

## Curriculum Policy (Senior School)

- I. The over-riding ethos of the school's curriculum is that students should be allowed to develop their talents and skills in the areas in which they are interested and likely to be successful, while at the same time being provided with the solid foundations that underpin a rounded education.
- II. The curriculum is, at all times, broad, stimulating and designed to facilitate the highest possible levels of attainment by those who follow it. The school provides full-time supervised education for pupils of school age, giving a full experience in the linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative curricula. Pupils are given the opportunity to acquire skills in speaking and listening, numeracy and literacy. The most able are stretched to the fullest extent, by enrichment and expansion; those who find academic work difficult are given the greatest possible help to enable them to display their talents. At all ages and aptitudes, the subject matter taught is appropriate to the needs of pupils, including those with a statement. The educational experience of students with a statement of educational needs is monitored by the Director of Learning Enhancement.
- III. In the First Year (Year 9), students study a core programme of English, Maths, Science, PE and a Modern Foreign Language. Some subjects are taught on different carousels: History, Geography, Religious Studies, and Politics; and, Art, Dance, DT and Music. Latin, Computer Science and Drama are available as options. In addition, students study a programme entitled "Twenty-First Century Studies", in which they experience a range of opportunities, including e-safety, animal management, first aid, financial management, public speaking and cookery.
- IV. In the Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth (Years 10 and 11), all students study Maths, Science and English; the overwhelming majority will take two separate English GCSEs; some will take three separate Science GCSEs, while others will pursue two 'combined' Science GCSEs. There are four additional options. We would expect most students to take at least one Modern Foreign Language.
- V. Sixth Form students study three A Level subjects, or their equivalents. A wide range of subjects and courses are available. Alongside these courses, students will undertake the Bede's Diploma, a major part of which is the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or another course of academic extension.
- VI. Throughout a child's education at Bede's, emphasis is placed on the subsequent steps to higher education or into a chosen career. At appropriate times, pupils are offered guidance and helped to prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- VII. PSHE is delivered discreetly to pupils; a separate policy details this provision. However, it is also intrinsic to all that occurs at the school.
- VIII. The following tenets guide the school curriculum at all times:
  - a) Students should be given every opportunity to pursue subjects in which they are interested and for which they have a passion. Thus, in Years 10 and 11, the number of compulsory subjects is kept very low (English, Science and Maths, with an MFL course also followed by all unless there is an extenuating circumstance), while options are as plentiful as is possible.
  - b) Courses should be offered which allow all students to achieve, which permit all students to study at a level appropriate to their abilities and talents. Thus, in Years 12 and 13, we offer courses in both the Cambridge Pre-U (targeted at extending and stretching the more conventionally academic) and the BTEC (suitable for those who need a more practical 'hands-on' approach in their learning). The programme of activities for children above compulsory school age is appropriate to their needs.

- c) The recognition of the primacy of the individual means that, where appropriate, individual education plans (IEPs) are available for students.
  - d) No one subject is accorded any privilege over any other – all are valued equally. Thus, creative, expressive and practical subjects are valued every bit as highly as all other subjects.
- IX. A fuller and more specific description of the curriculum on offer in each year is available on the school's web-site, where details on courses are provided by the school to guide students and their parents as they contemplate each stage of their career at Bede's (Year 9, Years 10 & 11, Years 12 & 13). This information is also available in 'hard' copy.
- X. This policy should be read alongside the aims of the St Bede's Trust, as well as policies on Special Needs, EAL, G&T, PSHE and Admissions.

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