

Roundwood Park School



Curriculum Policy Statement for September 2017

Curriculum Overview

Through our curriculum at Roundwood Park School we aim to provide a wide range of learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, which allows every student to achieve his or her full potential. We hope to encourage the love of learning by providing a variety of relevant and enjoyable activities, enabling all students to develop their intellectual, moral, social, physical and personal skills to the full.

In order to achieve this we provide a curriculum which:

- Promotes a commitment to lifelong learning and learning for life through ASPIRE.
- Is, where appropriate for our students, consistent both with the county curriculum statement and the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- Promotes and supports “Inclusion” at all Key Stages.
- Is perceived by the students to be challenging, inspiring and relevant to their preparation for adult life – thus reflecting the school’s vision, “challenging minds, inspiring success, preparing for life”.
- Is broad, balanced and develops knowledge and understanding regardless of ability, gender, ethnic origin or social background.
- Encourages a spirit of enquiry and an ethos where we have high expectations of all our students.
- Fosters scientific, technological, sporting, creative and cultural achievement.
- Gives the students a sense of success through their achievements.
- Encourages students to appreciate and admire the achievement of others, both in the school community and at a global level.
- Provides active and full cooperation between home, school and the community.
- Provides a wealth of cross curricular activities in terms of clubs, trips, events and performances, which are open to all students.
- Provides an opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of work through work experience placements.

The curriculum is organised into the three secondary school key stages

KS3 (years 7 to 9)

KS4 (years 10 and 11)

KS5 (years 12 and 13).

Programmes of study are planned carefully to allow smooth transition between the key stages.

The curriculum is delivered by a weekly 25 x 1 hour timetable

The KS3 Curriculum (Years 7 to 9)

All students follow the same curriculum, which is consistent with the National Curriculum. Whilst all students study the same subjects, the pace of work and depth of content will vary according to differing individual needs and the ability group (where applicable) in which they are taught.

The curriculum is made up as follows: (2016-2017)

Subjects	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	4	3	3
Mathematics	4	3	3
Science	3	3	3
Art	1	1	1
Design & Technology	1	2	1
Drama	1	1	1
Geography	1	1	2
History	1	2	1
Computer Science	1	1	1
Modern Languages/Learning support	3	3	2
Music	1	1	1
PE	2	2	2
Health & Relationships Ed/Citizenship	-	-	1
PRE	1	1	1
Tutorial (PSHCE)	1	1	-
Options (French/German/Spanish/DT/Ancient History/Latin)			2

Notes

- When students arrive in Year 7, they are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. They are taught in these groups for all subjects, except for mathematics (where they are taught in broad ability groups from November (9 groups) and modern languages (where they are taught in mixed ability but not tutor groups from January). Students are in separate boy/girl groups in KS3 and KS4 core PE.
- Students who are below expectations in English and/or maths will be disapplied from French (2 periods) in Year 7. They will be given extra maths and/or English as appropriate. Some students will also be disapplied from German (1 period) as well. Students with a lower ability in maths are supported in Year 7 and 8 by extra staffing in the bottom set. Students with a lower ability in English are supported by SEND staff in their English lessons.
- Support classes are timetabled against all languages in year 8 and 9 to enable students to be disapplied from a/both language(s) so they can receive additional support in maths/English/other areas of the curriculum
- In Year 8, ability banding is extended such that mathematics, English and humanities subjects (history, geography) are taught in broad ability groups. All other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.
- Science and PRE begin KS4 courses in Year 9 to allow for sufficient delivery time over three years.
- PRE is delivered in Year 11 by being incorporated into the collapsed PSHE days (x3)
- In Years 7 and 8, PSHCE (covering careers, resilience, personal development, health and relationships education and citizenship) is delivered through the tutorial programme.

- In Year 9, PSHCE is delivered through the health and relationships education/citizenship programme and is supplemented by whole / half day workshops facilitated by school staff or visiting speakers.
- Although students have discrete Computer Science lessons, ICT capability is developed across the subject areas. All classrooms are equipped with at least one computer and either an interactive whiteboard or a projector. We have (9) modern computer suites which are fully networked with the latest software, plus a fully equipped Library.
- The school has 3x16 sets of iPads which can be booked out for use in lessons
- In some year groups, the ability profile is such that some students are not served well by our curriculum model. In such cases, we adapt the structure and delivery to meet the needs of these students, following in-depth consultation with parents / carers
- Students in Year 9 all continue with either French or German for two periods a week. They have an option for a further two periods to study one of French/German/Spanish/Design and Technology/Ancient History/Latin

Setting

Year 7

Maths	set across half year groups from October half term
Technology	across half year groups in carousel (not by ability)

Year 8

Maths	set across half year groups
Gg, Hi, English	set across half year group (decided by English/Humanities)
Technology	across half year groups in carousel (not by ability)

Year 9

Maths	set across whole year
Gg, Hi, English	set across half year group (decided by Humanities)
Science	set across half year groups
Technology	across half year groups in carousel (not by ability)

The KS4 Curriculum (Year 10 September 2017)

Where appropriate, students will follow a programme of study that meets the requirements of the EBacc. The vast majority of students will study a programme that ensures all 8 pots in the progress 8 measure are full. However, for a small number of students, this is not the best curriculum to enable them to succeed. These students may be at college or take curriculum support and would therefore have less than the 8 subjects needed to fill all of the progress 8 pots.

Route A

Route B

English Language & English Literature (2 GCSEs) 4 hours	English Language & English Literature (2 GCSEs) 4 hours
Maths GCSE 4 hours	Maths GCSE 4 hours
Separate sciences (3 GCSEs) 5 hours	Combined Science (2 GCSEs) 5 hours
PRE – Short course GCSE 1 hour	PRE – Short course GCSE 1 hour
PE/Games 2 hours	PE/Games 2 hours
GCSE/Level 2 Option 3 hours	GCSE (from French/German/Spanish/history/geography/computer science) 3 hours
GCSE/Level 2 Option 3 hours	GCSE/Level2 Option 3 hours
GCSE/Level 2 Option 3 hours	GCSE/Level2/Level 1 Option 3 hours

(A separate handbook issued to students in Year 9 covers this in detail).

Students are offered 2 pathways at KS4 – Those who choose to take the separate sciences and those who choose combined science. Students who take the separate sciences have three unconstrained option choices, students taking core and additional have two unconstrained options and one constrained. In this block they need to choose one from French/German/history/geography/computer science.

The KS4 Curriculum (Year 11 September 2017)

Route A

Route B

English Language & English Literature (2 GCSEs) 4 hours	English Language & English Literature (2 GCSEs) 4 hours
Maths GCSE 4 hours	Maths GCSE 4 hours
Separate sciences (3 GCSEs) 6 hours	Science Double Award (2 GCSEs) 6 hours
PE/Games 2 hours	PE/Games 2 hours
GCSE/Level 2 Option 3 hours	GCSE (from French/German/history/geography/computer science) 3 hours
GCSE/Level 2 Option 3 hours	GCSE/Level2 Option 3 hours
GCSE/Level 2 Option 3 hours	GCSE/Level2/Level 1 Option 3 hours

KS4 Options

GCSE

- Art & Design
- Art & Design (Textiles)
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Food preparation and nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- PE
- Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) (GCSE Level 4 required)
- Spanish

- RE

Non-GCSE Courses

- Curriculum Support
- College

Level 2 / Level 1 courses

- BTEC First Award in Health & Social Care (equivalent to 1 GCSE)
- OCR National Award in ICT (2016-2017) replaced by Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia (starting Sept 2017) (equivalent to 1 GCSE)
- Choice from other course lists (Entry Level / Level 1) delivered externally, according to interests and abilities (e.g. Hair & Beauty / Construction Skills / Small animal care)

Notes

- To assist students and parents, a KS4 Options evening is held in January of Year 9. Students then make provisional choices, which are checked by senior leaders. An interview is offered to parents of those students who the school feels has not made appropriate choices. Students who are identified as needing curriculum support or a college course are met before the options process, parents are also invited in.
- The vast majority of students study for a full GCSE course of between 7 and 9 subjects.
- Curriculum Support is offered to students who need extra support with English, Mathematics. This option is staffed by qualified teachers in those subjects.
- Short course GCSE in PRE is compulsory for all students. Some choose to study additional units in order to achieve the full course qualification.
- Specific vocational courses for Foundation Learners are delivered by Oakland's College with whom we have close relationships.
- Citizenship and Health and Relationships Education are delivered through full day workshops, when students are off timetable. Aspects of work related learning are integrated across the curriculum. All students benefit from a one week period of work experience.
- During the course of Years 10 and 11, students receive information, advice and guidance from the Careers Coordinator and a visiting Careers Officer, through Connexions. The Careers Library contains a wide range of literature and students of all ages may use various databases to access information.

Year 10

Maths	set across whole year
English/PRE	set across whole year
Science	combined science is mixed ability, separate science is 4 sets split into two upper and two lower sets
Games	half year groups

Year 11

Maths	set across whole year
English	set across whole year group
Science	combined science is mixed ability, separate science is 4 sets split into two upper and two lower sets
Games	whole year group

The KS5 Curriculum (Years 12 and 13)

(A separate handbook issued to students in Year 11 covers this in detail)

Students entering the sixth form usually choose to study 3 A levels. Exceptionally, some students may choose 4 subjects (e.g. further mathematics). Predicted average points score per subject at GCSE is used as a guideline. For an A level course, students are expected to gain at least five GCSEs at A* to C with at least a grade B/ 6 in the subjects relevant to their A level choices. Each A level subject is delivered in 5 x 1 hour lessons in one year and 4 x 1 hour lessons in the other. Subject Leaders may choose which year group has the most delivery time according to the needs of their subject.

All students in Year 12 will attend 6th form study lessons. They will have a choice from: EPQ, CSLA, Certificate in Financial studies (IFS), Massive Online Open Courses, extra maths. Students have one hour of careers from September through to December. From September to February half term students in Year 12 have PE lessons.

Students who are taking sciences, geography, psychology or economics at A level, and did not attain at least a B/5 grade in GCSE Maths will study extra maths as part of their sixth form studies.

The choice of subjects are as follows:

A Level Subjects delivered at Roundwood Park		Delivered through Harpenden Consortium
Art & Design	History	Media Studies
Biology	Mathematics	Philosophy & Ethics
Business Studies	Music	
Chemistry	Photography	
Computer Science	Physical Education*	
Drama & Theatre Studies	Physics	
Economics	Product Design	
English Literature	Psychology	
French	Sociology	
Further Mathematics	Textiles*	
Geography		
German*		
Government & Politics		
BTEC Level Subjects delivered at Roundwood Park		
Business (BTEC) (Extended Certificate and National Diploma)		
Health & Social Care (BTEC) (Extended Certificate and National Diploma)		
ICT (Extended certificate)		

**Not running in Year 12 in 2016/2017 at RPS but at a consortium school*

Notes

- To assist students in making choices, a Post 16 Information evening is held in January of Year 11. Students have full access to information, both from school and careers staff and from representatives of local FE colleges.
- All applicants to the sixth form are interviewed by one of the Sixth Form Leadership Team, the Deputy Head or the Headteacher to assess the suitability of the courses chosen to the ability, aptitudes and aspirations of the student.
- Student choice of A Level courses is enhanced by the Harpenden Consortium provision.
- Students benefit from a pastoral support programme, delivered through tutorials. External speakers contribute to topics such as self-protection, bereavement, stress management, cancer awareness and drugs awareness.
- An enrichment programme in Year 12 develops breadth of experience. Students have the opportunity to take part in sporting and community activities, within the school or wider community. Timetabled lessons covering a wide variety of topics support the enrichment programme. PRE provision is delivered through the enrichment / tutorial programme and through assemblies.

N.B. The school reviews the examination courses on offer every year in order to make sure that we are delivering the most relevant curriculum to all our students.