

The Curriculum at The North School

The curriculum at The North School is split into three key stages.

Key Stage 3 covers years 7 and 8. The aim of the curriculum in these two year groups is to develop students' literacy and numeracy skills, enhance key learning skills in a range of subjects and ensure all students have the necessary understanding to fully succeed in their GCSE or BTEC studies at KS4. By the end of year 8, students will have chosen option subjects in preparation for their 3 year course which culminates in public examinations at the end of year 11.

Key Stage 4 covers years 9, 10 and 11. At the start of year 9, students begin their examination studies in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, EBACC subjects as well as chosen option subjects in either GCSE/BTEC qualifications.

Key Stage 5 covers years 12 to 14 and is sometimes referred to as The Sixth Form. In these years students can opt to study a range of AS/A2 or BTEC courses. The school places a high priority on continuing to build students' literacy, numeracy and personal development in these years.

All students in each Key Stage are members of a tutor group. In these sessions the students develop and enhance their knowledge and understanding in a range of personal, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and health related issues.

Key Stage 3

Students in year 7 and 8 follow a broad curriculum covering the areas below;

English, Maths, Science, MFL, Geography, History, ICT, Creative Arts, Performing Arts, PE, Technology and Values.

In Modern Foreign Languages (MFL): Students have the opportunity to study French and Spanish and can opt to study one or both in KS4 if desired.

Literacy: A small group of students do not study MFL and have extra literacy lessons instead. Students also receive dedicated literacy sessions to develop this core skill within the tutor groups.

Design and Technology (D&T): This subject area is delivered through a rotation of Food Technology and Design Technology and is delivered by specialist D&T teachers.

Performing Arts: This subject area aims to develop students' confidence and speaking/ listening skills through dance, drama and music which are delivered termly on a carousel basis. Students can then choose to further these studies in KS4.

Key Stage 4

In years 9, 10 and 11 students follow a range of courses from the approved list of GCSE and BTEC qualifications .

Students, in consultation with their parents/carers and the school, follow one of two pathways dependent on their aptitude and ability:

Grammar Set and Set 1 students opt for an MFL, an EBACC and an option subject

Set 2 and Set 3 students opt for an EBACC subject and choose two option subjects.

In addition to the core subjects students may opt for additional subjects as follows:

BTEC Animal Care

GCSE Art

GCSE Computing

GCSE Dance

BTEC Drama

GCSE French

GCSE Geography

GCSE Graphic Design

GCSE Health & Social Care

GCSE History

GCSE Hospitality & Catering

BTEC ICT

BTEC Music

GCSE Photography

GCSE PE

GCSE Resistant Materials

GCSE RS

GCSE Psychology

GCSE Spanish

BTEC Sport

GCSE Textiles

Certificate in Financial Education

A small group of students have a more suitable curriculum provision involving Entry Level, Level 1 and/or Level 2 qualifications which are more suited to their individual needs.

Key Stage 5

In years 12 and 13 students follow a range of AS/A2 and BTEC level 3 subjects, these can be continued into year 14 if desired, some examples are shown below:

A Levels

Art

Law

Biology

English

Film Studies / Media Studies

Geography

History

Maths

Photography

Physics

Psychology

Sociology

Finance Studies Certificate

Applied Science

Business Studies BTEC

ICT L3 BTEC

Health & Social Care BTEC

Sport BTEC

Sport (Fitness/Leaders)

Students who have not yet achieved a grade C in English or Maths are able to follow a Level 2 Business & Retail pathway including GCSE English & Maths with the aim of achieving these key benchmarks. All students in years 12 and 13 follow a personal, social and health programme which aims to ensure they are fully ready for the next stage in their life.