

## Curriculum Statement

### Summary

The school curriculum is designed to enable the BET vision and ethos to be achieved, with young people able to experience a range of learning opportunities that develop them into 'game changers'. Elements of the curriculum are common across Trust schools with a strong commitment to outdoor education, extra-curricular enhancement and development of the wider person. The principles of growth mindset are embedded within the curriculum and throughout the school culture.

The statutory curriculum is based on an accelerated 2 year Key stage 3 in which students develop skills and understanding across a broad and balanced range of subjects using innovative pedagogy and challenge, to enable students to secure the necessary foundations to successfully apply to the increased content and knowledge required at Key Stage 4 that will help them to make significant progress.

Key Stage 4 includes a commitment to offer a range of subjects, including the creative curriculum and vocational choices which can be accommodated effectively by the provision of a 3 year programme. It enables depth of understanding and experience of a wider and more comprehensive appreciation of subject content and a more extensive development of skills for progression to Post-16 learning and beyond.

### Key Stage 3

- All students study Mandarin and French languages and therefore benefit from the experience and skills gained by studying a European and International language. Spanish is also included at Key Stage 3 to offer experience of a third and widely spoken language.
- Technology is taught as STEM and based around the STEM 10 principles
- All students study an additional lesson of English and Maths in year 7 to enable rapid progress from Key stage 2 and to help all students narrow any literacy and numeracy deficits from Year 6. Reading is encouraged through regular library lessons and within the pastoral weekly programme. Both Maths and English use mastery style approaches to deepen and extend the development of skills and understanding of the subject
- Science is taught as mixed science and focuses on precise learning points to firmly establish an understanding of the main scientific principles that underpin the science curriculum
- All students study Humanities in year 7 but specialize in History and Geography in year 8.
- Students also study PE, computer science, drama, art and music to give breadth to their learning experience
- RE and PSHE are combined in our PSRE programme, which is supported by additional coverage in the pastoral programme. This incorporates British Values and the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
- For identified students there are targeted short span intervention courses to support literacy, numeracy and social development which are initiated throughout Key Stage 3 as necessary.

### Key Stage 4

- All students study English Language and Literature as a combined GCSE course, along with Maths and Double science GCSE's and non-examined core PE.

- PSRE is delivered through the pastoral programme and supported by additional tailored activities across the 3 year programme.
- Students are able to study 4 option subjects, from a blend of EBACC GCSEs, non EBACC GCSEs and vocational courses. The range of options offered is tailored annually to meet the profiles of each cohort and the individuals within them. The full EBACC is promoted but not compulsory, a decision which is common across the Trust and an offer developed in collaboration with the views of parents. Students are strongly encouraged to take more than 1 Ebacc subject combination in their option choices because of the range of extra curricular opportunities that are available but all students are expected to study a minimum of 1 Ebacc option to ensure a diversity and balance to their KS4 curriculum.
- Identified students have a more tailored curriculum pathway which is discussed and agreed with those pupils and parents individually.

#### Extra curricular and outdoor education

- The enrichment programme is extensive and a key part of the school's curriculum offer. Every child is expected to get involved with this in some way, whether by participating in school trips, events or extra curricular clubs. This is recognized through the school rewards system.
- All students are encouraged to participate from year 7 onwards in the outdoor education programme leading to the Duke of Edinburgh awards in Years 10 and 11

#### Pastoral Programme

- The school pastoral programme includes daily activities in form time which focus strongly on literacy, numeracy, PSHE, British values and SMSC
- It includes a vertical house system which facilitates regular collaboration between different aged pupils on a range of common themes, including charity support, team building and competition.

#### Careers Education and guidance

- In Year 8 all students receive independent careers guidance and advice and have access to Post 16 education options. Further education providers are given access to the school and materials from them is shared with Parents through the school communications system. Every child and parent has the opportunity for a 1:1 options advisory meeting with a member of the leadership team to discuss option choices and potential career choices. Guidance on subject choices is provided through an option evening and with support guidance materials
- In year 9 students have a 6 week taster period on their chosen courses to assess if these are the right subjects for them and by agreement with staff and parents changes in courses can be considered.
- In year 10 students are able to participate in the Local secondary schools Careers fair to which all Post-16 providers and local apprenticeship providers are on show and careers events at colleges and other post -16 providers are publicized with Parents through our school communication system.
- Careers guidance is developed progressively through the PSRE programme in assemblies and the pastoral programme in years 10 and 11 to ensure that students are aware of the range of options available to them after GCSE's. It includes developing students' understanding of employment and education opportunities, preparing for college and work applications and interview practices. Work experience placements will be supported where appropriate.
- Some students will be able to access alternative provision during Key stage 4 through courses run at local FE providers. This is managed on individual bases according to career ambitions and the accessibility of the curriculum. This is discussed with students and parents during year 9, with taster days and interviews in the early summer term of year 9