

VERULAM SCHOOL



Curriculum Policy 2019

Reviewed by Curriculum & Progress Committee	13/03/19
Review Period	2 Yearly
Date of Next Review	January 2021
 P A Ramsey Headmaster	 Mr J Acton Chair of Governors

CURRICULUM

Verulam offers a curriculum which is both flexible and demanding in order to meet the needs of all pupils and seeks to help them achieve the goal of excellence.

Year 7

In Year 7 we present pupils with a wide range of subjects which are mostly taught in all-ability groups. The main exception is Mathematics which is taught in sets. All pupils follow the National Curriculum including Science, Religious Studies, a two year Key Stage Three Humanities programme and French. Drama and Music. P.E. and Games are very popular. Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) is included through a variety of channels such as: during time with form tutors and as part of our personal learning course.

The curriculum is enhanced by four curriculum enrichment days per year when issues or topics are addressed in depth. Students are allocated their MFL subject choice on entry to the school.

Years 8 & 9

Pupils will choose their Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities choice of either History or Geography at the end of Year 8.

In Year 9 GCSEs start for English Language, English Literature, Science, Maths, Religious Studies, History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language.

Years 10 & 11

All pupils follow a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, RS, Technology/Computer and PE. Pupils study combined or triple Science depending on ability.

Nearly all pupils also study a Humanity (History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language.

Pupils also opt for additional subjects which can include: Physical Education, Art, BTEC Sport, BTEC Business, Btec Media, Economics, Music and Business Studies.

Years 12 and 13

Curriculum Policy. Reviewed by Curriculum & Progress Committee 13/03/19. Next Review January 2021

In the Sixth Form students select three A Level subjects. A number of students who study Further Maths in addition to Maths will study four A Level subjects. Level 3 BTEC options are offered in Business, Media and Sport.

The range of subjects offered in the Sixth Form is significantly widened as we operate as part of the BeauSandVer Education Trust Consortium with Beaumont and Sandringham schools.

Students also study additional subjects including Core Maths, Financial Studies and the Extended Project Qualification.

NOTES ON CURRICULUM MATTERS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Verulam has a reputation for welcoming all religious faiths and denominations. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education. The school day includes an Assembly. Parents who have particular reasons for wishing their son to be exempt from attendance at Assembly and from the lessons in Religious Education must apply for such exemption to the Headteacher.

PERSONAL SOCIAL & HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION & BRITISH VALUES

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) and British Values are taught throughout the school to all ages. The programme aims to provide all pupils with the skills and knowledge to be confident in themselves and to understand the adult world they will enter when they leave. PSHCE aims to provide pupils with assistance in understanding the nature of their own bodies and how to look after them; social interactions and the skills in dealing with them, including sex and drugs. It helps to prepare them for the world of work, to develop their moral and political awareness, to understand British Values, to promote tolerance and responsibility and the necessary skills to learn effectively.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Sex and Relationships Education ensures our next generation will grow up with confident, caring and responsible attitudes towards sexual matters. From Year 7 onwards, topics are taught as part of an integrated curriculum in various subjects. In later years more specific tuition towards sex and relationships education, including contraception and the nature of AIDS, is provided. This enables a natural development of understanding to take place as the individual matures, together with an acceptance of the responsibilities that adulthood requires. The school has a clear policy on Sex and Relationships Education based on the Government recommendations and agreed by the School Governors. A copy of this policy document is available upon request from the School Office.

CAREERS EDUCATION & ADVICE

Careers Education is regarded as a vital part of the school's work. Formal careers advice is Curriculum Policy. Reviewed by Curriculum & Progress Committee 13/03/19. Next Review January 2021

first given in Year 9 in preparation for the choosing of subject options for GCSE. In Years 10 & 11 and the Sixth form greater emphasis is given to Careers advice and content is delivered in a variety of ways including tutorials, interviews, curriculum enrichment days, assemblies, parents' evenings and meetings with external careers advisors. In all cases the aim is to increase occupational and self-awareness and to prepare pupils for the transition from school to work or university.

HOMEWORK

The school Homework Policy is based on the belief that greater knowledge and understanding will follow from homework being completed regularly and carefully. It is an opportunity for pupils to develop and extend their study and to become increasingly independent in their learning. It is also an opportunity for parents to become involved and interested in their son's work. The amount steadily increases through Key Stage 3 until the majority of subjects set homework of 40 minutes in Year 9. Two hours each night would be considered the usual pattern of homework in years 10 and 11 and in the Sixth Form students should spend at least one hour per subject each day in extra study. Book polishing is a key element of homelearning/homework.

PARALLEL STUDY

Parallel study is a third stream of work for students which is neither classwork or homework. It is used in a variety of ways throughout the school to extend pupils' knowledge and skills and in the higher years to help them prepare for examinations. Parallel study is entirely voluntary and the work completed is not marked. However, pupils will be encouraged to complete parallel study tasks by teachers.

Further details can be found in the Homework Policy