

## Intent

At The Bulmershe School we believe that all of our students are entitled to receive a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We therefore provide an exciting curriculum with suitable breadth, depth and relevance so that our learners get a good start and are well-prepared for the next stage in their education, training or employment.

We have the highest expectations of all our students in all aspects of school life and we work hard to develop ambition and raise aspirations of every student. Our core values clearly show how we expect all our students to conduct themselves throughout their time at The Bulmershe School. It is these values that will support our students in becoming equipped for life and prepared for the life journey ahead.

Our Values are:

- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**
- **Resilience**
- **Safety**

These values are embedded throughout school life. We also actively promote these values consistently throughout the school year; in assemblies, lessons, tutor time and other extra-curricular activities in order to support our students in being skilled in all four values. It is these core values that will stand Bulmershe students out from others, and ensure that they make outstanding progress throughout their time here.

All subjects follow the National curriculum as we recognise the quality of the material and the expertise of its authors. The core elements of the National curriculum are modified to match the context of local need as well as address the needs of Disadvantaged and Minority groups.

Subjects cover a range of topics outside of the National Curriculum to enrich student knowledge and to develop cultural capital and appreciation of subjects beyond examination content. A wide range of extra-curricular opportunities (trips, clubs etc.) are open to all students.

Cross curricular links are encouraged with all departments working with at least one other to give students experience of the similarities of many subjects.

## Implementation

The Bulmershe school curriculum comprises of all learning and other experiences that we plan for our students.

### **Key Stage 3:**

We study the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum over two years (year 7 and 8), working in either set or mixed ability groups as appropriate and studying the following as discrete subjects:

- Tutor Programme (5 hours per fortnight)

Detailed National curriculum information can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/381754/SECONDARY\\_national\\_curriculum.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381754/SECONDARY_national_curriculum.pdf)

- English (8 hours per fortnight)
- Mathematics (6 hours per fortnight)
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) (6 hours per fortnight)
- Technology (2 hours per fortnight)
- Computing (3 hours per fortnight)
- French and/or Spanish (4 hours per fortnight alternated between French and Spanish)
- Geography (4 hours per fortnight)
- History (4 hours per fortnight)
- Religious Education (2 hours per fortnight)
- Art (2 hours per fortnight)
- Music (2 hours per fortnight)
- Drama (3 hours per fortnight)
- Physical Education (3 hours per fortnight)
- Personal Development (PD) (1 hour per fortnight) - covers Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC). (Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Sex and Relationship Education (SRE).

#### **Key Stage 4:**

The key stage 4 curriculum is organised over three years. All students have the opportunity to follow the EBacc route as well as other academic or vocational pathways. The curriculum has learning programmes that are bespoke to each cohort. Some learning programmes involve different degrees of technical (vocational) learning either in school and/ or through off site provision. Qualifications lead to GCSEs or GCSE equivalents.

Students follow a CORE curriculum of:

- English (8 hours per fortnight)
- Mathematics, (8 hours per fortnight)
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics or CORE and Additional Science) (8 hours per fortnight in year 9, 12 hours per fortnight in years 10 and 11)
- Physical Education (3 hours per fortnight)
- Humanities (History and/or Geography) (5 hours each per fortnight).

Students then choose a further three options from: Modern Foreign Languages, Technology (Product Design in Resistant Materials or Graphics), Humanities (Geography, History or Religious Education), Physical Education, Dance, Child Development, Media, Art, Photography, Music, Drama, Business Studies, Computing and Information Communication Technology (ICT). (All options are 5 hours per fortnight)

In year 9 students get the exciting opportunity to follow a one-year programme of **Leadership and Challenge** in addition to their GCSE options. Students opt for either the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, Business Enterprise, Sports Leadership, Food and Cooking, Google Certificate and Mini Medics. These are taught over two hours per fortnight. These courses are all designed to engage the students with something new or different; pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs and university applications.

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SMSC, including Citizenship, RE, Computing, SRE and Drugs education are taught through a series of enrichment activities such as drop down days, assemblies, tutor time and trips, apart from year 9 where SMSC is still taught as a discreet subject. SRE and Drugs Education are also taught, as appropriate, in Science and Religious Studies.

## **Key Stage 5:**

Courses are based on either A2 or Level 3 equivalents of BTEC or Cambridge Technical.

A Levels are currently offered in: Business Studies, Fine Art, Biology, Chemistry, Drama, English Language and Literature, English Literature, French, Further Maths, Geography, History, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Physical Education, Philosophy and Ethics, Photography, Physics, Psychology, Spanish and Sociology. The Extended Project is offered as extra AS qualifications as part of the 6th form Enrichment Programme.

We also offer a breadth of vocational courses including BTECs or Cambridge Technical. These are: National Extended Certificate in Sport, National Subsidiary Diploma in Sport, National Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance), Applied Science Subsidiary Diploma, Extended Certificate in Business, National Award and National Extended Certificate in Children Play Learning and Development, National Certificate and National Subsidiary Diploma in Travel and Tourism and Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in ICT and Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Business. GCSE retakes are offered in English and Mathematics. All students on a vocational programme are encouraged to complete work experience that relates to their course as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Enrichment Programme.

All A-level and vocational lessons are taught over 9 hours per fortnight. If classes have very small numbers, these hours may be reduced accordingly.

We also have a comprehensive level 2 (GCSE equivalent) programme in order to help students prepare for the next stage of their education, training or employment if they are not ready for Level 3 courses. The level 2 learning programme involves English and Maths GCSE retakes (4 hours per fortnight), European Computing Driving Licence (an ICT qualification taught over 4 hours per fortnight), OCR Cambridge Level 2 extended certificate in Business and Travel (9 hours per fortnight) and Tourism BTEC First Award (9 hours per fortnight). All Level 2 students complete one day of work experience every week.

All Sixth Formers take part in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Enrichment Programme. The enrichment programme offers accredited courses such as the Duke of Edinburgh as well as non-qualification activity such as Physical Education, community service and work experience. All students have to attend a discreet lesson of SMSC every two weeks.

All sixth form students are required to undertake work experience or some form of work-related training as part of their study programme 'non-qualification activity'.

## **Community Languages**

Students that have English as their second language will also get the opportunity to study their native language at GCSE or A Level depending on their ability.

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## **Careers Support**

We offer comprehensive careers support for each year group, from year 7 to 13 depending on their need. Support is offered through assemblies, Guest speakers, tutor time, group meetings and one to one interviews.

## **Impact**

The impact of the school's curriculum is measured through several means:

- Outcomes for students at GCSE in Y11.
- Progress and attainment data for current year groups.
- Destinations data.
- Attendance data.
- Behaviour logs.
- Engagement in enrichment activities.
- Student voice.
- Progress towards the Gatsby benchmarks.

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