

# Curriculum Rationale

## Curriculum Context

We are a multi-cultural school where the individual needs of highly able students are met and the development of the 'whole' person lies at the heart of our ethos. We offer our students a highly academic, rich and diverse curriculum, which supports and nurtures individual learning needs and talents.

### To support young people in becoming:

- Successful and inquisitive individuals who have a thirst for learning, make superb progress and achieve excellence
- Confident, resilient individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Responsible citizens who make a significant positive contribution to our community and society.

The breadth and richness of the curriculum, both formal and informal, supports our students. The design and implementation of the curriculum supports and prepares the students for the next stage in their education.

## Strategic Intent

### A curriculum which:

- Creates an aspirational and highly successful culture
- Enables students to be creative and inquisitive
- Integrates knowledge and skills to enable a depth of understanding
- Provides opportunities for innovation, risk taking and academic excellence in the formal and informal curriculum
- Enables success for all.

## Curriculum Principles

- To support transition into key stage 3 learning for all Year 7 students
- Progressive in knowledge and skills over 7 years; accelerating student progress
- To empower students to effectively develop study habit, systems, routines and learning attitudes that build commitment, motivation and productivity
- Targeted support and additional challenge to ensure all students make excellent progress
- Ensure all students' progress is at least in line with national expectations.
- Engage students through curricular enrichment sessions to address the wider curriculum, SMSC, PSHCE, Careers Information Advice and Guidance
- Wide ranging and complementary extended schools extra-curricular programme to enhance learning and participation for sports, arts, academia, catch-up and master classes.

## **The curriculum in Year 7 and Year 8**

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Computer Science

One Modern Foreign Language from French, Spanish, German or Mandarin Chinese

Humanities - Geography, History, Religious Education,

Art

Design Technology

Performing Arts – Drama and Music

Physical Education

PSHCE

Enrichment sessions, when the normal lesson timetable is suspended, take place throughout the year. These allow students to learn in different ways often with external speakers and workshop providers. These learning experiences cover subjects such as Tolerance, Staying Safe, British Values, Study Skills and Career guidance.

The curriculum develops resilience and perseverance in the students as well as aiding transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3.

## **Year 9**

Whilst students continue to follow the breadth and depth of the curriculum in year 7 and 8, students begin the GCSE courses in the separate sciences of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

## **Year 10 and 11**

Year 10 students study 3 GCSE subjects alongside the core curriculum of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students study a humanity (Geography, History, Religious Studies) and the vast majority study a language at GCSE. Students may also choose from Art, Design Technology, Drama, Music, Computer Science. All students participate in Physical Education.

All students study Religious Studies and PSHCE through enrichment sessions, when the normal lesson timetable is suspended, these take place throughout the year. These sessions allow students to learn in different ways often with external speakers and workshop providers. These learning experiences cover subjects such as Tolerance, Staying Safe, British Values, Study Skills and Career guidance.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Form**

Students study 3 A Levels, choosing from a range of Science, Humanities, Creative and Performing Arts subjects. We offer a number of A Level subjects in collaboration with partner Mercian Trust Schools, which extends the breadth of curriculum opportunity. In addition, they take part in Physical Education, and enrichment which supports their learning in PSHCE, SMSC and Religious Education.

Students follow a core curriculum to support their learning, developing mind-set and practices to enhance their progress and to build capacity for excellence at A Level, this

supports their preparation for higher education qualifications at university and work. Specialist guidance is given to support the UCAS process, and applications to medical professions and Oxbridge.

All 6<sup>th</sup> form students take part in a range of enrichment opportunities that support them in developing their non-academic learning and skills in preparation for university or higher level work related learning. This includes, but is not limited to, Creative and Performing Arts opportunities, science opportunities, First Aid and British Sign Language qualifications, Maths Challenge and Sport Leadership. This supports their development of leadership, teamwork, communication and interpersonal skills, through work as an ambassador, prefect or the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Students have small group tutorials with individual tutors to support and guide their academic progress each week and meet collectively as a Sixth Form regularly.

Students develop their religious understanding, tolerance, empathy and PSHCE through enrichment sessions, as well as through specific Religious and PSHE workshops when the normal lesson timetable is suspended, these take place throughout the year. These sessions allow students to learn in different ways often with additional input from external speakers. These wider learning experiences cover important values such as Tolerance, Staying Safe, British Values, Preparation for Further Education, and Career Guidance.

### **Extra- curricular enrichment**

Extra-curricular enrichment includes a wealth of opportunities, a range of sport and fitness activities and competitions, orchestra, training band and choir, Junior Show and LAMDA, Coding and STEM Clubs, Storytelling, book clubs and primary school outreach. A number of students from years 9 -13 participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. There is daily support for homework and classwork in the library and subject areas.