



Curriculum Principles

Our curriculum should:	Why is this important?
1. Encourage a love of learning and be delivered by staff who are passionate and well informed about the topics they teach.	This will lead to students becoming passionate about their learning which will lead to better outcomes. Subject knowledge and pedagogical subject knowledge are vital to understand the learning process.
2. Give all students the opportunity to study a breadth of subjects	Subject diversity is important to give our students a breadth of subject knowledge and experience.
3. Be equitable for all groups of students and be relevant to our community	Curriculum planning should consider all students and allow all to progress whatever their learning need. Topics and concepts that are relevant to our community will engage and empower students.
4. Use assessment to allow teachers to identify student misconceptions and make their teaching more responsive. It should not be excessive or onerous .	Assessment is most effective when it is formative and in real time during lessons so teachers can tackle emerging misconceptions early. Over reliance on summative forms of assessment, frequent testing and using GCSE content too early can be restrictive and at the cost of a rich, experiential and exciting curriculum.
5. Be underpinned by knowledge-rich learning that builds with each term and year understanding that skills are intertwined with knowledge	Knowing more and remembering more is the key to success. Knowledge is generative; therefore, our curriculum should be knowledge rich with the expectation that core knowledge is remembered. Schemas developed at KS3 will be built on at KS4. Insights and best practice from cognitive science are important to make this effective.
6. Be ambitious in terms of content concepts and vocabulary and focus on depth of learning	Conceptual understanding can only be arrived at through in depth knowledge of key vocabulary and content concepts. Deep learning should not be sacrificed at the expense of getting through content quickly.
7. Be mapped out explicitly so that knowledge is transparent for staff, students and parents and allow for natural links across subjects to be made	Having a knowledge of curriculum content will allow parents to support students in their learning. Furthermore, it will allow subjects to consider the pace and timing of their curriculum so it can complement others allowing students a wider view of their skills and knowledge.
8. Allow for progression of key concepts , themes or areas of knowledge. These should be revisited but not repeated	Curriculum progression is very important so that teachers are aware of the concepts they are building and to allow a vision of where learning is going. Teachers should be aware of how the components of their curriculum will create a composite concept.
9. Prioritise reading .	Reading improves vocabulary; 90% of vocabulary is only encountered in text and not speech. Reading deepens understanding of important literacy concepts and knowledge of the wider world. It builds cultural capital that is vital to our students.
10. Be living, flexible and dynamic and responsive to the need of students	Our curriculum is never finished. It must grow and change as our students and our society grow and change. Collaboration between teachers and evaluation of learning is important here.