**Curriculum Overview**

As a fully comprehensive 11-16 free school, we are committed to providing the highest quality of education we can regardless of ability, race, ethnicity gender or cultural background.

The curriculum consists of all activities within the school and so comprises more than the formal programme of lessons. It also includes modes of learning, teaching styles, assessment, extra-curricular activities and all those features which contribute to our ethos, such as quality of relationships, concern for equality of opportunity and the values exemplified by the school’s organisation and management.

Aims of the Curriculum

The overall aims of the school curriculum and the national curriculum are to:

* Ensure an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum which secures the opportunity for every child to develop skills, knowledge and understanding across a wide range of subjects.
* Equip students with a range of transferable key skills (i.e. literacy, numeracy and IT) to support learning across the curriculum.
* Develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for students to enter into effective personal and social relationships in a multicultural society.
* Meet the educational needs of all our students and provide access and challenge for those of the highest ability, and those with protected characteristics (as defined in the Equality Act).
* Encourage all students to reach their full potential which includes achieving the highest possible standards in their public examinations. These standards will be used to set targets for improvement, measure progress and monitor and compare performance between individuals and groups in the school.
* Promote continuity and progression, fostering a high regard for education, training and a belief in the value of lifelong learning for all.

**Content and Structure**

The school operates a 30-period week with six periods of 50 minutes each day. In addition there is a 10-minute tutor period each morning and 20- minute tutor period or assembly in the afternoon.

The curriculum is differentiated fully for all pupils.

We guarantee equality of access to the whole curriculum for all students regardless of their protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act.

Curriculum Design:

* The National Curriculum is the minimum expectation
* The curriculum is sequenced with acquisition of knowledge forefront in KS3
* The curriculum is a balance between knowledge and skills.
* The curriculum often uses cross-curricular teaching to make curriculum relevant and meaningful

**Key stage three (years 7 - 9)**

Students follow a broad curriculum:

* Core of English, Mathematics and Science over 11 hours
* Strong EBacc coverage (History, Geography, French, Computer Science)
* Discrete lessons in Music, Drama, Religious Education, Physical Education, Art, Citizenship/Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
* Design Technology offer a range of subjects on rotation (food technology, product design, resistant materials)
* Reading is emphasised throughout curriculum, tutor time, library lessons and through English

**Key stage four (years 10 - 11)**

* Core of English, Mathematics and Science
* Four option subjects, including the opportunity to choose all four EBacc subjects (History, Geography, French, Computer Science)
* Physical Education
* Religious Education, Citizenship and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

**Throughout each key stage**

* Varied range of extracurricular opportunities ensure cultural capital through all years, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, international language links, physical education, arts and technology
* Range of external visits to enhance our provision both within the curriculum and beyond
* Work experience in Key Stage 4