

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY



CURRICULUM POLICY

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| Compiled by: Deputy Headteacher | Revision Number: 7 |
| Approved by: CAW Committee | Date policy agreed: Summer term 2021 |
| | Date of next policy review: Summer term 2022 |
| Signed by: _____ (print name) | Signature: _____ |

RIDGEWAY ACADEMY

CURRICULUM POLICY

At Ridgeway Academy:

- We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which aims to provide our students with a rich experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, social, physical and aesthetic education and instil a love of lifelong learning.
- We aim to provide an enjoyable and stimulating education which fosters curiosity, independent thinking and creativity.
- We ensure that the planned curriculum is accessible to all students and delivers subject matter appropriate to the ages and aptitudes of our students.
- We offer a range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities which aim to broaden students' learning experiences beyond the classroom and confines of the taught curriculum.
- We provide students with access to high quality impartial advice and guidance to support them in making choices about their current and future education and careers
- We provide personal, social and health education which helps prepare students for adult life as responsible citizens with a clear understanding of *British values*.

Curriculum Organisation

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 through a two-week cycle of 50 x 1-hour timetabled lessons.

The KS3 Curriculum

At KS3 the curriculum complies with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

KS3 allocation in hours per fortnight (From September 2020)

| | KS3 |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| English | 8 |
| Mathematics | 8 |
| Science | 7 |
| MFL | 4 |
| PE | 4 |
| Personal development | 2 |
| Technology | 2 |
| Art | 2 |
| Drama | 2 |
| Ethics and Philosophy | 2 |
| Geography | 2 |
| History | 2 |
| ICT & Computing | 2 |
| Music | 2 |
| Language acquisition | 1 |
| | 50 |

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- 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 English and Mathematics (where they are taught in broad ability groups from October. Students are in separate boy/girl groups in KS3 and KS4 core PE).
- Students who are below expectations in English and/or Maths will have access to a literacy focus teaching group during English lesson time and numeracy focused teaching group during Math teaching time.
- Students are identified for Literacy and numeracy teaching using the transition information provided by our feeder primary schools. Students who achieved below the secondary ready score of 100 will be considered for this group.
- Core subjects begin KS4 courses in the summer term of Year 9.
- In KS3, Personal development (personal development, health and relationships education and citizenship) is delivered through the curriculum.
- Although students have discrete ICT 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 8 modern computer suites which are fully networked with the latest software, plus a fully equipped Library.

The KS4 Curriculum

The KS4 core curriculum is comprised of; English, Maths, Science, Physical Education, PSHCE and wellbeing. In addition, students have further option choices. The vast majority of students will study two EBacc subjects (Computer Science / French / Geography / History and Spanish). The High Quality (HQ) list of subjects is outlined below.

Targeted students will receive additional English and mathematics to support them to reach their Good Progress Grade (GPG).

KS4 Curriculum allocations from September 2020

| | KS4 |
|---------------------------|-----|
| English | 10 |
| Mathematics | 9 |
| Science (Combined/Triple) | 11 |
| PE | 4 |
| Wellbeing | 1 |
| Option 1 | 5 |
| Option 2 | 5 |
| Option 3 | 5 |

- Options courses are reviewed every year to ensure that the courses offered continue to meet the needs of each particular year group
- Subject options will only run if there is sufficient student interest to make the groups viable.
- Selection by ability forms no part of the options placement process at KS4. Guidance around which courses are most suitable for students (including, for example, the decision about whether to study Double or Triple Science) is made in consultation with staff based on student's achievement in that subject area
- In KS4, PSHCE is delivered through the Personal development lessons and health and relationships education/citizenship programme, this is supplemented by whole / half day workshops facilitated by school staff or visiting speakers, including a one-week work shadowing experience for Year 10.

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KS4 Options

GCSE

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design & Technology (Product Design)
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- Sociology

Non-GCSE Courses

- Prince's Trust Personal development and employability skills

Level 2 / Level 1 courses

- BTEC Enterprise
- BTEC Health and Social care
- BTEC Hospitality and Catering
- Cambridge Technical Sport

The KS5 Curriculum (Years 12 and 13)

- At KS5 the curriculum is organised together with our Consortium schools to provide access to the largest possible range of courses
- Similar to KS4, the availability of courses is dependent on sufficient student interest to make the course viable
- The curriculum across the consortium is reviewed annually to ensure that courses remain appropriate and meet the needs and aspirations of students
- Entry to the Sixth Form is dependent on students meeting the entry criteria outlined in the Consortium prospectus. Predicted average points score per subject at GCSE is used as a guideline. A minimum APS of 3.7 is required to gain entry to level 3 vocational courses and an APS of 5.5 is required to study 4 A level courses.
- The core curriculum of 3 or 4 AS/A2 levels or BTECs is complemented with a compulsory programme of PSHE and range of optional enrichment courses
- All students in Year 12 who take 3 subjects will be timetabled in the 6th form supervised study room for a number of periods. All students in Year 13 have at least two hours per week in the 6th form supervised study room
- Students can work towards an EPQ as part of their programme of study

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The choice of subjects is as follows:

| AS/A2 Subjects delivered at Ridgeway Academy | Delivered through Welwyn Hatfield Consortium |
|--|--|
| Maths Business Studies English Literature EPQ Film Studies French Geography Health and Social care (BTEC) History Physical Education Physics Product Design Sociology Sports and Physical activity (CTEC) | Art and Design (BTEC) Biology Chemistry Childcare (BTEC L3) Computing (BTEC) Computer science Dance (BTEC) Drama and Theatre Studies Digital Media (CTEC) Economics English Language Financial Studies (LIBF) Fine Art German Government and Politics Information Technology (BTEC) Law Further Maths Media Studies Music Music Technology Photography Psychology Religious Studies Sociology Spanish |

- To assist students in making choices, a Post 16 Information evening is held in December 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 a member of the Senior Leadership Team to assess the suitability of the courses chosen to the ability, aptitudes and aspirations of the student.
- 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.