

Balcarras School Curriculum Content – Year 9

2026-2027

Dear Parents

This letter has been written as a guide to the courses your child will follow through Year 9. All curriculum content is linked to the Curriculum Maps on the school website. For further detail on the curriculum please contact the head of department for that curriculum area and take a look on the school website:

www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk > Learning at Balcarras > Subject Areas.

In Year 9 some teaching groups are sorted by prior attainment, others are not. Any setting took place before the summer break. It will be reviewed throughout the year, once assessments have taken place.

Later this year we will involve you in the process that leads to the choice of optional courses in Year 10 and 11.

Please take note of this important date:

Thursday 28th January 2027 – 4-7pm

Year 9 Parents' and Options Evening

Yours sincerely

Harriet Ebanja



Associate Assistant Headteacher

September 2026

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Subject	Curriculum content	Graded Assessment
Art	- Baseline: facial features - Portrait: Icon - Utopia/dystopia - Sense of place	Pupils are assessed during and at the conclusion of each topic. A marksheet for each can be viewed in their sketchbook and clearly outlines the knowledge and skills that are being developed and assessed and how your child is progressing in line with their target.
Computing	Branding Representing data Bebras Challenge The Wider Impacts of Computing	Pupils will receive a grade for each unit they complete, along with comments on how they can improve where appropriate. Grades will use a 9–1 scale, except for the Bebras Challenge, which uses its own external grading system.
Design and Technology	- Café project - Bee hotel project - Bake off - Food around the world - Decorative panel project	Pupils are assessed at the end of each rotation, with feedback recorded in their D&T passport. Your child will receive an effort grade, progress information (for example, working towards target, meeting target, or above target), and written feedback explaining how they can improve.
Drama	- Comedy - Protest - Devising and Stanislavski - T.I.E. and Brecht	Pupils will be assessed at the end of the Devising and Stanislavski unit of work. Students will work in groups to create a performance which they will show to the class. After the performance, students will evaluate their performance by responding to questions in their assessment booklet. They will be assessed in three areas, 'creating', 'performing' and 'responding'.

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English	- Blood Brothers (play) - Dystopias - Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare) - Writing Reality (Non-Fiction) - GCSE – Power and conflict poetry (part 1)	Pupils will complete 3 graded assessments (Writing, Reading and Speaking & Listening). In year 9 the assessments are writing a dystopic story, an analytical essay on 'Romeo and Juliet' and a persuasive speech. Students will also complete knowledge tests within the year.
Geography	- How and why are ecosystems important? - Is 'clean water for everyone' achievable? - Will global trade ever be fair? - How and why are coastal landscapes constantly changing? - How do the impacts of tourism vary around the world? - Do we live in a world of conflict or opportunity?	Pupils will sit 3 graded assessments which assess geographical knowledge, skills and application. In Year 9, the assessments are in the trade, clean water and coastal landscapes topics.
History	- Edwardian Britain & World War One - Second World War & The Holocaust - Post War World	Students will have 3 skill based assessments. 3 frequent, formative low stakes knowledge tests. 1 of which will be written test 1 Evaluative essay on the Tudors, 1 source analysis and 1 historian analysis throughout the year.
Mathematics	- Indices - Roots - Standard form - Pythagoras - Error intervals - Bisectors and loci - Expanding and factorising quadratics - Direct and inverse proportion - Fibonacci and quadratic sequences - Time series graphs - Frequency polygons - Scatter graphs - Circle sectors and cylinders - Solving inequalities - Similarities and congruent graphs - Straight lines and quadratic graphs - Simultaneous equations - Probability - Transformations - Percentages	In maths students will sit 3 graded assessments in November, March and May. Students will receive a progress grade for each together with areas to work on to improve.

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	- Trigonometry	
Modern Foreign Languages - French	- Festivals and relationships - Media - Education and future plans	In French, pupils are assessed at the end of each topic to measure their progress. Throughout the year, they are assessed across all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—and their assessment grades are recorded in their Learning Journey at the front of their exercise book.
Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish	- Holidays - The preterite tense - Food and mealtimes - Freetime - Town and city - Invitations to go out - Daily routine - Reflexive verbs	In Spanish, pupils are assessed at the end of each topic to measure their progress. Throughout the year, they are assessed across all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—and their assessment grades are recorded in their Learning Journey at the front of their exercise book.
Modern Foreign Languages - Russian	- Sports and instruments - Likes and dislikes - Past and future events - Food - Ordering food - Describing photos	In Russian, pupils are assessed at the end of each topic to measure their progress. Throughout the year, they are assessed across all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—and their assessment grades are recorded in their Learning Journey at the front of their exercise book.
Music	- GCSE experience - Theme and variations - Electronic dance music - Live Lounge - Film music - Instrumental skills	

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Personal, Social, Health, Economic education	- Relationships Education - Health Education - Living in the Wider World	
Physical Education	- Develop technique, game understanding and performance through invasion games and gymnastics. - Enhance knowledge of healthy and active lifestyles through HRF - Embed consistency of technique, game understanding and performance through invasion games. - Embed skills required in teamwork and problem solving through OAA. - Embed consistency of technique, game understanding and performance through striking/fielding games, net games and athletics.	
Religious Education	- Judaism - Islam - Applied religion and ethics	In RE we assess pupils on five key skills, in year 9 this will be done through an exam paper in Judaism and Islam and a key term test at the end of the year.
Science	- Cell biology - Infection and response - Organisation (Transport) - Organic chemistry - Chemical analysis - Chemistry of the atmosphere - Using resources - Forces and motion - Electricity	Pupils have two standard homework's for each topic which are marked and give improvement tasks. At the end of each topic there is a graded test for which verbal feedback will be provided. Finally, there is a terminal exam testing on content learnt throughout the Year.