

Curriculum Aims

Intent

To create:

- Learners that achieve excellence through positive learning experiences; making good progress.
- Resilient individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Aspirational people that can be responsible citizens that can make a positive contribution to society.

The organisation of the curriculum is paramount for our students to be given the opportunity to learn the skills required to be a successful in their learning so that we can ensure we deliver our aims.

To develop a curriculum which:

- Gives opportunities to create a culture of high aspirations.
- Meets the needs of all individuals.
- Raises standards of achievement.
- Allows all to achieve success regardless of starting point.

Implementation

- Clear lines of progression over 7 years ensuring good progress.
- A broad and balanced offer so that students' are given the opportunity to experience a range of subjects at Key Stage 3.
- A range of optional subjects are made available at Key Stage 4 so that students can specialise in areas most relevant to them and their career aspirations.
- More contact time in English and Mathematics to ensure students have the core skills required to be successful going forward.
- Ensure all students' progress is in line with national expectations.
- A SMSC programme built around the core values of Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration, with ERA days to give students the full learning experience.
- To support induction into secondary school for all year 7 students.
- Extra-curricular time encompasses sports, arts, cadets, homework clubs and revision master classes.

Impact

The key stage 3 curriculum is broad and balanced offering students the opportunity to experience 15 subjects meeting all national curriculum requirements. This breadth of experience gives students a more informed choice when selecting options for GCSEs at key stage 4. The emphasis on the full range of EBacc subjects at key stage 3 for all students facilitates a higher percentage taking these subjects forward to GCSE and compliments the government ambition to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.

At KS4 it is compulsory for students to complete GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Sciences and a humanities subject (Geography or History). Students will have the opportunity to select three optional subjects at KS4. The curriculum at all KS3 and KS4 is taught in 25 hours of contact time each week.

In the sixth form students make their choices to specialise from a range of A-level and BTEC courses. These courses are all taught by specialist A-level and BTEC teachers and fulfil UCAS entry point requirements for university courses that students may choose post sixth form. Any student without a level 2 pass at GCSE in either English or Mathematics may re-enter one of these alongside embarking on their level 3 programme so that their progress onto the next stage of learning is not hindered.

Years 7-9 (Key Stage 3)

The curriculum includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Ethics and Philosophy (including Religious Education)
- Physical Education
- Art
- Performing Arts – Drama and Music
- ICT
- Design – Food, design technology and textiles
- Values driven PSHE programme

Additional support is in place in English and Mathematics for students who have progressed below the expected standard for their age.

ERA days scheduled throughout the year where students are off their normal timetable for the day. These days are part of the SMSC programme and focus on topics such as British values, staying safe, health and mental wellbeing, study and work skills. These days are structured around workshops, presentations, team building and interactive sessions delivered internally and using external providers.

An afterschool and lunchtime enrichment programme includes a range of sporting activities, music, drama, dance, science and maths clubs. The library is open every day after school to facilitate the use of ICT and a homework study area.

Years 10-11 (Key Stage 4)

In year 9 students are given the opportunity to choose some of the subjects that they will specialise in and study to GCSE level. They will start their journey on the examined part of the course at the start of year 10.

All students must study the following:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science – Trilogy (two science qualifications) or Separate Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Humanities – Geography or History
- Physical Education – No external exam (unless chosen as optional subject)

Optional subjects (two of the following if taking separate sciences or three if on Science trilogy):

- French
- ICT
- Business studies
- Physical education GCSE
- Health and fitness (level 2)
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Food technology
- Product design
- Philosophy

Enrichment

An afterschool and lunchtime enrichment programme includes a range of sporting activities, music, drama, dance, science and maths clubs. The library is open every day after school to facilitate the use of ICT and a homework study area. In addition to this there is a revision timetable for students in years 10 and 11 to attend in all subject areas on a two weekly cycle.

Years 12-13 (Key Stage 5)

We have a growing sixth form where we ensure that our young people are well equipped and ready for their future pathways to University or apprenticeships.

Course offer

Students have the opportunity to study A-levels or BTEC/Level 3 diploma courses. Most students will choose 3 courses which will fulfil University/apprenticeship requirements. There will be a small number of students that embark on 4 A-level/BTEC courses but this will be following discussion about suitability with the head of sixth form.

There are 5 hours of contact time in lessons per subject each week. In addition to this students are expected the same number of hours competing homework and independent study.

A-levels offered:

- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry

- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Geography
- History
- Photography
- Business
- Product design
- English Language
- French
- Art

BTEC/Level 3 Diplomas offered:

- Dance
- Health and Social Care
- Information Technology
- Physical Education

Daily and Weekly tutorial sessions

Students have a timetabled one hour weekly tutorial covering PSHE topics and preparation for the next stages of their learning journey. This session is usually delivered by an experienced sixth form teacher. In addition to this they have a daily tutorial session with their dedicated form tutor who can support in an academic and non-academic capacity as well as review targets and progress.

Enrichment

Enrichment is an integral part of the sixth form. Students can choose from a wide range of activities including sport, music, drama, dance, cadets and revision sessions.

There are leadership posts within the sixth form with posts for head boy and girl as well as deputy head boy and girl.

There are work experience and volunteering opportunities. These opportunities include working with primary schools in the trust, numeracy and literacy support with students in KS3, mentoring younger students, local business and voluntary work.

The UCAS programme provides visits to universities, the UCAS conference, guest visits from university representatives, workshops on UCAS application writing, talks by ex-students at university as well as graduates now in working life.

ERA days scheduled throughout the year where students are off their normal timetable for the day. These days are part of the SMSC programme and focus on topics such as British values, staying safe, health and mental wellbeing, preparedness for university/working life, study and work skills. These are structured around workshops, presentations, team building and interactive sessions delivered internally and using external providers.