

At The Bulmershe School we believe that all of our students are entitled to receive a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We therefore provide an exciting curriculum with suitable breadth, depth and relevance so that our learners get a good start and are well-prepared for the next stage in their education, training or employment.

The Bulmershe school curriculum comprises of all learning and other experiences that we plan for our students. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum.

Key Stage 3:

We study the Key Stage 3 National Curriculum over two years (year 7 and 8), working in either set or mixed ability groups as appropriate and studying the following as discrete subjects:

English (6 hours per fortnight)

Mathematics (6 hours per fortnight)

Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) (6 hours per fortnight)

Technology (4 hours per fortnight)

Computing (2 hours per fortnight)

French and/or Spanish (4 hours per fortnight in year 7, 6 hours per fortnight in year 8)

Geography (4 hours per fortnight)

History (4 hours per fortnight)

Religious Education (2 hours per fortnight)

Art (2 hours per fortnight)

Music (2 hours per fortnight)

Drama (2 hours per fortnight)

Physical Education (3 hours per fortnight)

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC). (Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) are taught as part of the SMSC programme). (1 hour per fortnight)

For more detailed information regarding what is covered in each of these subject areas please refer to the programmes of study for the National Curriculum, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381754/SECONDARY_national_curriculum.pdf, as these set out what the school is required to teach and also our own subject lists on our school website.

In year 7, students also follow a cross curricular course (2 hours per fortnight) where they develop their personal learning and thinking skills and further address aspects of SMSC and social and emotional learning.

In year 8, students have the opportunity to study a second Modern Foreign Language as well as complete their option choices for their GCSEs. Please see Key Stage 4 for more information regarding GCSE choices.

Key Stage 4:

The key stage 4 curriculum is organised over three years. The curriculum has learning programmes that are bespoke to each cohort. Some learning programmes involve different degrees of technical (vocational) learning either in school and/ or through off site provision. Qualifications lead to GCSEs or GCSE equivalents.

Students follow a CORE curriculum of:

English (8 hours per fortnight)

Mathematics, (8 hours per fortnight)

Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics or CORE and Additional Science) (8 hours per fortnight in year 9, 12 hours per fortnight in years 10 and 11)

Physical Education (3 hours per fortnight)

Modern Foreign Language (5 hours per fortnight)

and either History or Geography (5 hours per fortnight).

Students then choose a further two options from: Modern Foreign Languages, Technology (Product Design in Resistant Materials or Graphics), Humanities (Geography, History or Religious Education), Physical Education, Dance, Child Development, Media, Art, Photography, Music, Drama, Business Studies, Computing and Information Communication Technology (ICT). (All options are 5 hours per fortnight)

In year 9 students get the exciting opportunity to follow a one year programme of Leadership and Challenge in addition to their GCSE options. Students opt for either the Duke of Edinburgh Award and CREST Award, Rookie Lifeguard, Art Enterprise or Music Performance. These are taught over two hours per fortnight. These courses are all designed to engage the students with something new or different; pushing personal boundaries, gaining new skills and enhancing their CVs and university applications.

SMSC, including Citizenship, RE, Computing, SRE and Drugs education are taught through a series of enrichment activities such as drop down days, assemblies, tutor time and trips, apart from year 9 where SMSC is still taught as a discreet subject. SRE and Drugs Education are also taught, as appropriate, in Science and Religious Studies.

Key Stage 5:

Courses are based on either AS or A2 or Level 3 equivalents of BTEC or Cambridge Technical.

A Levels are currently offered in: Business Studies, Fine Art, Biology, Chemistry, Drama, English Language and Literature, English Literature, French, Further Maths, Geography, History, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Physical Education, Philosophy and Ethics, Photography, Physics, Psychology, Spanish and Sociology. The Extended Project is offered as extra AS qualifications as part of the 6th form Enrichment Programme.

We also offer a breadth of vocational courses including BTECs or Cambridge Technicals. These are: National Extended Certificate in Sport, National Subsidiary Diploma in Sport, National Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance), Applied Science Subsidiary Diploma, Extended Certificate in Business, National Award and National Extended Certificate in Children Play Learning and Development, National Certificate and National Subsidiary Diploma in Travel and Tourism and Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in ICT and Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in Business. GCSE retakes are offered in English and Mathematics. All students on a vocational programme are encouraged to complete work experience that relates to their course as part of the 6th Form Enrichment Programme.

All AS, A level and vocational lessons are taught over 9 hours per fortnight. If classes have very small numbers these hours are reduced accordingly.

We also have a comprehensive level 2 (GCSE equivalent) programme in order to help students prepare for the next stage of their education, training or employment if they are not ready for Level 3 courses. The level 2 learning programme involves English and Maths GCSE retakes (4 hours per fortnight), European Computing Driving Licence (an ICT qualification taught over 4 hours per fortnight), OCR Cambridge Level 2 extended certificate in Business and Travel (9 hours per fortnight) and Tourism BTEC First Award (9 hours per fortnight). All Level 2 students complete one day of work experience every week.

All Sixth Formers take part in the 6th Form Enrichment Programme. The enrichment programme offers accredited courses such as the Duke of Edinburgh as well as non-qualification activity such as Physical Education, community service and work experience. All students have to attend a discreet lesson of SMSC every two weeks.

All sixth formers are required to undertake work experience or some form of work-related training as part of their study programme 'non-qualification activity'.

Community Languages:

Students that have English as their second language will also get the opportunity to study their native language at GCSE or A Level depending on their ability.

Careers Support:

We have an independent careers advisor who tailors comprehensive careers support for each year group, from year 7 to 13 depending on their need. Support is offered through assemblies, tutor time, group meetings and one to one interviews. Our careers advisor attends all parents evening and is therefore available for parents and students to book appointments on those evenings.