



MARSHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Curriculum Policy

Approved by: Mr S Cozens / Mr C Jansen **Date:** September 2021

Last reviewed on: September 2021

Next review due by: September 2022

Aims of the Curriculum

The aim of the curriculum is to focus on both the qualities and skills learners need to succeed in school and beyond. The curriculum should enable students to become:

- successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Purpose of the Curriculum

The school is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that:

- provides the core knowledge, understanding and skills to enable pupils to build upon Key Stage 2 and to support progression to the next stage of their learning once they leave the school
- prepares learners at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of learners at school and within society.

In particular our Curriculum should:

- ensure all students achieve outstanding personal progress
- ensure entitlement for all learners to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that offers continuity and coherence and secures high standards
- develop learners with the essential knowledge, skills and discourse of subject disciplines and to develop specialisms appropriate to aptitude
- prepare young people for the world of employment and further and higher education
- make learners more aware of, and engaged with, their local, national and international communities
- encourage learners to take responsibility for their own health and safety, and appreciate the benefits and risks of the choices they make
- contribute to community cohesion
- acknowledge, promote and pass on the core knowledge and skills valued by society to the next generation
- help develop resilient and independent learners.

Curriculum Ethos

We aim to produce a well-resourced, rich and stimulating community where pupils develop and demonstrate these core values:



Curriculum Organisation

Increasing flexibility allows schools to provide more personalised pathways, particularly through the 14-19 curriculum, and increasingly within Key Stage 3. It is important that these pathways do not become early corridors and turn into a form of streaming, thereby restricting students' choice and their opportunity to achieve.

We organise the Curriculum at Marshland to support and challenge our students, and ensure excellent personal progress. Objective testing and assessment information from primary schools is used to estimate the abilities of students on entry to Marshland, this is complemented by our own assessments. This range of information is used to place students in teaching groups. Regular assessment and monitoring of student performance ensures that students are able to be moved to a more appropriate teaching group should it be felt necessary. Where students may require support to help access their learning we also work closely with our SEN department to provide teachers and students with the support that they need in order to help each individual make excellent progress.

Within Key Stage 4, pupils follow a curriculum which has been shaped to help support their needs and future ambitions. The advice which we give to them to help them select their option subjects is based upon our knowledge of the child as an individual, prior performance data, and teacher assessments. The curriculum is organised within 50 periods per timetable cycle of two weeks. Each period is of 60 minutes duration.

Extra-Curricular and Enrichment

We firmly believe that students should receive a broad and balanced Curriculum which offers them high quality opportunities to develop their wider knowledge and understanding of the world around them, and help them to prepare for their place in it as a young citizen. As a school we value the development of the child as a whole, and to this end we provide a comprehensive range of quality experiences for the students through our flexible learning days, tutor programme and extra-curricular offer. We publish details of our full enrichment offer onto the school website.

Students also have access to a wide range of trips, visits and workshops which help to extend and develop their experiences of learning beyond the classroom, and enrich their understanding. Opportunities such as the German Exchange and residential PE tours give our students access to high quality cultural experiences.

GCSE Options Choices Offered

We review our Key Stage 4 curriculum offer constantly to ensure that we are offering an engaging and relevant curriculum to our learners. We have a passionate and motivated staff, who work hard to ensure that we offer a range of challenging subjects that prepare our students for their future career and academic pathways.

In 2020-21 we offered the following optional Key Stage 4 courses:

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Art and Design: Photography
- GCSE Art and Design: 3D Design
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE German
- GCSE Citizenship
- GCSE History
- GCSE Media Studies
- BTEC Music
- GCSE Physical Education

We also have access to a few practically orientated learning placements which we may make use of, depending upon the needs of individual students (e.g. Open road). We do not currently offer access to college courses. Key Stage 4 students can access the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as an additional extra-curricular activity hosted by the school and our staff. This is a very successful course with good uptake by our students.

Key Stage 3 and 4 Curriculum Plans – September 2021

Allocation of KS3 Curriculum time

Subject	Number of 60 minute lessons per fortnight		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	8	8	8
Maths	8	8	8
Science	6	6	6
Art	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Humanities (inc Religious Studies)	8	8	9
MFL	4	4	4
ICT	2	2	2
PE	4	4	3
Skills for Life	1	1	1
Character & Culture	1	1	1
Technology & Food	2	2	2

Allocation of KS4 Curriculum time

Subject	Core or Option	Number of 60 minute lessons per fortnight	
		Year 10	Year 11
English	Core	8	8
Maths		8	8
Science		9	9
PE		3	3
Skills for Life / Culture & Beliefs		1	1
Option 1	Option	7	7
Option 2		7	7
Option 3		7	7

Number of qualifications – legacy year 21-22

- Students entering Year 11 in September 2021 will be entered for English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (combined or triple award) and four chosen qualifications.
- Following a KS4 curriculum review, Students entering Year 10 on or after September 2021 will be entered for English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (combined or triple award) and three chosen qualifications. This refocusing of the curriculum will support our knowledge led curriculum, with increased time for students to explore and deepen their understanding of the subjects that they are following.