

Curriculum Implementation: Our Curriculum structure

The formal curriculum is taught in a two-week timetable, five one-hour lessons every day, 50 lessons across a fortnight. It is structured as follows:

Key Stage 3: Year 7

Subject		Hours per fortnight
English		7
Mathematics		8
Science		7
History		3
Geography		3
French		3
Physical Education		4
Religious Studies		2
Art		2
Drama		2
Music		2
Computing and robotics		3
Food Technology		2
Graphics*		1
Design Technology*		1

*these subjects are currently taught in rotation, once a week for half of the academic year.

Key Stage 3: Year 8

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English	7
Mathematics	8
Science	7
History	3
Geography	3
French	3
Physical Education	4
Religious Studies	2
Art	2
Drama	2
Music	2
Computing	3
Food Technology	2
Graphics*	1
Design Technology*	1

*these subjects are currently taught in rotation, once a week for half of the academic year.



Key Stage 3: Year 9

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English Language and Literature	7
Mathematics	8
Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	8
French	3
History	3
Geography	3
Religious Studies	2
Physical Education	4
Computing	2
Food Technology	2
Graphics*	1
Food Technology*	1
Drama	2
Music	2

*these subjects are currently taught in rotation, once a week for half of the academic year.

Key Stage 4: Years 10 and 11

Core curriculum	Hours per fortnight
English Language and Literature	8
Mathematics	8
Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	10 (12 for separate sciences)
Religious Studies	3
Physical Education	3

In addition to this core curriculum, students are able to personalise their curriculum and will choose three 'option' subjects from the following offer:

- History or Geography
- Art and Design
- Art and Design-Graphic Communications
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia
- Dance
- Drama
- Engineering
- Film Studies
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care
- Music
- Sports Studies

Students will study each 'option' subject for 6 hours a fortnight.

Key Stage 5: Years 12 and 13

Students choose from the following range of A Level or BTEC courses:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- BTEC Level 3 Sport
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

In addition, sixth form students will study for Sports Leaders Award or Young Enterprise and complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

- We balance vocational courses with GCSE courses. We do not have rigid 'pathways', all students regardless of ability, can mix and match, though we guide some students more carefully than others. Our less able students also complete entry level qualifications in English and mathematics.
- Ebacc entry is not compulsory. All students do have to study either history or geography but French remains an option.

Curriculum Rationale

- We had a three year Key Stage 3 and a 2 year Key Stage 4 for the first time in September 2023
- By September 2024, we will have a model that enables every child to study music and drama throughout Year 9.
- Prominence is given to literacy and numeracy as we believe this will enable our pupils to improve their life chances, regardless of background and ability.
- We give curriculum time (one hour a week) to PSHE and to core RS (one hour a week) as we want to strengthen our school culture and sense of belonging to promote ambition, resilience and build character. PSHE is taught by form tutors to strengthen the pastoral curriculum.
- We have maintained the creative and performing arts across Key Stage 3 so that our students are given a chance to study great artists and be creative.

- We have strengthened technology to introduce all students to the design process. In particular, our intent is that our pupils should be able to cook a basic meal for themselves or their family and understand how to do so on a budget.
- Computing is taught to all students in Key Stage 3 as we believe that understanding the construction, as well as the many uses of IT, gives our pupils a chance to think logically, problem solve and be creative. In addition, there are clear career paths in the midlands that pupils can relate to and be inspired by.
- We have a cohort of more able students who are taught separate science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. All other students follow Combined Science Trilogy.