

## Curriculum Statement

### Context

Our curriculum design takes into account the National Curriculum, government legislation, the changing requirements for further study and employment, whilst retaining the flexibility necessary to respond to the need and aspirations of all pupils. We believe that all of our pupils are entitled to a curriculum that challenges their individual abilities; is relevant to their needs and aspirations; is inclusive and ensures value and progression for the pupils in the outside world.

### Key Stage 3

- **Core Curriculum** - in Key Stage 3, we provide pupils with a strong foundation upon which to build their future learning. This consists of the core areas of English, Mathematics, PE, Science and RE. The importance of each these subjects as building blocks for each pupil's wider education is recognised in the significant allocation of time. Whilst the formal RE allocation is slightly under the required 10% the rest of this time is more than exceeded through a wealth of individual, form, year and whole school activities that allow pupils to bear witness to their faith through experience and action.
- **Wider Curriculum** - pupils will also have lessons in Computing, Modern Foreign Languages, History and Geography. The allocations for these subjects reflects their importance in providing a breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills. Pupils are also given the opportunity to study beyond these traditional academic subjects through the inclusion of the creative, physical and practical subjects: PE, Music, Art, Drama and Design Technology. Additional groupings are in place in these subjects in order to facilitate practical elements.
- **PSHCE Programme** - the curriculum is enhanced further by a daily programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education (PSHCE) which combines opportunities for personal reflection and development with key knowledge and understanding within a healthy and supportive environment. This programme also includes careers education, advice and guidance.

### Key Stage 4

- **Core Curriculum** - in Key Stage 4, our strong core continues with English Language, Literature, Mathematics, Science, RE, Humanities and PE. (An additional half hour per week has been put in place for English, Maths and Science in Year 10 to facilitate the new specifications in these subjects).
- **Science Provision** - our Science provision is both creative and flexible to allow pupils the opportunity to complete the most appropriate Science course for them whether that is separate sciences, core, core and additional or BTEC. (An additional half hour has been put into Year 10 to facilitate the practical element of the subject).
- **Humanities** - pupils are given a choice between History and Geography, with the flexibility to follow both courses through the options process.

- **Modern Foreign Languages** - those pupils with an aptitude or interest in languages are also able to select MFL. These provisions ensure that any pupil willing and able to achieve the English Baccalaureate are able to do so.
- **Key Stage 4 Options** - these provide for a broad selection of subjects and areas of interest. The construction of these blocks is fluid and attempts to reflect the wishes and needs of the cohort of pupils. The subjects included for our options are: Business, History and Geography, Health and Social Care, Computer Science, Music, Textiles, Art, Food, Dance, Drama, Hospitality and Catering, Childcare and Sport. Pupils will make 3 option choices.
- **PSHCE Programme** - as in Key Stage 3, the Key Stage 4 pupils will also follow a daily session of PSHCE, tailored to the more mature demands of Year 10 and 11. This approach of one person (ie the Form Tutor) delivering the programme provides a more consistent model which will, we hope, enable our pupils to develop a relationship with the teacher which will encourage and develop participation and confidence.
- **IFP** - For a small number of carefully selected pupils we also offer an Increased Flexibility Programme (IFP). This mirrors much of the Key Stage 4 curriculum but also allows these pupils to select a more vocational offer with a strong focus upon employability and work-based skills. This is in an area of interest to the pupil and may take up to two full options, including the opportunity, where appropriate, for a meaningful work-based placement.

## **Sixth Form**

We offer a comprehensive range of courses which have 3 main strands:-

- A wide range of AS and A2 courses.
- Applied vocational courses at Level 2 and Level 3 in Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Information and Communication Technology, Sports, Performing Arts and Childcare.
- Vocational courses at Level 2 and 3 in Hair and Beauty.

## **Other Features of Curriculum Provision**

- **Mathematics and English** - All pupils will study courses in Mathematics and English. The timetable allocations and qualifications will depend on whether pupils are:-
  - Resitting GCSE English and/or Mathematics.
  - Studying for higher level qualifications in English and/or Mathematics (i.e. those pupils who have already successfully achieved a higher grade pass at GCSE).
- **Religious Education** - as we are a Catholic Sixth Form, pupils will study a recognised course in Religious Education.
- **Careers Education and Guidance** - all pupils will access a comprehensive programme and resources in careers education and guidance. High quality independent advice is also available from the school's Connexions adviser.
- **Work Related Learning** - we are committed to developing enterprising teaching and learning. All pupils will participate in a work experience programme, with pupils who are studying for vocational

qualifications having dedicated timetabled time for work placements, which directly relates to their vocational course.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities** - we recognise the importance of extra-curricular activities in enhancing the learning opportunities available to pupils and encourage such activities wherever possible.