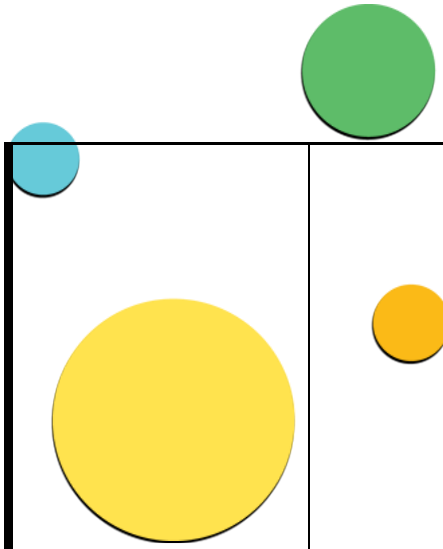
Straits International School Rawang
Curriculum Overview
Year 9 Autumn Term 1 2025/2026

Autumn Term 1	What are we learning?	What KUS will we gain?	What will excellence look like?
English Language and Literature	Novel study – Animal Farm	Students will gain knowledge of literary context and how this applies to the content and study of a text. They will develop reading, writing and speaking skills, with a focus on writing/speaking to persuade through study of propaganda, and a focus on explicit and implicit meaning identification. Students will obtain an understanding of how to analyse a text and will develop analysis writing skills.	In this unit of *Animal Farm*, excellence means moving beyond simply following the story. It is shown through a strong grasp of the novel's historical and political context, and an ability to connect this context to the themes and characters within the text. Students demonstrate excellence when they can identify both explicit and implicit meanings, showing awareness of the techniques Orwell uses to persuade and influence his readers. Excellence is also seen in how students develop and apply key English skills. In reading, they carefully analyse language, structure and meaning; in writing and speaking, they craft persuasive arguments, drawing inspiration from the propaganda studied in the novel. Finally, excellence means being able to write analytical responses that not only explain what happens in the text but also explore *how* and *why* Orwell communicates his ideas, making interpretations that are thoughtful, precise, and well supported with evidence.

How will this be assessed?		Formative and summative assessments, including reading comprehension, analysis writing, persuasive writing and descriptive writing.	
Mathematics	Reviewing of number concepts Making sense of algebra Lines, angles and shapes.	Identifying and classifying different types of numbers, finding common factors and multiples of a numbers, writing numbers as product and using the product to find the LCM, HCF. Demonstrate the meaning of indices and the application of laws and perform calculations involving powers and roots. Simplifying, expanding algebraic expressions. Recognising, classifying the angles and calculate using properties of lines, angles and shapes.	Excellence is to review number concepts and work with higher powers and roots, to round and estimate approximate answers, simplify complex expressions and to use mathematical reasoning to proof angles properties in a shape.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment focuses on recognising and classifying number types, determining common factors/multiples, and expressing numbers as products to find LCM and HCF. Students apply index laws in calculations involving powers and roots. They simplify and expand algebraic expressions accurately, and classify angles, lines, and shapes.	
Combined Science	B1 Characteristics of living organisms B2 Cells C1 States of matter	In this unit, students will learn the seven characteristics of living organisms, including movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion, and nutrition. They will understand the structure and function of plant, animal, and bacterial cells, and identify specialised cells like root hair, red blood, and palisade cells and their roles. Students will also learn how cells form tissues, organs, systems, and organisms,	Excellence in this unit is shown when students clearly define and explain all seven characteristics of living organisms using accurate scientific terms and give relevant examples. They confidently describe and compare cell structures across plant, animal, and bacterial cells, explain the functions of each part, and accurately link specialised cells to their roles. They also apply the magnification formula correctly and convert units with ease.

		and calculate magnification using appropriate formulas and units. In chemistry, students will understand the properties and structure of solids, liquids, and gases using the kinetic particle theory. They will describe changes of state such as melting and boiling, and explain how temperature and pressure affect gas volume, developing key skills in applying theory to particle behaviour.	In chemistry, excellent students clearly explain the particle arrangement and movement in solids, liquids, and gases, and describe changes of state using the kinetic particle theory. They confidently explain the effect of temperature and pressure on gas volume, applying their understanding to different contexts with accuracy and clarity.
How will this be assessed?		Quiz, presentations & formative assessments will be focusing on written questions, diagrams, and calculation tasks. Students will define key terms, label and compare cell structures, explain cell functions, and apply the magnification formula. In chemistry, they will describe states of matter, explain particle behavior during changes of state, and apply the kinetic particle theory. Assessment will focus on scientific accuracy, correct use of terms, and the ability to apply knowledge to new situations.	
History	A new century and The First World War.	Students will gain knowledge of Britain and the wider world at the dawn of the 20th century, focusing on issues of poverty, public health, and the campaign for women's suffrage. They will then study the First World War, exploring why it began, how men and women were involved, the experience of soldiers from across the empire, the development of new weapons, and the war's impact on medicine and remembrance. Students will develop skills in analysing sources,	Excellence will be shown in detailed, well-evidenced explanations that not only describe events but also explore their wider significance. For example, strong work might explain how new weapons such as machine guns changed the nature of warfare, or how the Suffragettes' methods linked to broader struggles for equality. Excellent students will use specific examples, such as individual stories of soldiers or campaigners, to support their arguments. In discussions and creative tasks, they will show empathy for the experiences of people in the past while grounding their ideas in accurate historical evidence.

		constructing explanations about cause and consequence, and considering different perspectives. By the end of the unit, they will be able to explain why the war broke out, evaluate its impact on society and health, and reflect on how it is remembered today.	
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through a mix of written, oral, and creative tasks. Source-based activities will test their ability to make inferences and judge reliability. Role-play debates, such as arguing for or against women's suffrage, will assess their ability to use evidence persuasively. Creative projects, such as designing a recruitment poster or producing a remembrance piece for Poppy Day, will demonstrate understanding of propaganda and memory. Short knowledge quizzes will reinforce recall of key facts, while extended explanations will measure their ability to analyse causes, consequences, and significance.	
Geography	Earthquakes & Volcanoes	Students will gain knowledge of plate boundaries, types of volcanoes and earthquakes, and the global distribution of tectonic activity. They will develop skills in interpreting maps, diagrams, and case studies, as well as comparing the impacts of hazards in countries at different levels of development. By the end of the unit, students will be able to explain the causes of tectonic hazards, describe their effects, and evaluate strategies for reducing risk and managing disasters.	Excellence means using precise geographical language, clear and accurate diagrams, and well-selected case study evidence. Strong work goes beyond description to explain why impacts vary between countries and to make reasoned judgments about the effectiveness of management strategies. High-quality responses link causes, impacts, and responses in a logical way and show depth of understanding.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed on their ability to explain the causes of tectonic hazards, analyse case studies, and evaluate responses to earthquakes and volcanoes. Assessments will focus on accurate use of terminology, effective use of evidence, and the ability to construct clear, balanced answers. Both structured questions and extended written tasks will be used to measure knowledge and application of skills.	

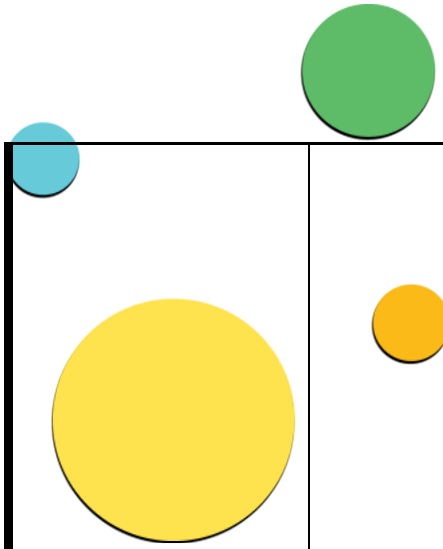
Enterprise	Business planning	Students will gain knowledge of how to create and structure a business plan, including sections like marketing, finance, operations, and objectives. They will develop skills in research, budgeting, forecasting, and decision-making. Students will understand the importance of planning for success, identifying target markets, and managing resources effectively. This learning fosters strategic thinking, financial awareness, and problem-solving, preparing them for real-world enterprise challenges.	Excellence in Business Planning will be shown through well-structured, detailed, and realistic business plans that demonstrate clear understanding of all key components. Students will present creative yet practical ideas, supported by thorough research and accurate financial forecasts. They will show strong analytical thinking, confidently justify their choices, and adapt plans based on feedback or changing circumstances. Excellent students will communicate their plans clearly and professionally, both in writing and presentations.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment will be through individual or group business plans, presentations, and written evaluations. Students will be judged on the clarity, structure, and detail of their plans, including market research, financial planning, and strategic thinking. Creativity, problem-solving, and the ability to justify decisions will be key. Verbal communication skills in presenting the plan and reflective writing on the planning process may also form part of the assessment.	
ICT	Networks and Digital communication	Students will develop knowledge of different network structures, analysing the advantages and disadvantages of each, as well as exploring multimedia production tools. They will build understanding of how network design impacts performance and how digital content can be used effectively. Alongside this, they will develop skills in designing and implementing network topologies and in analysing spreadsheet models.	Ability to explain the key features and uses of different network topologies with examples. Excellence in this topic means showing deep knowledge of different network structures, clearly explaining their real-world uses and evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Students understand how network design affects performance and can recommend suitable structures with strong justification. They design and implement accurate topologies while using advanced spreadsheet models to test variables, identify errors, and analyse outcomes.

How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed on their ability to explain and compare network topologies, demonstrating understanding through written analysis and real-life examples. They will also be evaluated on their creativity and technical skills in producing multimedia content that is engaging, purposeful, and well-structured.	
Art & Design	Year 9 – Identity & Culture through Contemporary Art In Term 1, Year 9 will investigate the theme of identity and culture through drawing, collage, text, and mixed media. They will study artists including but not limited to, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichenstein, Faith Ringgold, Romare Bearden, Kehinde Wiley, Njideka Akunyili Crosby.	In Term 1, we are learning how to explore the theme of *identity and culture* through a range of artistic techniques and processes. We will develop skills in drawing, collage, text-based art, and mixed media, using these to express our own personal and cultural identities. By studying artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Faith Ringgold, Romare Bearden, Kehinde Wiley, and Njideka Akunyili Crosby, we will understand how artists use composition, colour, pattern, and symbolism to communicate ideas. Through this, we will build both our practical art skills and our understanding of how art reflects identity and cultural experience in different ways.	Excellence will be seen in creative and symbolic outcomes, confident annotation, strong experimentation with media, refined ideas, and a final personal piece that communicates culture and identity with clarity.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment will involve ongoing sketchbook reviews and four formal pieces: a baseline identity portrait in August, a cultural object observational drawing in September, an artist response to of their chosen artist in October, and a final mixed-media identity outcome in November. These will be judged against the IGCSE objectives of recording, experimenting, developing, and presenting.	

Drama	Introduction to the Performance Techniques	Students will be introduced to advanced performance techniques such as solo singing and emotional depth in characterization.	Excellence is shown when students understand vocal control and expressiveness in solo and ensemble work. This will provide students with the value of emotional connection to character and music.
How will this be assessed?		The assessment focuses on vocal control and expressiveness, emotional delivery, and stagecraft. The emphasis is working on full-length musical scenes, developing leadership in rehearsals, and reflecting critically on their artistic choices.	
Music	Improvisation Major, blues, and pentatonic scales Phrasing in improvisation	Students are gaining knowledge of the major, blues, and pentatonic scales, as well as the ways in which these scales are applied in improvisation. They are developing an understanding of how phrasing and chord progressions shape improvisation, and how music technology can be used as a creative aid. They are strengthening their skills in constructing scales, listening for and identifying scale types, and performing improvised phrases both individually and in groups.	Excellence is shown through confident and stylistically appropriate improvisation that demonstrates accurate use of scales, effective phrasing, and sensitivity to chord changes. It is demonstrated by the ability to construct and recognise scales accurately, both in practical work and listening activities. Excellence is also evident in the creative use of music software to support improvisation and in the ability to perform with fluency and expression.
How will this be assessed?		Assessment is carried out through a combination of theory and practical tasks. Students are assessed on their ability to identify scales through listening activities, to construct scales accurately in written tasks, and to improvise fluently over given chord progressions in practical performance.	
Mandarin	**Mandarin Advance** Technology and Scientific Innovation 技术和科技创新 **Intermediate:** Relatives & Personality	**Mandarin Advance** 在本单元中，学生将掌握与“技术”和“创新”相关的主题词汇和表达方式，提升对信息类、议论类文本的阅读理解能力。通过听力训练和口语讨论，学生将练习如何提取关键信息并清晰表达自己的观点。在写作方面，学生将学习如何围绕	**Mandarin Advance** 卓越的学生能在阅读中准确理解文章主旨及作者的态度，能够结合文本内容深入分析科技发展对个人和社会的影响；在听说环节中，能自信流畅地表达自己的观点，使用丰富的词汇和适当的连接词组织语言；在写作方面，能围绕科技话题提出明确的立场，结构合理、语言准确，并展现出批判性思维。

		科技议题进行观点类写作，组织逻辑清晰、内容丰富的短文。学生还将发展批判性思维能力，能够从不同角度看待科技进步带来的利与弊。 **Intermediate:** Students will expand their vocabulary to describe family members from both paternal and maternal sides. They will learn to use adjectives and sentence structures to describe personalities, such as “他很开朗” or “她比较安静”. Grammar focus includes conjunctions, comparisons (e.g., “比”), and descriptive phrases. Listening and speaking skills will develop through class discussions and interviews, while reading and writing will involve family profiles and character descriptions.	最优秀的学生还能够联系现实生活与课外阅读，展现出跨文化理解能力和深入的思考力。 **Intermediate:** Excellence will be demonstrated through fluent and accurate oral and written descriptions of family members and their personalities. Students will use a variety of adjectives and connect ideas clearly using suitable conjunctions. They will confidently compare personalities, give examples, and express opinions using correct tones and grammar. High-level responses will also show cultural awareness and an ability to communicate personal and relational details in a coherent, engaging way.
How will this be assessed?		Students will be assessed through a combination of formative and summative tasks that evaluate their reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills within the context.	
Bahasa Melayu	Perayaan dan Majlis Istimewa	Students will learn about the cultural significance, vocabulary, and customs associated with various celebrations and special occasions worldwide. They will apply this new vocabulary in both spoken and written contexts, develop skills to compare different celebrations, and use tatabahasa Kata Bilangan correctly. Through this exploration, students will gain an appreciation for cultural diversity, recognizing how celebrations reflect social	• Accurate use of a wide range of celebration-related vocabulary. • Correct use of Kata Bilangan (quantifiers) in sentences. • Ability to write a comprehensive blog about festivals in Malaysia. • Clear articulation of the connections between celebrations, social values, and community identity.

		and religious values and contribute to both community and global identity.	
How will this be assessed?		V This learning will be assessed through a combination of formative and summative tasks. Students will complete written assignments and oral presentations using the new vocabulary and *kata bilangan* accurately to describe and compare different global celebrations. Their understanding of cultural significance will be evaluated through reflective writing or group discussions, where they demonstrate appreciation of cultural diversity and the values behind various traditions. Assessment will also include the correct application of grammar structures in context, and students' ability to make meaningful cultural comparisons.	
Physical Education	Y9S: Badminton Y9R: Athletics	**Badminton**: Students will develop a solid understanding of key badminton skills, including serving, lob, drop, smash, drive net and lift shots. They will learn how to execute these techniques with precision, improving their overall gameplay and strategy on the court. By mastering these skills, students will enhance their agility, hand-eye coordination, and ability to anticipate their opponent's moves. **Athletics**: Students will gain knowledge and practical experience in various athletic disciplines, including running, jumping, and throwing events. They will learn the fundamentals of each event, focusing on proper technique, form, and the importance of physical conditioning. Through these	**Badminton**: • **Serving**: Consistently accurate serves with precise placement, using a variety of serves (high, low, flick) to keep opponents off balance. • **Lob**: Ability to execute high and deep lobs that push opponents to the back of the court, setting up offensive opportunities. • **Drop**: Demonstrating control and finesse with drop shots that land close to the net, forcing the opponent to move forward quickly. • **Lift**: Effective lifts that transition from defense to offense, placing the shuttlecock in challenging positions for the opponent. • **Gameplay:** Students are able to do precise shots to move their opponents around the court. **Athletics:**

		activities, students will improve their speed, strength, endurance, and coordination, which are essential for overall athletic performance.	• **Running**: Demonstrating exceptional speed, endurance, and efficient technique, with strong starts, smooth transitions, and powerful finishes. • **Jumping**: Mastery of techniques, showing strong take-off power, good body control in the air, and precise landings. • **Throwing**: Displaying superior strength and technique in events like shot put, discus, or javelin, with consistently long and accurate throws.
How will this be assessed?		Badminton: Students skills of serving, lobbing, lifting dropping and gameplay will be assessed in a match situation Athletics: Students will be assessed on running (short or long distance), long jump and throwing (javelin)	