourage a “growth mindset” where your child sees maths as a skill that can be improved through effort.
- **Practical Maths:** Involve your child in real life calculations, such as currency conversions, calculating discounts while shopping, or measuring for home DIY.
- **Recall Check:** Use the feedback from **Monthly Assessments** to ask your child to explain one new mathematical rule or “trick” they learned.
- **Organisation:** Ensure they have their scientific calculator and geometry set in their school kit every single day.

English

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.”

— Rita Mae Brown



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

English in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong is a bridge between the foundational literacy of the Prep School and the sophisticated analysis required for **IGCSE English Language and Literature**. We aim to develop students who are not only technically proficient writers but also critical readers capable of unpicking how language is used to influence, entertain, and persuade.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is divided into thematic units that explore diverse genres and historical contexts:

Shakespeare and the Classics	Students engage with a major dramatic work (such as <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> or <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>), exploring themes of conflict, tragedy, and the power of rhetoric.
The Gothic Tradition	A study of atmosphere and suspense. Students analyse 19th-century texts (such as <i>A Christmas Carol</i> or <i>Frankenstein</i>) to understand how writers build tension and use symbolism.
Modern Voices and Media	Modern Voices and Media: Exploring contemporary prose, poetry, and travel writing. Students look at how modern authors address global issues and how media platforms shape digital wellbeing.
The Craft of Writing	Dedicated workshops on narrative, descriptive, and persuasive writing. Students learn to manipulate sentence structure, vocabulary, and punctuation for specific effects.

KEY SKILLS

- **Textual Analysis:** Learning to look “under the hood” of a text to see how a writer uses language and structure to create meaning.
- **Creative Expression:** Developing a unique “voice” in fiction and non-fiction writing.
- **Oral Communication:** Year 9 emphasises public speaking and debating, building the confidence to articulate complex ideas in front of an audience.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assessing the credibility of information—a vital skill as AI becomes more prevalent in written communication.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH AT WASHK?

- **Fluid Performance Setting:** Students are placed in sets based on their current attainment. This allows for targeted support for those developing fluency and a faster pace for those ready for advanced literary criticism.
- **Bilingual Synergy:** We recognise our students’ bilingual profiles. English lessons often bridge cultural contexts, helping students compare Eastern and Western storytelling traditions.
- **Digital Literacy:** As a **Microsoft Showcase School**, we use OneNote for “live” drafting and peer editing, mirroring the collaborative writing processes of the modern professional world.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN ENGLISH

- **Read Beyond the Classroom:** The best writers are the most frequent readers. Explore fiction, news, and long-form articles in your own time.
- **Embrace Drafting:** Your first version is rarely your best. Learn to value the process of editing and refining your work.
- **Annotate Your Texts:** Don’t be afraid to write in your books! Circling key words and jotting down questions is the first step toward deep analysis.
- **Expand Your Vocabulary:** Keep a “Personal Glossary” of new words you encounter and try to use them in your next writing task.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Model Reading:** Let your child see you reading for pleasure or information. Discuss articles or books you’ve both enjoyed.
- **Discuss the Arts:** Visit the theatre or watch film adaptations of classic plays together. Ask: “How did the director’s choices change the story for you?”
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Ask your child what specific writing goal they are working on based on their recent feedback.
- **Encourage Journaling:** Whether digital or on paper, encourage your child to write for fun—whether it’s a blog, a story, or a diary.

Chinese

“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.”

— Chinese Proverb



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Chinese in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong provides a comprehensive introduction to Chinese language and culture, building the foundational skills necessary for success in the **Edexcel IGCSE Chinese** starting in Year 10. Our programme is tailored to the diverse needs of our students through three distinct pathways.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

To ensure optimal learning, students are placed into one of three differentiated streams based on their prior experience and proficiency:

Native Language Group	Following the mainstream mainland China curriculum (人教版), students focus on advanced literary analysis of classical and modern texts, sophisticated essay writing, and a deep appreciation of Chinese literary heritage.
Second Language Group	Using the <i>Boya Chinese</i> series, this stream balances everyday fluency with the introduction of abstract themes. Students develop strategies for expressing opinions effectively and producing paragraph-length discourse.
Mandarin Foreign Language Group	Following <i>Chinese Made Easy 5</i> , the focus is on mastering core communicative competence. Students build a strong foundation in essential vocabulary and grammar for practical, everyday contexts.

WHY STUDY CHINESE AT WASHK?

- **Extended Contact Time:** 6 lessons per week ensure deep and consistent engagement.
- **Expert Instruction:** Highly experienced teachers specialise in specific streams to foster a love for the language.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Engagement through authentic materials, projects, and school events.
- **IGCSE Ready:** A curriculum meticulously designed for a smooth transition to Year 10.

SKILLS AND ASSESSMENTS IN CHINESE

Skills

- The course holistically develops the four core skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing
- **Transferable Skills:** Students improve problem-solving, memory techniques for character recognition, and the ability to compare different cultural perspectives.

Assessment

- Progress is measured through written quizzes, speaking assessments (prepared and spontaneous), listening comprehensions, and project-based work such as cultural presentations.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN CHINESE

- **Be an Active Learner:** Participate in class and don't be afraid to make mistakes—they are a natural part of progress.
- **Master the Basics:** Dedicate daily time to memorising characters and vocabulary; avoid “cramming.”
- **Immerse Yourself:** Change your phone language settings to Chinese or listen to Chinese music to normalise the sounds and sights of the language.

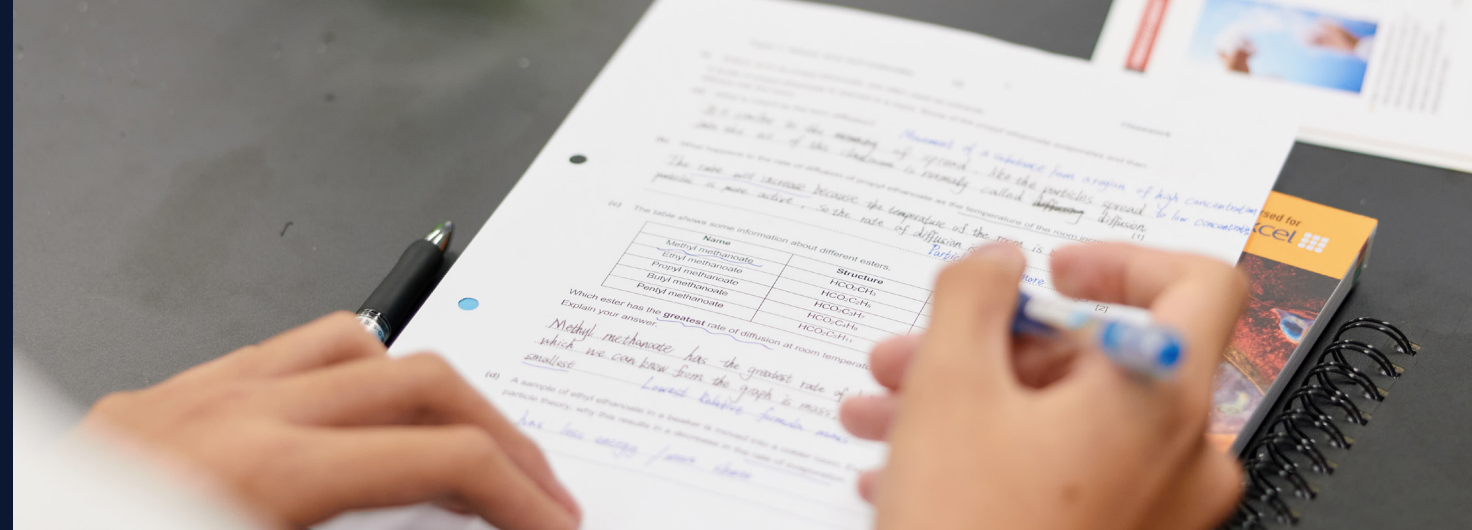
HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Show Interest:** Ask your child to teach you three new words or a phrase they learned each week.
- **Encourage Consistency:** 15 minutes of daily practice is far more effective than a long session once a week.
- **Celebrate the Journey:** Praise perseverance and improvement. Learning is a marathon, not a sprint.
- **Utilise Tech:** Support the use of recommended apps like *Pleco*, *The Chairmain's Bao*, or *Duolingo* for supplementary practice.

Chemistry

“Every aspect of the world today, even politics and international relations, is affected by chemistry.”

— Linus Pauling



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Chemistry in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong begins by exploring the world of atoms, reactions, and mixtures. Lessons and experiments are designed to spark curiosity and build foundational knowledge for the **Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry** starting in Year 10.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum focuses on three core pillars of chemical science:

Atomic Model	Understanding the fundamental building blocks of matter. Students explore the structure of atoms, including subatomic particles, and learn how to represent elements using mass and atomic numbers.
Separating Mixtures	A practical look at how substances can be isolated. Students master techniques such as filtration, distillation, and chromatography to separate complex mixtures into their pure components.
Chemical Reactions	An exploration of how substances transform. This unit covers how atoms rearrange during reactions and how these changes are represented through scientific equations.

KEY SKILLS

- **Lab Expertise:** Students learn to set up experiments safely, observe changes in colour, texture, and temperature, and record results with precision.
- **Chemical Mathematics:** Year 9 builds skills in using ratios and fractions, estimation without calculators, and simple algebra for substituting numbers into chemical formulae.
- **Data Handling:** Moving from observations to evidence by drawing accurate tables and bar charts.

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY AT WASHK?

- **Theory in Practice:** We bring scientific ideas to life through regular hands on experiments in our specialised labs.
- **Skill Development:** Beyond facts, we focus on observing carefully, measuring accurately, and thinking critically about evidence.
- **Supportive Progression:** The curriculum provides a clear and supportive path, ensuring students feel confident as they transition to IGCSE requirements.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN CHEMISTRY

- **Stay Curious:** Always ask “why” and “how” during experiments. Chemistry is about the hidden reasons behind what we see.
- **Visualise the Invisible:** Create your own diagrams of atoms and molecules; if you can draw it, you understand it.
- **Practice Explaining:** Try explaining a chemical reaction to your family at dinner. Clear communication is a key scientific skill.
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Use the feedback from your monthly checkpoints to refine your notes.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Encourage Teaching:** Ask your child to explain what they learned this week. Teaching others is one of the most effective ways to solidify memory.
- **Kitchen Chemistry:** Support the exploration of separation methods at home using simple materials like salt, water, and food colouring.
- **Support Habits:** Help your child organise their study time and maintain a neat digital notebook on OneNote.
- **Celebrate Mistakes:** In science, an unexpected result is just a new piece of data. Encourage a positive attitude toward “failed” experiments as learning steps.

Biology

“Biology is the study of complicated things that have the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”

— Richard Dawkins



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Biology in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong explores how living things grow, survive, and interact with their environment. This course bridges the gap between the big picture of global ecosystems and the microscopic details of cellular life. Based on the **Pearson International Lower Secondary Science** framework, this year provides a robust foundation for **IGCSE Biology** in Year 10.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is divided into three key units that combine theoretical knowledge with hands on scientific investigation:

Plants	Discover how plants manufacture food through photosynthesis, how they transport vital nutrients, and why they are the essential backbone of life on Earth.
Animals and Humans	An in-depth look at the structure and function of organ systems. Students explore how the body manages complex processes like digestion, circulation, and respiration.
Ecology	A study of the “big picture,” focusing on ecosystems, food chains, biodiversity, and the significant impact humans have on the environment.

KEY SKILLS

- **Lab Techniques:** Using microscopes to study cells, testing leaves for starch, and measuring physiological data like pulse and breathing rates.
- **Fieldwork:** Using sampling methods like quadrats to explore local ecosystems.
- **Mathematical Proficiency:** Students learn to record data in complex tables, interpret line graphs, and use ratios and percentages to calculate energy transfers in food chains.

WHY STUDY BIOLOGY AT WASHK?

- **Active Discovery:** We explore living systems through engaging lessons and high-impact lab work.
- **Practical Mastery:** Students develop professional skills, from advanced microscopy to ecological fieldwork.
- **Real World Application:** We apply biological concepts to urgent global issues such as public health, food security, and conservation.
- **Seamless Transition:** Mastering these key biological ideas ensures students are fully prepared for the rigours of Year 10 IGCSE study.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BIOLOGY

- **Keep Clear Notes:** Ensure your diagrams and explanations are up to date—they are your best revision tools.
- **Participate Fully:** Practical lessons are where the “magic” happens; engage with every experiment.
- **Think Like a Scientist:** Don't just memorise facts; ask *why* and *how* biological systems function the way they do.
- **Review Regularly:** Use your feedback from **Monthly Assessments** to guide your study.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Encourage Curiosity:** Discuss nature and environmental issues in the news or even in your own garden.
- **Explain to Learn:** Ask your child to explain a concept they learned this week; teaching someone else is the best way to solidify knowledge.
- **Visit and Explore:** Take trips to science museums, nature reserves, or parks to see Biology in action.
- **Support Organisation:** Help your child maintain a regular study schedule to keep up with the fast paced Senior School curriculum.

Physics

“Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist.”

— Stephen Hawking



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Physics in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong explores the fundamental laws that govern the physical world—from the motion of everyday objects to the complex behaviour of electricity and magnetism. Based on the **Pearson International Lower Secondary Science** framework, this course is meticulously designed to prepare students for the specialised mathematical and conceptual challenges of **IGCSE Physics** in Year 10.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum explores four key pillars of Physics through a blend of theory and experimental inquiry:

Motion and Forces	An exploration of how things move. Students learn to measure speed and acceleration and investigate how forces like gravity and friction shape the world.
Energy	A study of energy stores, transfers, and efficiency. This unit highlights why energy conservation is central to solving modern global challenges.
Particles	Discovering how solids, liquids, and gases behave. Students use particle theory to explain everyday phenomena, such as pressure and state changes.
Electricity and Magnetism	Students investigate electric circuits, current, and voltage, and discover the deep physical link between electrical currents and magnetic fields.

KEY SKILLS

- **Equation Mastery:** Using and rearranging fundamental equations.
- **Experimental Accuracy:** Building and testing circuits, measuring motion, and investigating heating and cooling curves.
- **Data Visualisation:** Drawing and interpreting sophisticated graphs to find patterns in energy transfer or particle behaviour.

WHY STUDY PHYSICS AT WASHK?

- **Engaging Clarity:** We turn abstract, challenging concepts into clear, fun, and memorable lessons.
- **Hands-on Discovery:** Practical experiments link complex theory with real world experiences, making learning “stick.”
- **Mathematical Mastery:** We focus on the dual development of scientific knowledge and the specialised math skills required for IGCSE success.
- **Problem-Solving Independence:** Students are encouraged to think like scientists, developing the logic needed to solve real life technical challenges

HOW TO SUCCEED IN PHYSICS

- **Organise Your Notes:** Keep clear, labelled diagrams and a dedicated section for your equations—they are your roadmap for revision.
- **Practice the Math:** Physics is the “language of maths.” Don’t just read the theory; practice the calculations until they become second nature.
- **Active Participation:** Take the lead in practical lessons. The more you “touch” the science, the better you will understand it.
- **Ask “Why”:** Physics is about the rules of the universe. If a concept doesn’t make sense, ask for clarification immediately—every idea builds on the last.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Real World Connections:** Discuss energy use, transport technology, or space exploration together to show how Physics affects every part of modern life.
- **Watch and Learn:** View science documentaries together to see how classroom principles are applied to the world’s biggest engineering feats.
- **The “Explain It” Test:** Ask your child to explain how a specific household item works (like a circuit or a magnet). If they can explain it simply, they’ve mastered it.
- **Maths Support:** Encourage your child to practice rearranging simple formulas at home to build their mathematical confidence.

Geography

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.”

— Michael Palin



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Geography in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong is the study of the complex relationship between people and the planet. We focus on the most pressing global issues of the 21st century. The curriculum is designed to build the analytical, cartographic, and investigative skills required for the **IGCSE Geography** course, encouraging students to think like global citizens.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is structured into three thematic units that cover both physical and human geography:

Hazardous Environments	An investigation into the “Restless Earth.” Students study the causes and effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, exploring why people continue to live in dangerous areas and how modern technology can mitigate disaster.
Global Development and Inequality	A look at the “Wealth Gap.” Students analyse why some countries are richer than others, exploring the “Quality of Life” indicators and the impact of globalisation on local economies.
Climate Change and Sustainable Futures	Our flagship unit on the environmental crisis. Students examine the science of the greenhouse effect, the impacts of rising sea levels on coastal cities like Hong Kong, and the innovative green solutions being used to build sustainable cities.

KEY SKILLS

- **Cartographic Skills:** Moving beyond basic maps to interpret topological, thematic, and relief maps.
- **Statistical Analysis:** Learning to interpret complex data, from climate graphs to development indices.
- **Critical Evaluation:** Debating the pros and cons of different environmental and economic strategies.
- **Problem-Solving:** Proposing sustainable solutions for real world urban and environmental challenges.

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY AT WASHK?

- **Local and Global Context:** We use Hong Kong as a “living laboratory,” looking at our own urban planning and coastal management to understand wider global trends.
- **Fieldwork Opportunities:** Geography is best learned outside. Year 9 students participate in local investigations—such as urban transects or coastal surveys—to collect and analyse real-world data.
- **Data Alacrity:** As a **Microsoft Showcase School**, we use **GIS (Geographic Information Systems)** and digital mapping tools to visualise complex data sets, a skill highly valued in modern industry.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN GEOGRAPHY

- **Follow the News:** Geography is happening right now. Be aware of natural disasters, international summits, and environmental reports in the current news.
- **Annotate Diagrams:** Don't just look at a diagram; be able to draw and label it from memory. Annotation is key to high-level Geography.
- **Use Specific Case Studies:** When explaining a concept, always try to use a real world example (e.g., the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake or the redevelopment of Kowloon East).
- **Master the Vocabulary:** Geography has a specific “language.” Keep a glossary of terms like *biodiversity*, *infrastructure*, and *epicentre*.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Discuss Global Issues:** Talk about sustainability at home—recycling, energy use, or the origins of the food and products you buy.
- **Map Awareness:** Whenever you travel or move around Hong Kong, look at maps together. Discuss why certain areas are built up and others are not.
- **Watch Documentaries:** Explore series like *Our Planet* or news features on climate change to help connect classroom theory to global reality.
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Ask your child to explain the latest case studies they've been practicing for their recent checkpoint.

History

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.”
— Theodore Roosevelt



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

History in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong is designed to encourage students to become creative, analytical, and critical thinkers. By questioning the world around them, students acquire transferable skills vital in society today, evolving into informed and articulate global citizens.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum explores the pivotal events of the 20th century, providing a robust foundation for IGCSE studies.

Term 1	The First World War (1914-1918): Students are introduced to the “war that changed everything.” The course examines the reasons for the outbreak of war, the nature of global conflict, and its lasting impact on the international community.
Term 2	The Inter-War Years & The Holocaust: This unit explores how the aftermath of WWI created instability in Europe and fuelled ambition in Asia. Students assess the rise of Germany and Japan and the subsequent path to war. A dedicated stand alone unit investigates the Holocaust and its enduring legacy.
Term 3	The Second World War & Global Foundations: The year concludes with an exploration of WWII in Asia and the use of the atom bomb. Students study the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, leaving them poised to begin their IGCSE studies on the Cold War in Year 10.

WHY STUDY HISTORY AT WASHK?

- **Engaging Curriculum:** Lessons are interactive, debate driven, and rooted in real global issues.
- **Expert Teaching:** Passionate specialists guide students to think like historians—questioning, analysing, and evaluating.
- **Global Awareness:** Students develop empathy, ethical reasoning, and a deeper understanding of international relations.
- **Strong Skill Development:** Critical thinking, structured writing, and evidence-based argumentation prepare students for IGCSE and beyond.
- **Future-Ready Learning:** History nurtures articulate, informed global citizens equipped to navigate an AI-driven, interconnected world.

SKILLS AND ASSESSMENTS IN HISTORY

Skills

- **Analysis:** Understanding the cause and effect of major global events.
- **Evaluation:** Assessing change and continuity over time.
- **Critical Thinking:** Weighing the validity of differing views and judging the value or limitations of evidence.
- **Research & Deployment:** Summarising and utilising knowledge independently.
- **Future Skills:** Every lesson utilises leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving—essential “soft skills” for an AI-integrated future.

Assessment

Skills are assessed through a diverse range of formats to ensure a holistic view of progress:

- **Written Work:** Including structured paragraphs, whole essays, and source analysis.
- **Interactive Tasks:** Quizzes, role-plays, trials, and group projects.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN HISTORY

- Enjoy exploring current affairs and linking world events to their studies.
- Ask deep questions and are confident in sharing their opinions.
- Take risks in their learning and reflect meaningfully on feedback.
- Prepare for examinations using provided resources rather than taking shortcuts.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Discuss Current Affairs:** Share news stories at mealtimes and ask how they might link to peacekeeping or territorial disputes studied in class.
- **Engage with Media:** Watch suggested documentaries or movies together and discuss different perspectives.
- **Utilise Class Resources:** Encourage your child to explore the podcasts, articles, and textbook extracts shared on the class Microsoft Teams.
- **Avoid Overloading:** Students do not need to memorise endless dates or read massive academic works; focusing on class activities and shared resources is the key to success.



Art & Design

“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.”

— Edgar Degas



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Art and Design in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong shifts from foundational skills to a more conceptual and experimental approach. We aim to develop “visual literacy”—the ability to observe the world deeply and translate those observations into meaningful work. This year is essential for building the **Portfolio** and technical confidence required for **IGCSE Art & Design**.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is structured around thematic projects that encourage students to explore diverse media and techniques:

The Human Form & Portraiture	An in-depth study of anatomy, proportion, and expression. Students learn to capture personality using traditional graphite, charcoal, and acrylic paint.
Environmental & Urban Landscapes	Taking inspiration from Hong Kong’s unique skyline and natural beauty. Students explore perspective, light, and texture through photography and mixed media.
Contemporary & Mixed Media	Breaking the boundaries of traditional art. Students experiment with printmaking, sculpture, and digital manipulation, learning how to combine materials to convey a message.
Art History & Critical Analysis	Understanding the “why” behind the “what.” Students study major movements—from Impressionism to Pop Art—and learn to critique their own work and the work of professional artists.

KEY SKILLS

- **Observational Drawing:** The ability to record the world accurately through line, tone, and form.
- **Material Mastery:** Gaining confidence across a range of media, including paint, clay, ink, and digital tools.
- **Visual Research:** Learning to use a **Sketchbook** effectively to document ideas, experiment with techniques, and reflect on progress.
- **Problem-Solving:** Deciding how to overcome a technical challenge, such as making a 2D drawing look 3D.

WHY STUDY ART & DESIGN AT WASHK?

- **Specialist Studios:** Students work in dedicated art spaces equipped with professional grade materials, from printing presses to digital design suites.
- **Digital Integration:** As a **Microsoft Showcase School**, we use tablets and styluses to explore digital painting and 3D modelling, ensuring students are ready for the modern creative industries.
- **Exhibition Culture:** We believe art should be seen. Year 9 work is regularly featured in school galleries and digital showcases, building students’ confidence as creators.
- **Portfolio Focus:** Every project in Year 9 is designed to help students begin collecting the high-quality sketches and finished pieces needed for IGCSE transitions.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN ART & DESIGN

- **Be Fearless with Failure:** Art is about experimentation. Not every sketch will be a masterpiece, but every mistake is a lesson in technique.
- **Keep Your Sketchbook Current:** Your sketchbook is the “story” of your art. Include your notes, your inspiration, and even your “failed” experiments.
- **Observe Everywhere:** Don’t just look; see. Notice the way light hits a building or the texture of a leaf. Carry a pocket sketchbook for quick ideas.
- **Respond to Feedback:** Art is a conversation. Use the feedback from your **Monthly Assessments** to refine your technique and push your creative boundaries.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Visit Galleries:** Hong Kong has a world class art scene. Visit M+ or local galleries together to see how professional artists work.
- **Provide “Studio Space”:** Encourage a quiet, well lit area at home where your child can sketch or work on projects without interruption.
- **Value the Process:** Ask about the *idea* behind a piece of work, not just the finished result. Celebrate the effort and the technical growth.
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Ask your child to show you the specific skill they practiced for their recent checkpoint—whether it was blending colours or drawing from a new perspective.

Music

“Music is the universal language of mankind.”

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Music in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong aims to bridge the gap between “playing for fun” and “composing with intent.” Students explore a diverse range of musical traditions—from the complexities of Western Classical music to the digital frontiers of Electronic Dance Music (EDM)—to develop a sophisticated “musical ear” and the technical skills required for **IGCSE Music**.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is built around three core pillars:

Performance Mastery	Students develop their skills on their chosen instrument (including voice). We focus on solo and ensemble performance, teaching students how to communicate emotion and technical accuracy to an audience
Composition & Music Technology	Using industry-standard software like Logic Pro and GarageBand , students learn to create their own original music. We cover melody writing, chord progressions, and how to use digital effects to shape sound.
The Evolution of Sound (Appraisal)	A journey through music history. Students analyse how music has changed over time, from the Baroque period to the invention of the synthesizer and the global impact of K-Pop and Jazz.

KEY SKILLS

- **Aural Awareness:** Developing the ability to hear a melody and write it down, or identify the “key” of a piece just by listening.
- **Technical Proficiency:** Improving dexterity, breath control, or digital programming skills on a chosen platform.
- **Collaborative Performance:** Learning the “soft skills” of a musician—listening to others, keeping time, and adjusting dynamics within a group.
- **Analytical Writing:** Learning how to describe music using professional terminology like *timbre*, *texture*, and *tonality*.

WHY STUDY MUSIC AT WASHK?

- **Individual Instrumental Lessons:** We offer an extensive Visiting Music Teacher (VMT) program, providing one-on-one specialised coaching for a wide range of instruments.
- **Performance Opportunities:** From “Lunchtime Live” sessions to the annual Whole School Production, students have numerous stages to showcase their talent.
- **Digital Integration:** As a **Microsoft Showcase School**, we use OneNote for digital portfolios, allowing students to record and store their performances and receive timestamped feedback from teachers.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN MUSIC

- **Practice with Purpose:** Don't just play what you're good at. Focus on the bars that are difficult for at least 15 minutes a day.
- **Listen Widely:** Don't just listen to your favourite playlist. Explore unfamiliar genres; every piece of music has something to teach you about composition.
- **Record Yourself:** Use your device to record your practice sessions. Listening back is the fastest way to identify where you need to improve.
- **Ask for Feedback:** Use your **Monthly Assessment** results to ask your teacher for specific drills to improve your notation or rhythm reading.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Encourage a “Practice Routine”:** Help your child find a quiet time each day for instrumental practice. Consistency is more important than length.
- **Attend Concerts:** Take your child to see live music in Hong Kong—from the Philharmonic to local jazz clubs—to inspire their own performance goals.
- **Value All Genres:** Whether your child is playing Mozart or making a house track on their laptop, value the technical skill and creativity involved.
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Ask your child to play or explain the latest musical concepts they practiced for their recent checkpoint.

Drama

“The world is a stage and the stage is a world of entertainment.”

— Howard Barker



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Drama in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong transitions from basic performance games to sophisticated theatrical analysis and high-level devised work. This year is designed to provide students with the performance “toolkit” and technical vocabulary required for **IGCSE Drama**, focusing on the dual roles of the actor and the director.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum explores diverse theatrical styles and the practical mechanics of storytelling:

Practitioners and Styles	Students are introduced to influential theatre makers such as Stanislavski (Naturalism) and Brecht (Epic Theatre). They learn how to apply different “methods” to their acting to achieve specific effects on an audience.
Script to Stage	An exploration of contemporary and classic play texts. Students learn how to interpret a script, develop a character’s “subtext,” and make directorial choices regarding blocking and pace.
Devising from Stimuli	Encouraging original creativity. Students work in small companies to create their own original performances based on a stimulus—such as a photograph, a piece of news, or a poem.
Theatrical Design	Drama isn’t just about acting. Students explore the impact of lighting, sound, costume, and set design on the meaning of a performance.

KEY SKILLS

- **Vocal Expression:** Mastering pitch, pause, pace, and projection to command an audience’s attention.
- **Physicality:** Using body language, gesture, and facial expressions to communicate character and emotion without words.
- **Ensemble Work:** The ability to work seamlessly with others, reacting and responding in the moment.
- **Critical Evaluation:** Learning how to give and receive constructive “crit” to improve the quality of a performance.

WHY STUDY DRAMA AT WASHK?

- **Confidence for Life:** Beyond the stage, Drama develops essential “soft skills”—public speaking, emotional intelligence, and the ability to think on your feet in high pressure situations.
- **Professional Feedback:** As a **Microsoft Showcase School**, we use video recording and **Teams** for digital portfolios. Students record their rehearsals and receive timestamped critiques to help them refine their movements and vocal expression.
- **Collaboration as Standard:** Drama is the ultimate team sport. Students learn to negotiate, lead, and support their peers to achieve a shared creative vision.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN DRAMA

- **Leave Your Ego at the Door:** Drama requires bravery. Be willing to look silly, try a strange accent, or take a risk with a character—that’s where the best acting is found.
- **Be an Active Listener:** Great acting is 90% reacting. Focus on your partner on stage, not just your own lines.
- **Learn Your Lines Early:** You cannot truly “act” until you are off book. Once the script is out of your hands, you can start using your body and the space effectively.
- **Use Your Feedback:** Re-watch your rehearsal videos on **OneNote** and look for one specific thing to change in your next session.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **See Live Theatre:** Take advantage of Hong Kong’s performing arts scene (HKAPA, Fringe Club). Discuss the performances afterward: “What did the actor do to make you believe them?”
- **Help with Lines:** Be a “reader” for your child. Don’t worry about the acting—just provide the cues so they can practice their timing and memory.
- **Encourage Reflection:** Ask your child about the “Problem of the Week” in their rehearsals. How did they and their group solve a creative disagreement?
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Ask your child to define the latest theatrical term they’ve been tested on—knowing the “language of the stage” is half the battle.

iSTEAM

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.”

— *Albert Einstein*



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

iSTEAM in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong is a compulsory programme designed to help students understand how their learning connects to future study, careers, and the wider world. The curriculum brings together science, engineering, creativity, and technology, while also developing essential skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and independent thinking.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The programme follows a five-layer structure that supports students’ development over time.

Shared Values & Core Skills	The programme begins with shared values and core skills before building strong learning processes and subject understanding.
Practical Application	Students move from developing understanding to applying their learning in practical contexts.
Real World Themes	Students explore real-world themes such as aerospace, medicine, psychology, energy, engineering, and global leadership, helping them see how different disciplines work together beyond the classroom.

KEY SKILLS

- **Workshops and Research:** Students take part in workshops, guided research activities, practical projects, and structured problem solving tasks.
- **Curiosity and Independence:** These experiences are designed to extend learning beyond examination content and encourage curiosity, independence, and ambition.
- **Real World Application:** Students learn to apply knowledge to real world contexts and analyse data from their projects.
- **Rigorous Thinking:** Students develop the rigorous thinking required for success in IGCSE, IAL, and university pathways in the UK, Hong Kong, and beyond.

WHY STUDY ISTEAM AT WASHK?

- **Compulsory for All Students:** iSTEAM is compulsory for all Senior School students, reflecting the school’s belief that every learner benefits from a broad, future-focused education.
- **Confidence and Direction:** The programme plays an important supporting role by helping students develop confidence, direction, and strong super-curricular profiles.
- **University Preparation:** These experiences are valued by universities and support long-term success.
- **Informed Future Choices:** By the time students reach Years 12 and 13, the iSTEAM programme helps them make more informed choices about subjects, university courses, and career pathways, completing their education with greater clarity about their interests and strengths.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN ISTEAM

- **Be Curious:** Use the specialist pathways to dive deep into topics that genuinely interest you.
- **Engage Actively:** Fully participate in workshops, research activities, and practical projects.
- **Make Connections:** Actively look for how the themes you study (like aerospace or medicine) link different school subjects together.
- **Think Independently:** Embrace the structured problem solving tasks to build your confidence and ambition.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Discuss Future Pathways:** Talk about current events in science, technology, and medicine to spark interest in the themes explored in iSTEAM.
- **Value the Process:** Reinforce that the skills gained—like problem solving and research—are just as important for long term success as exam grades.
- **Support University Preparation:** Help your child see how their iSTEAM projects can strengthen their super curricular profile for university applications.

Entrepreneurship

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do.”

— Steve Jobs



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Entrepreneurship in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong is a compulsory course that focuses on developing students’ ability to turn ideas into action. Rather than learning about entrepreneurship in theory, students are encouraged to think practically, take responsibility for decisions, and understand how to create value in the real world.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The programme introduces students to key entrepreneurial skills such as initiative, communication, planning, financial awareness, and ethical judgement.

Spotting Opportunities & Understanding Audiences	Students learn how to spot opportunities, understand audiences, and adapt their ideas in response to feedback.
Confidence & Decision-Making	Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on confidence building and decision making, helping students become comfortable with uncertainty and challenge.
Practical Projects & Real Scenarios	Learning is centred on practical projects and real scenarios, where students work individually and in teams to develop and refine business or social enterprise ideas.

KEY SKILLS

- **Communication and Pitching:** Students learn to pitch concepts clearly and justify their choices.
- **Planning and Resource Management:** Students develop financial awareness to plan and manage resources effectively.
- **Reflection and Evaluation:** Students learn to reflect honestly on outcomes and use those reflections to improve future decisions.
- **Resilience and Independence:** Mistakes are treated as part of the learning process, helping students develop resilience, independence, and a growth mindset.

WHY STUDY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT WASHK?

- **Compulsory for All Students:** The Entrepreneurship programme is compulsory for all Senior School students, reflecting the importance of enterprise skills in every future pathway and not only business or economics.
- **Life Beyond Examinations:** While the course is not externally assessed, it plays a valuable supporting role in preparing students for life beyond examinations.
- **University Preparation:** It strengthens personal statements, supports interview readiness, and helps students demonstrate initiative and leadership in university applications.
- **Long-Term Development:** By Years 12 and 13, the programme supports students in developing a clearer sense of their strengths, interests, and ambitions.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- **Be Proactive:** Take the initiative in projects and don't be afraid to lead.
- **Embrace Feedback:** Use responses to your ideas as a tool to adapt and improve.
- **Learn from Mistakes:** View setbacks not as failures, but as essential steps in building resilience and a growth mindset.
- **Reflect Honestly:** Regularly think about your decisions and outcomes to better understand your strengths and areas for development.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Discuss Enterprise:** Talk about how businesses or organisations you encounter create value, whether commercial, social, or environmental.
- **Encourage Decision-Making:** Support your child in making their own choices and learning from the outcomes, both good and bad.
- **Celebrate Effort and Initiative:** Praise the process of turning an idea into action, not just the final result.
- **Connect to the Future:** Help your child see how the skills of pitching, planning, and resilience are valuable for university interviews and any career path they might choose.

Physical Education (PE)

“Intelligence and skill are combined with physical action in the PE curriculum to produce well-rounded, resilient individuals.”
— WASHK Philosophy



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Physical Education in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong focuses on advanced tactical awareness, leadership, and performance analysis. This year serves as a vital bridge for students considering **IGCSE Physical Education**, combining high-intensity practical sessions with an introduction to the theory of sports science.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is broad and balanced, utilising world class local facilities to provide a variety of sporting experiences:

Games & Tactics	Students engage in competitive team sports such as Football, Rugby, Netball, and Basketball . The focus is on advanced “game sense”—learning how to read the play, communicate under pressure, and execute complex offensive and defensive strategies.
Individual Excellence	Developing personal discipline through Athletics (Track & Field) and Racket Sports (such as Badminton and Tennis).
Introduction to Sports Science	Year 9 students begin to explore the “why” behind the “how,” looking at basic anatomy, the effects of exercise on the body, and the importance of nutrition and recovery.

KEY SKILLS

- **Physical Literacy:** Developing coordination, balance, and specialised sports skills.
- **Resilience and “Grit”:** Learning how to handle defeat, push through physical challenges, and maintain a “growth mindset”.
- **Teamwork and Social Skills:** Understanding how to motivate peers and work toward a collective goal.
- **Healthy Habits:** Gaining the knowledge to make informed choices about exercise and diet for long-term wellbeing.

WHY STUDY PE AT WASHK?

- **Elite Facilities:** We partner with premier venues to ensure students have access to professional grade pitches and equipment.
- **Inclusion and Challenge:** PE classes are often set by performance to ensure every student is playing at a level that challenges them while building their confidence.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Year 9 students are encouraged to take on roles such as “Coach” or “Official” during lessons, developing the communication and decision-making skills required in the professional world.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN PE

- **Bring the Right Mindset:** Excellence in PE isn't just about being the fastest or strongest; it's about giving 100% effort in every drill and showing sportsmanship.
- **Always Be Prepared:** Ensure you have the correct kit and specialised equipment (like mouthguards) for every lesson. Organisation is part of the grade.
- **Connect Theory to Practice:** Think about your **Monthly Assessment** topics during the game. For example, when sprinting, think about how your “Fast-Twitch” muscles are working.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Encourage Extra Curriculars:** Support your child in joining a school sports team or a local club to increase their “contact time” with physical activity.
- **Discuss Wellbeing:** Talk about the importance of sleep, hydration, and a balanced diet in supporting both academic and physical performance.
- **Active Weekends:** Engage in physical activities as a family—whether it's hiking, swimming, or playing a casual game in the park.
- **Review Monthly Assessments:** Ask your child to explain the concepts or the tactical rule they were tested on in their latest checkpoint.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”
— Aristotle



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

PSHE in Year 9 at Wycombe Abbey School Hong Kong includes **two lessons per week**, reflecting our commitment to their emotional wellbeing and personal development. This is a non-assessed, “safe space” curriculum designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to manage their lives now and in the future.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

The Year 9 curriculum is specifically tailored to the transitional challenges of the early Senior School years:

Digital Wellbeing	An essential unit for the modern world. Students explore cyber citizenship, the impact of social media on self esteem, and how to navigate the digital landscape with critical thinking and integrity.
Emotional Resilience	Developing “grit” and the ability to bounce back from setbacks. We focus on stress management, self motivation, and the importance of a growth mindset.
Future Pathways & Career Planning	Year 9 is a critical year for decision making. Students receive guidance on choosing their IGCSE options and begin exploring university and career trajectories.
Health and Relationships	Understanding physical and mental health, building healthy friendships, and developing empathy and respect for diversity in our global community.

KEY SKILLS

- **Critical Thinking:** Learning to unpick misinformation and “fake news” online.
- **Social Intelligence:** Mastering the “soft skills” of the future—empathy, active listening, and conflict resolution.
- **Self-Regulation:** Identifying personal stress triggers and utilising effective coping strategies.
- **Financial Literacy:** An introduction to basic economic concepts and responsible money management.

WHY STUDY PSHE AT WASHK?

- **Holistic Support:** Unlike traditional academic subjects, PSHE focuses on “educating the whole child,” ensuring they are emotionally ready for the pressures of higher level study.
- **Interactive Learning:** Lessons are built around role plays, debates, and collaborative problem solving, rather than textbooks and exams.
- **Expert Guidance:** Sessions are led by tutors and specialists who understand the specific developmental needs of Year 9 students.
- **Safe Environment:** As a non assessed subject, it removes the fear of failure, allowing students to be honest and vulnerable in their reflections.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN PSHE

- **Engage Authentically:** The more you put into the discussions, the more you will get out of them. There are no “wrong” opinions, only unexamined ones.
- **Be Respectful:** Practice active listening. PSHE is about understanding perspectives that are different from your own.
- **Apply the Lessons:** Try to use the resilience or communication techniques you learn in your other subjects and in your life outside of school.
- **Reflect Meaningfully:** Use your **Monthly Assessment** reflections as a journal of your own growth throughout the year.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- **Monitor Digital Habits:** Discuss your child’s digital life openly, focusing on “wellbeing” rather than just “rules”.
- **Encourage Independence:** Support your child as they begin to make their own choices regarding IGCSE options and career interests.
- **Celebrate Effort:** In PSHE, success is measured by personal growth and character, not just grades. Celebrate your child’s developing maturity and empathy.

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