

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
- 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 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 in year 7. In years 8 and 9 the vast majority study both French and Spanish. A small number of



students in year 7 (5), in year 8 (10) and in year 9 (15) do not study a Modern Foreign Language. (6% of the KS3 cohort). These students access the Hub provision and/ or curriculum support lessons. Those 15 students in year 9 only study one language and have 3 periods of literacy intervention. Those in 7-9 that access the Hub provision have OT/Social Thinking/Additional Life Skills sessions at these times.

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
1 MFL	4	3	3
2 MFL	0	3	3
History	4	3	3
Geography	4	3	3
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 – once a fortnight English groups have a library lesson, starting with guided reading of short stories. All students have their reading ages tested through the NGRT when they start the school and access to strategies to support weaker readers are shared with all teaching staff. Whole school training on the theme of reading was held 2019. At the start of every KS3 English lesson students should read silently for 10 mins on a book of their choice. Students bring these books to lessons.

- **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	7	8
Maths	8	7
Science	10	10
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. (Total 8 – 11 GCSEs achieved)

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 and with the changes in learning one language at KS3 it is hoped that students feel more confident to make a positive choice of languages in coming years.

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 11 this is a group of 7 students (5% of the cohort) and in current year 10 this is 12 students (9% of the cohort). In year 11 the students follow ASDAN, Booster group, ICT and DofE bronze – 5 GCSEs that count towards performance tables. In year 10 these students follow ASDAN, Booster group and 2 options – 7 GCSEs that count towards performance tables.

**Reading** plans at KS4 are being planned for September 2020. The school understands the importance of this and specific CPD has been held this year. A 'Reading for pleasure' scheme will



form a tutor session once a week and Sixth Form reading partners will be set up to encourage those weaker/more reluctant readers.

### 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 and Applied 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 res-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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 five times a year 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.