

Nailsea School

Curriculum Overview

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Intent of our curriculum:

- is ambitious and enables pupils to be successful and active participants in society
- broad for as long as possible – 3 year KS3 and 2 year KS4 model
- is aspirational for all pupils, enabling all pupils to have skills and knowledge for next stage of education/training at 16 or 18.
- Appreciation of the importance of enrichment activities outside of the classroom to widen understanding of the world

Curriculum is implemented by:

- Curriculum areas being autonomous in their choice of curriculum which covers as much breadth and depth as National Curriculum 2
- Curriculum topics are deliberately sequenced

- Planned interleaving and retrieval practice regularly enables pupil to commit core knowledge to long term memory as well as formal assessment points that inform reporting to parents
- Quality first teaching advocated for all teachers in all subjects at all stages building on knowledge sequentially to make links with prior learning



Curriculum impact is assessed through:

- QA processes of teaching and learning
- Examination outcomes
- Student voice
- Destinations data
- Specific assessment of positive outcomes is placed on the engagement and progress of disadvantaged and students with SEND

Organisation of the curriculum

□ Key Stage 3

Key stage 3 is taught from Years 7 - 9 with the exception of science and maths who begin the GCSE syllabus in Year 9. The vast majority of subjects are taught in mixed ability groups with the exception of maths and science at KS4 and maths in years 7, 8 and 9.

We believe that it is important not to narrow student choices at an earlier stage and that the compulsory inclusion of creative subjects enriches students' cultural capital. Combined with enrichment opportunities from across the full range of courses and non-examined courses, students' character and culture is developed alongside academic progress.

The vast majority of students at Key Stage3 study a Modern Foreign Language, French or Spanish.

The allocation for teaching periods per 2 week cycle for fully mainstream students is shown below (50 period cycle)

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	7	7	7
Maths	7	7	7
Science	7	7	7
MFL	4	4	4
History	4	4	4
Geography	4	4	4
RE	1	2	2
ICT	2	1	1



DT	4	4	4
Art	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
PE	4	4	4

Reading is a key part of KS3 English lessons, both in terms of reading for pleasure, and as the means through which the bulk of the curriculum is delivered - in all subjects. Once a fortnight English groups have a library lesson. This is a combination of guided reading and individual choice, with extension activities centred on the texts. In addition, the library is at the centre of many of our reading initiatives, including Carnegie shadowing and book groups and our weekly tutor-time reading sessions.

All students take a diagnostic reading age assessment when they join Year 7. This is used to help support those below chronological age, both in lessons and with additional support. It provides a benchmark for progress as students move up through the school. Parental support is crucial to encouraging good reading habits and we provide lists and ladders to help choose suitable books.

□ Key Stage 4

At KS4 the following subjects are compulsory for all pupils:

- Maths
- English Language and Literature
- Combined Sciences or separate GCSEs in Bio, Chem and Physics
- History or Geography
- Core PE (non-examined)
- Ethics (non-examined)

The allocation for teaching periods per 2 week cycle is shown below (50 period cycle)

Subject	Year 10	Year 11
English	8	8
Maths	7	7
Science	10	10

4



Option 1	5	5
Option 2	5	5
Option 3	5	5
Option 4	5	5
RE	1	1
PE	4	4

Pupils have as much freedom as possible to choose the courses they want to study, within a process that provides strong and directed information and guidance. Students are encouraged to pursue a 'broad and balanced' curriculum, and the subjects required for the English Baccalaureate are made explicit. Students select 4 additional options.

The school is aware of the government's ambition that the EBacc should be at the heart of the curriculum. All students do pick History or Geography in year 10.

A small number of students in year 10 and 11 follow an alternative pathway, discussed with parents prior to choices being made. This bespoke curriculum takes into account students' starting points and transition plans. In current year 10 the students follow ASDAN, ICT, 3D Art and DofE bronze as their options in addition to Maths, English and Science.

Key Stage 5

KS5 students choose either four or, in most cases, three two-year Level 3 courses. These courses are mainly A Levels but there are also more vocational style courses on offer in Business, Health and Social Care, ICT and Forensic Science. Those students taking four subjects will have particularly high prior attainment at GCSE level. It is still possible to sit an AS examination in a small number of subjects following discussion with students and parents,

Students who are yet to reach the required threshold in GCSE Mathematics and English (Language) will join re-sit classes and be re-entered for the examination(s) in November and June until they achieve a standard pass – currently this is a grade 4.

Nailsea can offer a 6th form place to any student who wishes to stay on through our 'Access to Level 3 Curriculum'. This provides students with a further number of Level 2 qualifications (for example, Film Studies, BTEC Work Skills, Psychology).



Wider Curriculum

Academic curriculum is also underpinned by a wider curriculum

- A tutor and assembly programme which supports the delivery of PSHE and focuses on British values in the curriculum (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of different faiths and beliefs).
- ABSolute collapsed sessions in extended tutor time which also supports the delivery of PSHE
- A careers offer which allows pupils and students at all stages of their time to receive impartial advice and guidance to ensure they are successful at progressing to the next stage
- A week long work experience for all Year 10 pupils and a day of work experience in year 12

An extra-curricular programme enabling pupils to take part in a wide range of activities including the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at bronze, silver and gold level.