

The Burgate School & Sixth Form Curriculum Policy

(Non-Statutory - Advisory)

Reviewed/Approved Trustees' Education Committee: 02/10/2018

Review Cycle: Annually

Review Date: Autumn Term 2019/20

Context

The Burgate School and Sixth Form is an 11-18 non-selective mixed comprehensive school. Our vision is for every student to enjoy their learning and feel valued for who they are. Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that meets the needs of all individuals and enables them to progress on to the next phase in their education.

1. The curriculum has been developed to meet the requirements of current national guidelines and we conform to all statutory requirements. We believe in 'choosing for success' and therefore we engage students and parents in decisions regarding their GCSE and their A levels. Additionally we provide careers guidance to enable our students to be more informed about the subjects they require for their chosen career paths.

Year 7 & 8

The Year 7 intake is split on entry with the x side studying French and the y side studying Spanish. The vast majority of students follow Pathway 1, however those students who are not 'secondary school ready' are placed into Pathway 2. These students follow a Core Skills programme (literacy & numeracy catch up) instead of attending Spanish lessons. Students following Pathway 2 are still able to transfer to Pathway 1 as Spanish is also taught during Core Skills making reintegration possible.

	Core (20)			EBacc (18)			Total (50)		
	8	6	6	6	8	4	2	8	2
Pathway 1	English	Maths	Science	French Or.... Spanish	History Geography	Computing	RS	Art Music Design Technology PE	Games
Pathway 2	English	Maths	Science	Core Skills	History Geography	Computing	RS	Art Music Design Technology PE	Games

Year 9, 10 & 11

We operate a 3 year GCSE model to enable students to develop deeper knowledge and understanding of their chosen GCSE subjects. This is also designed to ensure that students are challenged in Year 9 to build firm foundations for their further GCSE study in Years 10 and 11. Students therefore make option choices in Year 8. A comprehensive package of advice and guidance is in place to ensure students make choices that are suitable for their future progression.

Pathways 1 and 2 ensure that students with sufficient aptitude are directed towards an EBacc suite of GCSEs. This will ensure that we have significant numbers of students following this route. Within this framework there remains an element of open choice.

Pathway 3 students also have the opportunity to study for an EBacc suite of GCSEs should they choose to do so. However, they will study eight rather than nine GCSE subjects and join the Core Skills group in place of an option subject.

All students study core GCSE subjects in English Language, English Literature, Maths and Combined Science and either Geography or History.

All students receive an additional core entitlement to PDL. (One hour a fortnight) This encompasses elements of Citizenship and Life Skills. This is a non - examined unit although some more able students will be invited to take the Higher Project Qualification and the PIXL Edge programme is also being offered in Year 10.

All students also retain an entitlement to core PE and Games (Two hours a week)

	Core (16)			Science (9)		Options (20)					(50)
Lessons per two weeks	8	4	4	9		5	5	5	5	1	4
	Qual 1	Qual 2	Qual 3	Qual 4	Qual 5	Qual 6	Qual 7	Qual 8	Qual 9		
Pathway 1 9/10 Qual	Maths	English Lang	English Lit	Triple Science (1)	Triple Science (2)	Geog or History	MFL or Option subject	Triple Science (3)	Option subject	HPQ	PE Games
Pathway 2 9 Qual	Maths	English Lang	English Lit	Comb Science	Comb Science			Option Subject			
Pathway 3 8 Qual	Maths	English Lan	English Lit	Comb Science	Comb Science		Core Skills	Option Subject	Option Subject	PDL	PE Games

Option subjects: Triple Science, Computer Science, History, Geography, French, Spanish, German, Philosophy/Ethics, Art, Art (Textiles), Art (3D Design), Photography, Food & Cookery, Drama, Music, P.E., Business, Media Studies.

Year 12 & 13

The majority of students study 3 A levels with a small proportion studying 4 or 5, especially if they take Further Maths. The curriculum blocks are designed around the students who have free choice. These options are discussed during 'choosing for success' interviews and the number of A Levels they study depends largely on ability. All students sit baseline assessments at the end of September to ensure they are following appropriate courses.

Each subject is taught over nine hours a fortnight and in addition students also have one hour of timetabled 'directed study' per week. Study support is available once a week for selected students.

All students follow an enrichment programme with one hour timetabled for talks/lectures and they also commit themselves to engage in one 'community' hour and one 'personal enrichment' hour each week. In the summer term all students take part in 'Careers Experience' for one week.

We offer 29 subjects at A-Level:

- Art, Art (Textiles), Photography
- Business , Business (BTEC)
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Computer Science, ICT (BTEC)
- Drama & Theatre
- Economics
- English Language, English Literature,
- French, Spanish
- Geography, History, RS (Philosophy & Ethics), Politics
- Mathematics, Further Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education (CTEC)
- Product Design
- Psychology, Sociology
- Extended Project Qualification

2. Setting

Students are placed predominantly in mixed ability teaching groups with two high ability sets pre-GCSE to enable rapid progress for more able on entry. In Mathematics students are set according to their ability in every year group. Once the students embark on their GCSE courses the majority of subjects continue with mixed ability teaching, though the core subjects of English, Maths and Science do set their students.

3. Assessments & Reporting

Formal Assessments (Learning Landmarks) are conducted according to our Assessment and Reporting schedule and targets are shared with students and their parents on a regular basis through the termly report. A formal exam week is also built in to the programme for each year group.

4. Homework

In addition to the formal landmark assessments set by all departments, regular homework takes place according to the Homework schedule. All homework is set on Firefly, our virtual learning platform.

Year 7- 8 (30 mins per homework session)

- Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) set homework twice a week
- Other subjects set homework once a week
- Creative subjects with only one period of teaching a week set homework once a fortnight

Year 9 -11 (30 - 60 mins per homework session)

- Science three times per week
- English, Maths and Mfl twice a week
- Other subjects once a week

Year 12-13 (3-4 hours minimum per subject per week)

- In addition to homework all students will have 1 hour of Directed Study in college per subject per week in which to complete independent tasks ie research, note taking etc.

5. Student Support

Support for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and those for whom English is an additional language, is provided in class. All students are provided with opportunities to extend their skills and talents, which includes the provision of additional classes and clubs and extension opportunities for the most able students, as well as intervention and support provision as required.

The implementation of this policy is monitored regularly through whole school, departmental and pastoral self-review and trustees are consulted on curriculum matters through the Education Committee.