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Academy

Secondary Curriculum Policy

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Introduction

Our curriculum design enables pupils to develop a framework of knowledge and understanding in each subject area that provides a solid foundation for further study. The curriculum in each subject area has been designed backwards from university study, through A-Level, GCSE and down to KS3. At each point the knowledge, conceptual understanding and skills that need to be mastered in order to move on have been defined. All subject areas should prepare pupils for future study within this discipline, leaving no doors closed to pupils as they narrow their choices later in their education.

The whole school curriculum is based on the following principles:

- **High expectations**
Pupils study a traditional curriculum that provides a solid foundation for further study. Every pupil has a real chance to go to university or to follow the career path of their choice. Each subject area has a curriculum that is aspirational and focussed around supporting rapid and sustained progress at all levels.
- **Mastery curriculum**
More time to study subject in depth as well as a greater emphasis on English and mathematics as a basis for success in all other subject areas. The mastery curriculum approach also ensures that basics are secured before moving on.
- **More time for learning**
Based on the assumption that more time for learning increases pupils' chances of being successful and allows for rigorous academic focus as well as enrichment opportunities. Pupils who enter at below average levels of attainment experience an accelerated programme of study as part of the mainstream curriculum. This is delivered through the allocation of greater curriculum time to English and literacy for these groups and
- **Raising Aspirations**
The curriculum in each subject area makes reference where appropriate to the following:
 - University study
 - Current scholarship in the area
 - Higher level application of pupil learning including manipulation of language such as applying new grammatical rules in new situations and using vocabulary previously studied in new topics.
 - Key thinkers and pioneers within the subject from a variety of backgrounds
 - Uses appropriate language for writing extended pieces of work, such as sequencing.

Long term planning

Overarching curriculum objectives are based planned backwards from university.

Entering University
Entering A-Level
Entering KS4

Curriculum and Setting Details

Number of lessons per week

Pupils have 36 curriculum lessons per week

Pupils also have 3 Character sessions, 3 prep sessions and 2 enrichment sessions

Grouping

Pupils are grouped based on their attainment as follows:

- A Bands determine their group for English, Humanities, French
- S Bands determine their set for Maths, Science, Music and PE, Art

Pupils can move groups after an assessment point (3 times annually) if agreed by the SLT.

In KS3, pupils study the following subjects:

- Art
- Drama
- DT/Graphics
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

In KS4, all pupils study the following subjects at GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics

- Combined Science (double award) or Separate Science (triple award)
- French
- Geography or History

All pupils then have a free choice of 2 of:

- The 'other' of Geography or History
- Drama
- PE
- Art
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Computer Science

Pupils can study a 'community language' if they are fluent in another language other than English or French.

Note: a small number of pupils will not study French if we deem it supportive to their progress in English and/or Maths.

In KS5, pupils have the following choices:

A levels (either 3, or 3 + Further Mathematics, or 3 + EPQ)

Art & Design

Biology

Chemistry

Computer Science

Drama and Theatre Studies

Economics

English Literature

Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Geography

History

MFL (French)

Music

Physical Education

Physics

Politics

Psychology

Sociology

Religious studies

Whilst we will endeavour to offer all subjects listed, we will only be able to run a course if there is sufficient uptake.

Professional Pathways - BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma.

We also offer a select number of Professional Pathways. These are rigorous level 3 qualifications that are complemented by a careers readiness programme, careers mentoring and business partnerships.

Business Studies

Applied Science