

# The Curriculum at The North School

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

Key Stage 3 covers years 7 to 9. The aim of the curriculum in these year groups is to develop students' basic skills in literacy/numeracy, enhance key learning skills and ensure all students have the necessary understanding to fully succeed in their GCSE or BTEC studies at KS4. By the end of year 9 students will have chosen option subjects for examination courses in years 10 and 11.

Key Stage 4 covers years 10 and 11. In year 10 students start their examination studies in core subjects English, mathematics and science as well as option subjects in GCSE/BTEC.

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 are members of a tutor group. These groups join together in communities for 3 sessions a week. In these sessions students social, moral, spiritual, cultural and health learning are delivered.

## Key Stage 3

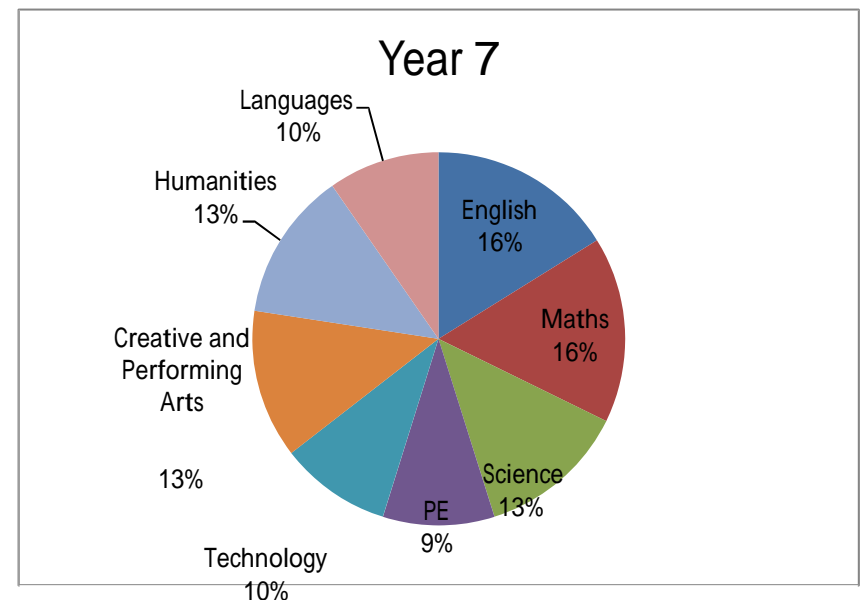
Students in year 7 and 8 follow a broad curriculum covering the areas shown in the charts. Some further explanations are shown below;

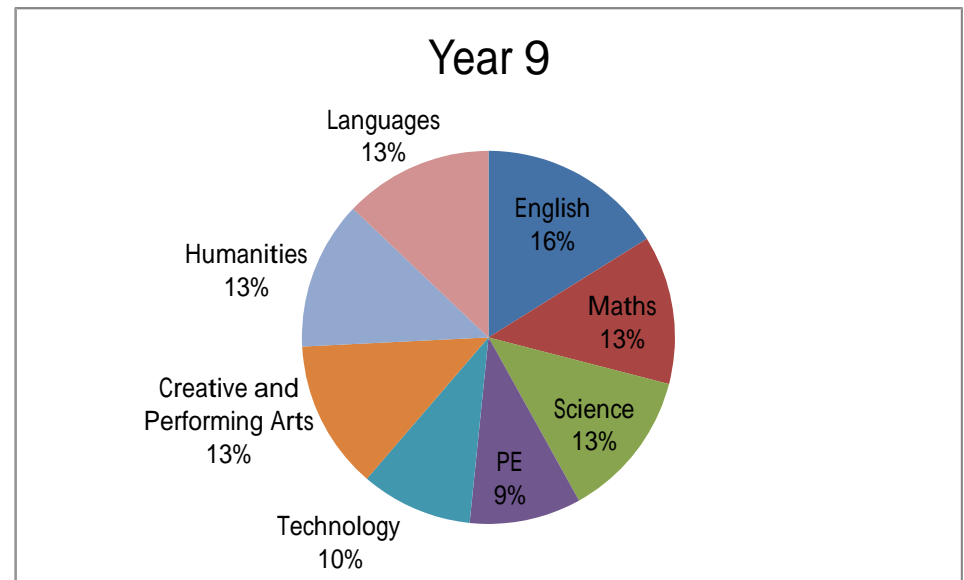
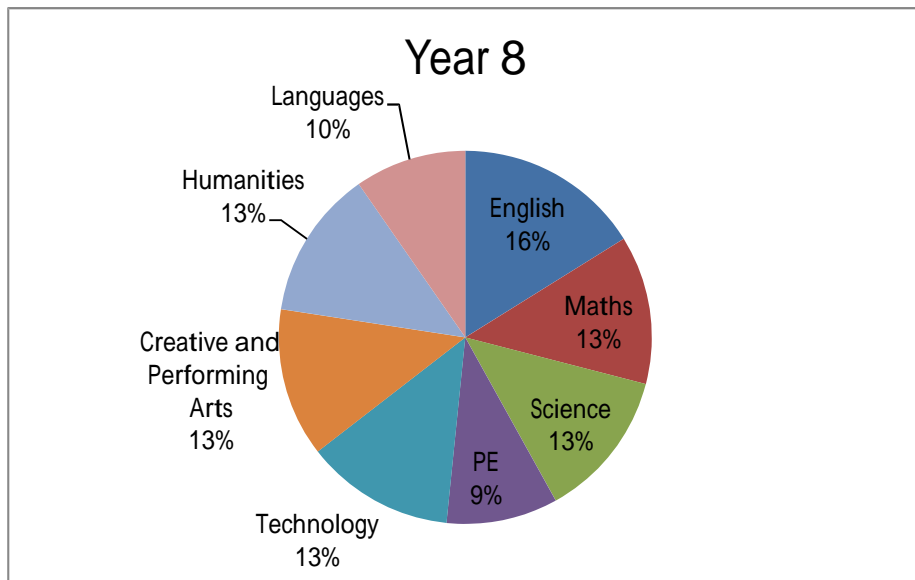
**Literacy:** Whilst most of the English content is delivered through English lessons, students also receive dedicated literacy lessons to develop this core skill within the tutor groups.

**Modern Foreign Languages (MFL):** Students have the opportunity to study French.

**Design and Technology (D&T):** This subject area is delivered through a rotation within the technology faculty. Each term they will move to a different subject. This is delivered by specialist D&T teachers.

Music is taught within creative and performing arts lessons as a discrete subject.





Students in year 9 follow a curriculum which offers a firm foundation for success in years 10 and 11. Non-core subjects deliver a foundation course as explained below;

**Languages:** These lessons are used to prepare students for either taking a modern foreign language or vocational subject. Students are taught French and Spanish; they can opt to study one or both in year 10 if desired.

**Humanities:** Students in these lessons can undertake a foundation course in geography and history.

**Performing Arts:** This subject area aims to develop students' confidence and speaking/ listening skills through dance, drama and music. Students can then choose to further these studies in years 10 and 11. Art is taught as a discrete subject within this block.

**Technology:** Students in these lessons can undertake preparatory courses in design technology, food technology and ICT.

## Key Stage 4

In years 10 and 11 students follow a range of courses, predominately GCSE and BTEC .

Students, in consultation with their parents/carers and the school, choose different pathways leading to different qualifications dependent on their aptitude and ability:

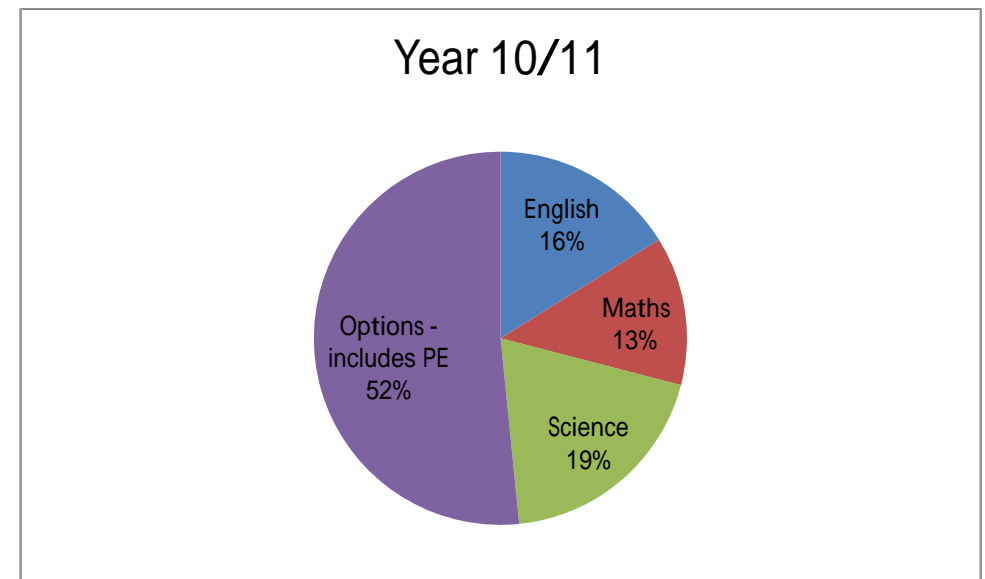
Academic Pathway – All GCSE courses including a compulsory choice of geography or history and French or Spanish.

Academic Applied Pathway – GCSE and BTEC courses including a compulsory choice of PE or dance

Applied Pathway – GCSE, BTEC and City & Guilds courses including a compulsory choice or PE or dance

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

Animal Care BTEC	Hospitality GCSE
Art & Design BTEC	ICT GCSE
Art GCSE	Law GCSE
Computing GCSE	Motor Vehicle C&G
Craft & Design BTEC	Music GCSE
Dance GCSE	PE BTEC
Drama GCSE	PE GCSE
Food Tech BTEC	Philosophy & Ethics GCSE
French GCSE	Photography GCSE
Geography GCSE	Psychology GCSE
Graphic Design GCSE	Resistant Materials GCSE
Health & Social Care BTEC	Spanish GCSE
History GCSE	Work Skills BTEC



## 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:

Animal Management BTEC	Horse Management BTEC
Applied ICT A Level	ICT A Level
Art A Level	Law A Level
Biology A Level	Maths A Level
Business Studies A Level	Music BTEC
Catering A Level	Performing Arts BTEC
Computing A Level	Photography A Level
Dance A Level	Physical Education A Level
Engineering A Level	Physics A Level
English A Level	Product Design A Level
Film Studies A Level	Psychology A Level
Finance Studies Certificate and Diploma	Public Services BTEC
Fish Management BTEC	Science BTEC
French A Level	Sociology A Level
Geography A Level	Sport (Fitness/Leaders)
Health & Social Care BTEC	Sport BTEC
History A Level	Textiles A Level

Students who have not yet achieved a grade C in English or Maths are able to follow a course with the aim of achieving this key benchmark.

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.