

A young woman in a school uniform is walking on a paved path, carrying a large, bright red suitcase. She is looking back over her shoulder. In the background, there is a school building with a clock tower and a blue sky. The image has a motion blur effect, suggesting she is walking quickly.

PATE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Broadening Horizons
Years 7-9

Broadening Horizons

Qualifications are undoubtedly important. They open doors and as a result, inevitably much of what we do in school is focused on external examinations.

At Pate's we are however passionate about providing you with a much broader education; *we hope that you will leave us as rounded individuals with a thirst for knowledge and a passion for life-long learning.*

This booklet has been written to help you think about your learning beyond the confines of standard schemes of work or exam specifications. It is our aspiration that you will be stretched and challenged to think about more independent methods of learning, often away from your teachers and the classroom.

The activities in this booklet have been put together to suggest ways in which you can begin to explore individual subjects from new perspectives and in greater depth. Read it carefully, be inquisitive, ask questions and keep an open mind.

Why not start to take control of your own learning?

We trust that you will find it useful.

Russel Ellicott Head Master

Art



- Saturday and Sunday broadsheet newspapers have an Art/Culture section – why not have a read?
- Magazines such as Art Review, Art Forum, Creative Review, Tate Etc magazine and Printed Pages are all full of interesting artist references and articles.
- Visit exhibitions – Montpellier Gallery, Cheltenham Art Gallery, Martini's Gallery, Camden Gallery, Brewery Arts, Cirencester, RWA Bristol, MOMA Oxford.
- If possible, also visit London for the Tate Modern, Tate Britain, The Royal Academy and The Saatchi Gallery.
- Attend workshops often held during the holidays at museums and galleries.
- Watch relevant television programmes – The Culture Show, The Review Show, Channel 4 documentaries, The High Art of the Low Country, Andrew Graham-Dixon, Front Row on Radio 4.
- Art blogs – including It's Nice That, Creative Review, booooooooooom.com, ebsqart.com – these provide current information about exciting exhibitions and up and coming new artists.
- When on holiday, explore your surroundings and inquire about the local arts and crafts of the area. Visit museums, take photographs and sketch what you see.
- Bookshops – second hand charity shops are great for finding interesting and cheap art books.
- Try out a material/media that you have never used before – or experiment with how you use the material – be inventive!
- Take your camera and sketchbook everywhere!

Computing



Computing eXtension Zone

The following resources and links are designed to provide students with extra opportunities for stretch and challenge. This could be additional reading or more challenging activities beyond the normal curriculum.

For students In Years 7, 8 & 9:

- Scratch - website contains example programs and projects - scratch.mit.edu
- Scratch for budding computer scientists. <http://cs.harvard.edu/malan/scratch/index.php>
- Kodu Game Lab - Microsoft 3D Visual programming tool. <http://fuse.microsoft.com/projects/kodu>
- Learn Python.org - Python Learning tool www.learnpython.org/
- Code Studio – studio.code.org and BBC MICROBIT – www.microbit.co.uk
- Hour of Code – code.org/learn and Learn to Code with Dr WHO – www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/games/doctor-who-game.

For all students:

- Code.org - Resources and information on learning to code. www.code.org
- Codecademy - Excellent site for learning various programming languages. www.codecademy.com
- Raspberry Pi - News and resources relating to the Raspberry Pi. www.raspberrypi.org
- MagPi - Projects and resources for the Raspberry Pi. www.themagpi.com
- Adafruit Learning System - Raspberry Pi projects and resources. <http://learn.adafruit.com/category/raspberry-pi>

Design and Technology



- Read newspapers and magazines – especially the design/innovation section of weekend supplements.
- There are a large range of magazines, e.g. Ingenia, Design available in both DT and the school library.
- The school library holds a wide range of reference material – try doing a search on heritage. A large range of books are also held within DT.
- Have you looked at the range of exhibition of exemplar material within the DT department?
- Visit exhibitions, there are plenty on offer in Cheltenham especially the Craftsman's Guild which is normally held towards the end of August at Cheltenham College.
- Use a digital camera to record ideas and examples of both good and bad design.
- Use remote access at home to use school resources including 2D design software, Google sketch-up etc.
- Watch design related television programmes.
- Charity shops are an excellent resource for affordable books and artefacts.

Drama and Theatre Studies

- Go to the theatre as often as possible: The Everyman, The Playhouse, Parabola Arts Centre and Dean Close are all convenient for Cheltenham. The Oxford Playhouse often has an excellent programme of productions, and Warwick Arts Centre is great for unusual plays that other theatres cannot afford to risk. The theatres in Bristol, especially the Bristol Old Vic and Tobacco Factory, are outstanding and provide many modern pieces and experimental interpretations. The RSC at Stratford is a must.
- Read the culture sections of newspapers to see in advance what's on, and read reviews of plays that might be worth going to see.
- Listen to Radio 4 and Radio 3 Drama: the plays here can be excellent. Book NT Live and see fabulous productions beamed to your local cinema.
- Watch the students and other professional productions in the Drama folder of the T Drive on the VLE. **Take part in all the extra-curricular plays, shows, evenings, workshops and activities throughout the year.**
- Keep track of some of the following theatre companies and go to see their work whenever you can:
Complicite / Kneehigh / Shared Experience / Frantic Assembly / Cheek by Jowl / Punchdrunk / Push / Headlong
- Go to the Globe Theatre in London for a flavour of the origins of modern theatre.
- Access the National Theatre's interactive website- they also run playwriting competitions. Join our participation in the National Theatre *Connections* programme.
- Read plays by some of the following playwrights:
Sophocles / Shakespeare / Chekhov / Miller / Wertebaker / Churchill / Pinter / Beckett / McDonagh / Stephenson / Ibsen / Brecht / Teale / Butterworth / Mullarkey / Ionesco / Hare / Stoppard / Jonson / Marlowe
- Find out about directors and practitioners in the past, for insight into how theatre continues to change and evolve. Look at *Stanislavski / Brecht / Boal / Artaud / Brook / Alfreds / Grotowski / Fo / Johnstone*
- Research designers like Bunny Christie who employ cutting edge technology to create innovative and exciting stage experiences.

English



- Reading widely is an absolute priority! The library should be your number one stop for reading material: ask for lists of recommendations and speak to our librarians who will be happy to help you
- Read book reviews in newspapers, especially weekend editions. You might try The Guardian/Sunday Observer/The Daily Telegraph/The Times/The Independent to name a few
- Keep a reading diary and an ongoing list of upcoming novels, short stories and poetry you would like to read
- Create a book review for display in the library or your English classroom
- Look out for films of books such as Life of Pi, Sherlock, Eragon, The Jungle Book and The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. You could even write a review comparing the adaptation of the book into a film
- Look at some of the following websites for ideas for reading:

www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk
www.booktrust.org.uk
www.childrensbooksequels.co.uk
www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk
www.authorhotline.com

Watch out for winners of Children's Book Awards such as:

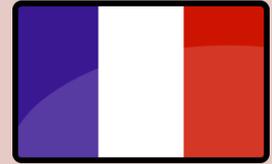
Guardian Children's Fiction Prize
Scottish Children's Book Award
Blue Peter Book Awards
CILIP Carnegie Medal
Waterstone's Children's Book Prize

“There is something delicious about writing the first words of a story. You never quite know where they'll take you.”
— **Beatrix Potter**

- Use the internet wisely to help you develop your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as to expand and extend your English work. There are plenty of resources on PLATO and the BBC Bitesize websites to get you started
- Visit the Cheltenham Literature Festival which runs every October. Various authors come to Cheltenham and talk about fiction and non-fiction for children and adults

“I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.”
— **Anne Frank**

French



Learning a language is a lot like learning a musical instrument— the more you practise, the more concerts you attend, the more music you hear, the greater your mastery of that instrument. Language used in the classroom is useful, but there is always so much more that you can't learn in a single hour!

To become fluent in a language, you have to find as many ways as possible to immerse yourself in the language and culture of the country (or countries) where it is spoken. The obvious way to do this is to go abroad, taking advantage of school trips and exchanges, but at home, you might like to try:

- Review your learning and go beyond set classroom topics on www.memrise.com and www.quizlet.com
 - Get the latest news at <http://www.newsinslowfrench.com/>
 - Find key topics and short online activities on www.funwithlanguages.vacau.com
 - Listen to French radio, or download a podcast for the journey to school: www.franceinfo.fr (Podcast)
 - Research articles affecting young people at : www.ljourlactu.com
 - Read a daily newspaper via www.lemonde.fr or www.lefigaro.fr or the more accessible www.lepetitquotidien.fr
 - Listen to French songs to practise your pronunciation at: www.lepointdufle.net/chansons.htm
 - Participate in Routes into Languages competitions
 - Research a French recipe and make it at home
 - Research a French speaking country— and produce a guide in a form of your choice
 - Follow your favourite French football or rugby team at www.lequipe.fr
- Watching French television: go to www.tfl.fr to access news, sports and cultural programmes

It really doesn't matter what you read or research, the important thing is to find something that interests you. The library here in school is home to a vast array of films, amongst others, you might like to consider:

- *Le Petit Prince* Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- *Le Petit Nicolas* Laurent Tirard
- *Les aventures de Tintin: Le secret de la licorne* Steven Spielberg & Peter Jackson (French subtitles / audio!)
- *Les choristes* Christophe Barratier
- *Entre les murs* Laurent Cantet
- *Les 400 coups* François Truffaut
- *Au revoir les enfants* Louis Malle
- *Asterix et Cléopâtre* Louis Leterrier
- *Etre et avoir* Nicolas Philibert

You might like to try reading a longer novel— or collection of short stories, look in the library, where there is a brand new collection of youth literature, or ask in the department for the following books. E-reader owners also have access to many French books for free via amazon.co.uk.

- *Les vacances du Petit Nicolas* SEMPÉ-GOSCINNY
- *Oscar et la Dame rose* Eric Emmanuel-Schmidt
- *Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du coran* Eric Emmanuel-Schmidt

If that's not enough, ask in the languages office about a subscription to the Mary Glasgow French magazines which are aimed at people your age.

Geography

Geography is vitally important for understanding the world around us. Geographers question the world and seek to understand it. No other subject at school links so many factors together as one. Geographers learn vital skills like map reading, problem solving, decision making. They learn to link scientific factors alongside sociological, psychological and historical reasons for why the world is as it is.

Geography is on the news every day, from conflict in Syria, to the proposed High Speed rail-link between Birmingham and London, the pressure on resources from water to oil and the impacts of global climate change... the list is endless. *To engage and challenge yourself in Geography...*

- Read a good daily newspaper/ news websites – so much news has a geographical element. Keep a close eye on relevant news stories to become an informed, global citizen.
- Magazines and journals – National Geographic, Geographical, Geography Review, Green Futures, The Economist are all available in the Library.
- Have, and dip into, a good atlas at home. Download Google Earth, ideal for widening your geographical horizons. Google Maps is also useful and includes the excellent 'Street View' function.
- Use the library – there is an extensive Geography section and your teacher will point you towards relevant books in class. There is a wide-ranging Sixth Form reading list available to Y12 and Y13 students. It is updated periodically and can be downloaded from the Geography area on PLATO. It contains suggestions that are divided into each topic area that you will be studying.
- Consider any holiday or visit an informal geographical fieldtrip. Read travel guides before and when you go – these will enable you to enjoy all aspects of your trip e.g. landscape and culture.
- The Geography section on PLATO gives you access a huge number of Geography resources.
- Get blogging! Express your opinions on global or local issues on sites such as the BBC, or the Geography Twitter page @patesgeog
- Write an EPQ on a geographical theme that you are interested in exploring in greater detail – it is also an opportunity to investigate a geographical area not covered in class.
- Enter Geographical competitions - explore the Geographical Association and Royal Geographical Society websites and become a Young Geographer and get involved in the poster and essay competitions they run.
- Watch geographical and issues-based programmes on TV – there are so many, and even dedicated channels on Freeview such as the Discovery Channel and National Geographic. Look at TED lectures online for up-to-date presentations and debates on wide ranging issues.
- Look into volunteering opportunities with issues based charities, such as the National Trust. Or get involved in mentoring in Geography in school. Consider getting involved in a geographical research project with a trip organised by Earthwatch.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

German



To make real progress in German and become fluent, you need to seize every opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the countries where it is spoken. You should try to read and listen to German when you can and find out as much as possible about the history, people, geography and culture of German-speaking countries and communities.

Here are some ideas you may like to try:

- Research all sorts of cultural information about Germany and try out the quizzes to practise your language at www.ukgermanconnection.org
- Listen to songs or watch music videos in German. There are some on the German section of Plato or you can try <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/mus/cli/enindex.htm>
- Learn German with all things football with the Goethe Institut Step-into-German website: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/soc/wbw/enindex.htm>
- Watch German TV for young people and read short articles at <http://www.tivi.de>
- Watch German television. Try <http://mediathek.daserste.de/> or <http://www.rtl.de>
- Download a podcast to listen to while you are travelling. Radio D is a special programme for learners of German: <http://www.dw.de/learn-german/radio-d-teil-1/s-9672>
- Read a daily newspaper via <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/> or <http://www.zeit.de/index>
- Watch films you love with German subtitles and/or audio
- Research a German recipe and make it at home
- Research a German speaking country or community – and produce a guide in a form of your choice
- Increase your daily exposure to German by switching the language on your mobile and facebook over to German
- Visit the German Christmas markets in Cheltenham or Birmingham and find a German stallholder to try out your language skills
- Go abroad, taking advantage of trips and the German Exchange

It really doesn't matter what you read or research, the important thing is to find something that interests you.

There is a wide selection of German films in the school library. You might like to consider:

- **Das Wunder von Bern** Sönke Wortmann
- **Emil und die Detektive**, Franziska Buch
- **Die wilden Kerle** Joachim Massanek
- **Kokowääh** Til Schweiger

History



Reading:

The school library has an extensive range of books about history - why not do a search on heritage?

Periodicals: BBC History Magazine and History Today are both high-quality publications with articles covering the full gamut of historical interest from the ancient to the present day. Both are available in the school library. Each issue contains wider reading suggestions as well as historical fiction and non-fiction book reviews. You can browse recent issues on display in the library and articles are extensively key-worded on the library ICT system. Politics Review performs a similar function for Government and Politics.

TV/Films:

Look regularly at TV listings for good quality historical documentaries, films etc.

A number of good documentary series are available on DVD:

Marr's History of Modern Britain; Masters of Money; Starkey's Monarchy; Starkey's Six Wives of Henry VIII, The West; The Civil War; Shama's History of Britain; Timelines TV: History of Britain (YouTube), Land of the Tsars (Episode 3)

Historical films and docudramas can be of dubious accuracy but many give a visual illustration of periods which cannot be rivalled elsewhere:

Elizabeth (1998); Cromwell (1970); Glory (1989); Nicholas and Alexandra (1971);The Way West (1967); Gladiator (2000);The Wind that Shakes the Barley (2007), Suffragette (2015).

Websites:

www.activehistory.co.uk

www.historylearningsite.co.uk

www.johnandclare.net

www.spartacus-educational.com

www.tudors.org

www.victorianweb.org

www.tudorhistory.org

History (contd.)



Holiday visits:

Museums, e.g.

- In the West Midlands: Barber Institute of Fine Arts; Black Country Museum; Blakesley Hall; Harvington Hall; Ironbridge Gorge Museums; RAF Museum, Cosford, Shropshire; Selly Manor.
- In London: British Museum; Imperial War Museum & Cabinet War Rooms; National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.
- Elsewhere: American Museum (Bath); Ashmolean Museum (Oxford); Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge); Jorvik Viking Centre Museum (York); National Museum of Scotland (Edinburgh); St Fagans (near Cardiff)

• Visit Historical Sites administered by the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) and English Heritage (www.english-heritage.org.uk) and Cadw (www.cadw.gov.wales) – all websites have searchable directories – and also many great cathedrals around the country, e.g. Canterbury, Durham, Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lincoln, Westminster Abbey, Winchester, Worcester, York Minster. Cities, museums, Gloucester Archives and sites of interests in Continental Europe.

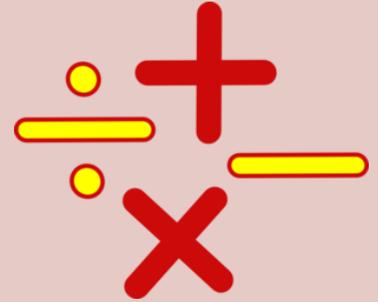
Volunteering:

- Look into volunteering opportunities with the National Trust and English Heritage (see websites above), as well as at museums.
- Cathedral Camps: www.csv.org.uk; spend your holiday working on conservation projects at a historical cathedral.
- Archaeology: opportunities offered by the Young Archaeologists' Club (www.yac-uk.org) run by the Council for British Archaeology.

Maths

Enrichment Activities

- The NRICH website nrich.maths.org has some excellent puzzles and articles on all sections of maths. Spend time looking through these, don't give up after 5 mins!
- Get involved in the individual National **Maths Challenges** – can you get a bronze, silver or gold?
- Be part of the **Team Maths Challenge**, junior or intermediate.
- Sign up for the **National Cipher Challenge**.
- Pick up the **mentoring papers** set by Leeds University - available from your Maths teacher.
- Look through the **MyMaths** puzzle section.



Maths Books

Have a go at reading the following:

Why do Buses come in Threes Eastaway and Wyndham

How Long is a Piece of String Eastaway

Does God Play Dice Ian Stewart (or many other books by the same author)

You are a Mathematician David Wells (or many other books by the same author)

Fermat's Last Theorem Simon Singh (or many other books by the same author)

Chaos James Gleick

Music of the Primes Marcus du Sautoy (or many other books by the same author)

50 Maths Ideas that you really need to know Tony Crilly

The Tiger that isn't Blastland and Dilnot

How to lie with Statistics Darrell Huff

Bad Science Ben Goldacre

1089 and all that David Acheson

The man who loved numbers Ben Hoffman

The Joy of Counting Tom Korner

Music

Listening

- Every week choose one unfamiliar piece to listen to under 'General Listening' on PLATO.
- Listen to as much music as possible! Radio 3 and Classic FM are good for familiarising yourself with more classical styles – can you learn to recognise the characteristics of different eras and composers?
- Try Radio 6 for different styles of contemporary music and new artists
- Test yourself on instruments/styles of music on Focus on Sound
- Attend as many concerts as you can. Cheltenham Town Hall and Pittville Pump Room run regular concerts, as do Tewkesbury and Gloucester Cathedrals and the Stroud Subscription Rooms. Also consider travelling further afield to Birmingham (Symphony Hall and Adrian Boult Hall) and Bristol (Colston Hall).
- Cheltenham is lucky to host annual Music and Jazz festivals. As well as the concerts, there is a lot of free music to be heard.
- Take part in Music Society events.
- Use Citrix to access the software Auralia at home to practise your aural skills.

Performing:

- Join a choir, this will improve both you singing and aural skills.
- Join a band or orchestra, either at school or one in your area run by Gloucestershire music service.
- If you already play at county level, why not audition for the NCO/NYO or another national ensemble? You will learn so much just from the experience.
- Practise your sight reading and scales on a daily basis.
- Take part in Practice-a-thon <http://www.clicsargent.org.uk/content/practice-thon>

Composing:

- Enter a composition competition – every year there is a BBC Proms and Cheltenham Festival one. Look out for emails from Miss Lane.
- Work to develop your music theory skills. Use the music theory page on the VLE or purchase the ABRSM or Trinity-Guildhall theory workbooks.
- If your traditional theory skills are already strong, London College of music also do some popular/jazz theory workbooks.
- Stretch yourself and broaden your skills.

Reading and Research:

- Learn to improvise.
- Read the BBC Music Magazine, kept in both the school library and music department.
- Choose a composer whose music you like and try to find out more about him/her. Use the school library, ask to borrow some CDs from the music department office.
- Challenge yourself to learn a piece in a different style to that which you are accustomed.

PE

The most effective way at improving your ability and understanding of sport is to attend as many extra-curricular clubs as possible, The timetable of activities are on the school website. We highly suggest that you widen your knowledge of Physical Education by following elite sporting events and teams, make the most of successful local clubs and use the following resources to expand your understanding.

Sporting Events

Below are some key events that we would recommend you have a broad range of knowledge on. Keep up to date with as many sporting events as possible and further your knowledge of where and when the events occur, who takes part...

WIMBLEDON (June-July) - This is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, it is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments and is the only major still played on grass.

SIX NATIONS - The Six Nations is an annual international rugby union competition involving six European sides; England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales.

THE ASHES - This is the notational prize in test cricket series played between England and Australia. Ashes series are traditionally of five tests played every two years however there are exception years where the series are played back to back, for example 2013.

OLYMPICS - The Olympic Games are held every four years and are the leading international sporting event featuring summer and winter sports competitions.

THE FOOTBALL WORLD CUP - Also known as the FIFA World Cup, this competition occurs every four years.

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES - An international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. These Games are described as the second largest multi-sport event in the world after the Olympic Games and will be held in Glasgow 2014.

Start following a team and join a club to further your awareness of elite and local sports as much as possible. Involve yourself wherever you can especially with local clubs, being a young leader and progressing into coaching.

Elite Local Teams/Associations

- Cheltenham Town FC
- Gloucestershire Cricket
- Gloucester Rugby
- Active Gloucestershire

Locals Clubs to Join

- Cheltenham Hockey Club
- East Glos Hockey Club
- Cheltenham Tigers Rugby Club
- Old Patesians Rugby Club
- Hucclecote Netball Club
- Old Chelms Netball Club
- Leisure@ Sports Centre (swimming/gym)

Resources

- www.brianmac.co.uk/index.htm
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/
- www.bbc.co.uk/sport
- www.revisionworld.co.uk
- www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/pe



Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Philosophy and Ethics can be explored and enjoyed in a variety of ways outside of the classroom. As you can tell from our 'RE in the news' noticeboard, your subject is always in the news and is vital to understanding the world. To get the most out of your studies in RE, Philosophy and Ethics you will need to be interested in both the big questions and the small details – from 'What is the meaning of life?' to 'Why would someone tie a box to their head in order to pray?' To follow up these questions and to inspire more, you need to keep your eyes open and your ear to the ground. Hopefully this booklet is giving you ideas about how to do that.

In RE we acknowledge that no one learns alone. We need to be enthusiastic listeners, disciplined thinkers and fair evaluators. We need to meet new ideas, different people and fresh outlooks if we are to grow as human beings, let alone do well in exams! This subject belongs to us all. Pate's is made up of Sikhs, feminists, atheists, humanists, Muslims, Christians, existentialists, Buddhists, materialists, Jews, political activists and Hindus, as well as combinations of those labels that you may not realise were possible. Perhaps one of the first ways you can broaden your horizons is to look up one of those labels to discover something about those around you. Welcome to the adventure that is RE!

Our library has some really engaging and excellent books that students often tell us they have loved. Probably the most popular are The Philosophy Files series by Stephen Law. A former speaker at Pate's, Law provides an excellent introduction to ideas that we study all the way through school, even up to Y13. Don't let that daunt you! Stephen Law writes in an incredibly engaging way and the cartoons are often the reason why you may see a gently chuckling philosopher in the library. Don't forget that there are separate sections for Philosophy, Ethics and Religion in the library and that RE gets everywhere in the library. For example, ethical issues can be discovered in all subjects from Science to PE.

Also in our library is a collection of DVDs which will help you ponder philosophical, religious and ethical themes. For example, the Life of Pi is a fabulous film which explores one boy's adventures through the world of ideas and faiths in a warm, colourful and visually entrancing way. For those of you who like the cinema, you might be surprised how many films have an ethical, religious or philosophical element. Mrs Smith recently saw Secret Life of Pets and spent most of the film wondering about the confused messages about animal rights that it presents. The Imitation Game is a fascinating historical film about the work of Alan Turing in the breaking of the Enigma code in WW2 which covers some meaty ethical topics. The Truman Show is an excellent introduction to thinking about whether we merely accept reality as it first appears to us, or whether we yearn to question and to be free. These are just a few films that are age appropriate. As you get older, there are even more films open to you. Perhaps you could keep a film journal and record your thoughts.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (contd.)

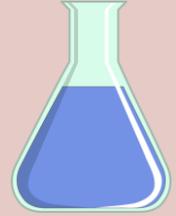
The most obvious way to explore what it is like to be religious is to talk to your friends and family who are religious. If you are religious, perhaps you could talk to someone of a different religion or to someone who is an atheist. Textbooks are great, but they sometimes give you the impression that all Hindus behave in the same way, or that all Christians believe the same things. The more different people you meet, the more you will find out the similarities and differences. It can also be really mind blowing to visit a worshipping community. If you are unsure, ring or email before to ask about codes of conduct and clothing. Why not ask a friend at school if you can attend a service/ prayers with them? Few people make the effort to do this and yet those who do will tell you that it can be an excellent way of understanding others better.

Twitter and Facebook remain good ways of being alerted to religious, ethical and philosophical themes in the news and to explore the views of others more deeply. We cannot guarantee that everything you read there will be as respectful as you are expected to be in class, but there are some great Tweeters and Pages out there. Everyone from the Dalai Lama to the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Humanist Association to Richard Dawkins are Tweeting their views for us to follow. We need to be discerning! Facebook and Twitter state that you need to be 13 to sign up. It is important that you remember that no one person can represent the views of an entire faith or philosophy. Your lessons will continue to help you evaluate what you see in the media and social networking sites.

Finally, your imagination is a ladder to the broadest horizons. Imagining what it is like to be someone or something other than yourself is such an amazing part of what it is to be human. How far can you stretch that imagination? Use it!



Science



- Get involved in competitions – enter the First Lego League and build a Lego robot to beat all others
- Attend trips such as the Christmas Lectures
- Go to Cheltenham Science Festival
- Look at science magazines e.g. Catalyst (School Library)
- Read science based articles on the internet and in newspapers. Go to the school library for science based Books.
- Watch science documentaries
- Visit Nature Reserves such as Slimbridge, Wildlife parks such as Cotswold Wildlife Park
- Visit museums (Natural History Museum, Science Museum – both free!)
- Visit @Bristol
- Helping with the School Conservation area
- Volunteer to work with local wildlife trusts – this could be through Scout or Guide badges

Spanish



To make real progress in Spanish you have to find opportunities to read widely, to listen to the language whenever possible and to find out as much as you can about the history, culture, politics and geography of Spanish speaking countries. The more you are able to immerse yourself in this other world, the more successful you will be with your studies.

Here are some of the things you can do to further your studies:

- Read regularly – books and magazines are available from the library. Many newspaper have very good online editions which are free to read www.elpais.com and www.abc.es are a good source of interesting articles.
- Listen to Spanish regularly. Try to listen to the news each day. www.rtve.es has a very good 4 minute daily news programme – telediario en 4. This can also be downloaded as an app to listen to on those long bus journeys.
- Watch foreign films – borrow from the library or the MFL department. The Guildhall in Gloucester, the Roses in Tewkesbury and Number 8 in Pershore often show foreign language films. Why not write a review in Spanish of a film you have seen?
- Travel abroad whenever the opportunity arises. Take part in school trips, especially the work experience trip to Spain.
- Research - choose a topic that interests you and explore it in your own time.

Some films to explore:

Volver – Almodóvar
Mar Adentro – Amenábar
Diarios de Motocicleta – Walter Salles
Maria Full of Grace – Joshua Marston
Voces Inocentes – Luis Mandoki
Sin Nombre – Cary Fukunaga
Nueve reinas – Fabián Bielinsky
No – Pablo Larrain
Machuca – Andrés Wood
Bombón el perro – Pablo Larrain
Las 13 rosas – Emilio Lazaro
Viridiana – Luis Bunuel
Cría cuervos – Carlos Saura

Some books to consider:

Federico García Lorca - Bodas de sange, Yerma, La casa de Bernarda Alba
Ramón Sender - Réquiem por un Campesino Español
Laura Esquivel – Como agua para chocolate
García Marquez – 100 años de soledad, El coronel no tiene quien le escriba
Miguel Delibes - El Camino
John Hooper – The new Spaniards
Giles Tremlett – Ghosts of Spain
Hugh Thomas – The Spanish Civil War
George Orwell – Homage to Catalonia
Frank McLynn – Villa and Zapata, the Mexican revolution