

Curriculum Statement - Cottingham high School 2016-2017

Cottingham High School seeks to provide all pupils with exciting opportunities that build confidence, develop skills and promote academic excellence. Our curriculum reflects that vision, providing experiences aimed at fully preparing pupils for life in modern Britain by enabling them to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Our curriculum design is based on the National Curriculum, whilst retaining the flexibility necessary to respond to the needs of all pupils. The curriculum is constantly under review, with current priorities related to increasing personalisation, so that all our pupils experience success, are healthy and safe, and are prepared to achieve economic well-being whilst having opportunities to make a positive contribution to their community.

We believe all our pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum that challenges their individual abilities; is relevant to their experience and present needs; is inclusive; has application and value in the world outside the school and promotes traditional British values. The recognition of pupils as individuals demands approaches to teaching and learning that will engage and enthuse all our young people, including those with special educational needs. Promoting high quality teaching and learning is the school's highest priority. Information, communication, new media and digital technologies are integral tools of teaching and learning in all curriculum areas.

Our approach to grouping is informed by the needs of our pupils and encompasses, as appropriate, mixed ability grouping as well as grouping by gender and ability. Our broad and balanced curriculum permits pupils to experience, practise and develop a wide range of knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding. All pupils will have a comprehensive education that will allow them to develop personal strengths and talents as well as meet new and existing statutory requirements. The curriculum supports learning throughout in the core areas of English, Mathematics and Science.

In Key Stage 3 the curriculum is designed to build on the learning experiences that children had in their primary schools. All pupils have access to Citizenship, PSHCEE, Expressive Arts (Art and Design, Drama and Music), the Humanities (History, Geography and Religious Education), Modern Foreign Languages (French or German), Physical Education and Technology. As students need to be proficient in the use of ICT in virtually all future careers, we also deliver an accredited-course, The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL), to all students in an hour a week throughout KS3 alongside a Computing curriculum. This is then certificated for most at an appropriate stage during Key Stage 4. We have specialist Nurture provision for those most vulnerable pupils in both Year 7 and Year 8. Pupils in our Nurture Group follow a broad curriculum but one sharply focussed on accelerating their basic skills. For 2016/17 we also have small numbers of pupils in Year 9 who follow a literacy intervention programme rather than a MFL. The Step Up to English programme helps Entry Level students build on relevant literacy skills and build confidence, so that students can access GCSE courses when they are ready.

September 2016 saw the launch of the new mastery curriculum for Year 7 students. This move away from the national curriculum levels has allowed subjects to develop new curricula with a much stronger focus on developing skills in learners as well as ensuring mastery of key knowledge in all subjects.

Pathways are introduced in Key Stage 4 to ensure that students continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum that is suited to their individual needs. Our strong core entitlement

incorporates Physical Education and Religious Education, as well as English, Mathematics and Science, with the overwhelming majority of our pupils taking a double or triple award in Science. All students are required to study either History or Geography and a large proportion of the year group continue to study French or German at Key Stage 4 so that they have the opportunity to obtain the EBacc qualification. In addition, we have a rich options framework leading to high value academic and vocational qualifications. For 2016 we revised the options choice programme to include a wider range of courses and provide three distinct pathways designed to give students the greatest chance of success in either traditional academic courses or more applied vocational courses.

We work with partners to provide our small number of Foundation Learners with high quality practical learning opportunities to complement their strong core. For 2016, Year 10 pupils following this route will access a half day a week vocational programme in collaboration with Hull and Bishop Burton Colleges and our Local Area Partnership Schools. In Year 11 these students have the choice of pursuing one particular vocational subject for one full day per week or return to a wholly school based programme.

Throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, our personal development programme focuses upon key issues relevant to life in modern Britain, as well as supporting individuals to become confident and resilient learners. . We aim to encourage students to understand the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of people of all faiths, races and cultures. The programme incorporates Sex and Relationship Education, Health, Careers Education, Citizenship and Enterprise Education. Opportunities also exist for pupils to extend their learning through a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits. For 2016 we have introduced three whole school Alternative Curriculum Days that will allow staff and external providers to work on a number of key themes relevant to each year group. We enrich and enhance the taught curriculum in a variety of ways through collaborative working with community partners. Throughout, we have a strong commitment to the development of our pupils' numeracy, literacy, computing and enterprise capabilities. We also provide a range of opportunities across the curriculum to facilitate the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

We provide our Post 16 pupils with a rich choice-led curriculum within our Consortium comprising Cottingham, Hessle and Wolfreton High Schools. Our provision is predominantly at A Level (over 40 subjects are available within the Consortium) plus Applied GCEs and BTEC National Certificates. The range of Level 3 BTECs available both within the school and across the Consortium has grown in recent years. We provide access to a variety of enrichment and entitlement opportunities such as GCSE English Language and Mathematics and a PSHCE programme. Enhanced provision in the Sixth Form for English and Mathematics GCSE has been a major priority for our school and its partners, and continues to be so with any student who needs it, having access to 4 hrs p/w of teaching in each of these key subjects.

Cottingham High School maintains a perspective beyond 11-19 in collaborating with feeder primary schools to ensure that students experience a smooth transition from primary to secondary. In the Sixth Form there is an extensive programme of advice and guidance with links to further and higher education providers so that students have all the necessary support and information that will enable them to progress to the next stage of their lives.