

Oak Academy - Curriculum Rationale

Curriculum Policy

At Oak Academy, we believe each child has the right to achieve regardless of ability, SEN disability or disadvantage. We are steadfast in our vision that the quality of our education removes the barriers to social mobility as well as improving their life chances and enabling equality with other students, both locally and nationally. The curriculum model we offer at Oak allows progression throughout KS3 and 4, building solid foundations and ensuring students (education through continual support and guidance) are prepared for their next step

We offer a knowledge based progressive curriculum model that assesses the skills developed through acquisition and allows for the intelligent repetition of content learnt throughout the Key stages thus ensuring any misconceptions are addressed.

The Curriculum is not just an accumulation of knowledge built up over an academic career, but also the sum of a student's life experience. This is what helps shape the aspirations of our young people and allows them to achieve beyond any preconceived social expectations others may have.

"Having a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life is Key" (Education Act 2002).

Each and every child will not only take part in a broad and balanced offer, but also a tailored weekly enrichment offer that includes opportunities for our students to try activities that otherwise they might not have been afforded to them. Additionally, we have extra-curricular opportunities such as clubs and trips for students to develop a cultural capital and appreciation of subjects beyond what is expected from examination alone. Our curriculum is critical to this success. Traditional and rigorous academic study forms the cornerstone of learning with all our students studying English, Maths, Science and Physical Education at both KS3 and KS4. Complementing our core curriculum at KS3 is a broad range of subjects

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our students love to embrace which are: Geography, History, Spanish, Information Technology Performing Arts, Design Technology, Textiles, Food, Learning for Life and Enrichment. Choice is a fundamental principle of the curriculum at KS4. We are very proud to be able to offer a real blend of learning to enable our students to choose subjects, which will meet their passions and career aspirations. These include traditional academic GCSEs to more practical courses such as Art, Childcare, Design Technology, Drama, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, Music and Sport.

Principles

- the curriculum is broad and balanced, provides a wide range of subjects, preparing pupils for the next stage in their education or training and to be active citizens both in Britain and globally
- the curriculum includes opportunities for the effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils including extra-curricular, sporting and volunteering opportunities which develop character and resilience
- the curriculum actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- the curriculum focuses on the necessary priorities for ensuring that all pupils make excellent progress in reading, writing and mathematics
- each subject, where appropriate should develop effective literacy and confidence in numeracy
- the curriculum develops pupils' spoken language, reading, writing and vocabulary as integral aspects of the teaching in every subject
- the curriculum promotes high levels of achievement and good behaviour
- the curriculum links to the school's system of assessment and that together they set out what pupils are expected to know, understand and do, and when
- the curriculum is based on a balance between academic and vocational courses
- all pupils have an entitlement to the whole curriculum provision irrespective of their ability, disability, gender or ethnicity
- The curriculum is clearly defined in schemes of learning by each subject area. Information about what is taught in the curriculum each year and in each subject is

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set out in detail on the school website. Information on extra-curricular activities and clubs is also published on the school website.

Curriculum outcomes

Our curriculum outcomes will:

- Lead to qualifications that hold currency for employers and for entry to further and higher education.
- Fulfil statutory requirements.
- Enable students to fulfil their potential.
- Meet the needs of young people of all abilities.
- Encourage social mobility through increased aspirations.
- Provide equal access for all students to a full range of learning experiences beyond statutory guidelines.
- Prepare students to make informed and appropriate choices at the end of KS3, KS4 and beyond.
- Help students develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- Foster teaching styles, which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities.
- Help students develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races' beliefs and ways of life.
- Help students understand the world in which they live.

Options and Progression

Our legacy curriculum has supported Year 9 students in choosing their GCSE options for a Year 9 start to maximise their engagement. Following a review of curriculum and in line with new National expectations, from September 2020 students will follow broad and balanced KS3 curriculum throughout Year 7, 8 and 9.

Enrichment is a whole afternoon every other Friday where students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have the opportunity to follow a passion, hobby, interest or simply a curiosity with activities such as drum club, show time, board games, boxing, cooking and many more. All contribute

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towards a thirst for learning that we nurture in everyone whilst also adding crucial additional experience for future CVs when applying for jobs.

Curriculum Design

Years 7 & 8 – 2 week timetable

Subject Studied	Hours
English (inc. 2 hours of reading)	10
Mathematics	7
Science	8
Humanities	6
Technology (inc ICT)	4
Art	2
Learning for Life	2
Performing Arts	2
Physical Education	4
Enrichment	2

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Years 7 & 8 – 2 week timetable

Subject Studied	Hours
English (inc. 2 hours of reading)	10
Mathematics	7
Science	8
Humanities	6
Technical	4
Creative Arts	2
Learning for Life	2
Performing Arts	2
Physical Education	4
Enrichment	2

Year 10 – 2 week timetable

Subject Studied	Hours
English	10
Mathematics	8
Science	10
EBacc Option	4
Guided Option X	4
Guided Option X	4
Guided Option Z	4
Physical Education	4
Learning for Life	2

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Year 11 – 2 week timetable

Subject Studied	Hours
English	10
Mathematics	8
Science	10
EBacc Option	5
Guided Option X	5
Guided Option X	5
Guided Option Z	5
Physical Education	2

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Subjects

Detailed information of subjects is available on the Academy website

KS4 Option subjects

Computer Science (GCSE)	Child Development (Level 2)
Spanish (GCSE)	Health and Social Care (Level 2)
Geography (GCSE)	Film Studies (GCSE)
History (GCSE)	Music (GCSE)
ICT (Level 2)	Drama (GCSE)
Art (GCSE)	Sport (Level 2)
Design & Technology (GCSE)	Catering (Level 2)
Textiles (GCSE)	Film Studies (GCSE)

Careers Education

Our careers curriculum is designed to help the pupils plan and take control of their future. In KS3, students receive information about careers through workshops. The workshops are designed to help the children prepare for their options in KS4 and Post 16. Pupils in year 9, 10 & 11, have access to an impartial careers advisor, who will interview all students formally on a one-to-one basis. Mock interviews with employers take place for all year 10.

All year groups have the opportunity to develop their employability and enterprise skills through taking part in various activities and a compulsory 1-week Work Experience placement. The aim is to give pupils first-hand experience of the world of work. Each year, a range of external providers attends the Academy to talk to all year groups about employability including vocational, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities.

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