



CURRICULUM POLICY



Aims of the Policy

The purpose of the curriculum is to help students to:

- develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds
- acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and a world of rapid and continuous technological change
- have sound numeracy, literacy and ICT skills
- develop personal and moral values, respect for shared values and for other cultures, religions and ways of life
- develop an understanding of the communities in which they live-both locally and the wider world
- appreciate human achievements and aspirations
- take their place in society as informed, confident and responsible citizens

Main Principles

- The curriculum at Finham Park 2 has the following characteristics: breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation; progression and continuity; coherence.
- The curriculum builds the following skills: reflection, research, coping problem solving and independent learning.
- The curriculum develops creativity, instilling a sense of wonder in all students
- The curriculum promotes knowledge and understanding; mastery of intellectual, physical and interpersonal skills and personal qualities, values and attitudes.
- The curriculum provides experiences to reflect on for the future
- The school has a commitment to provide equality of access for all students to academic experiences
- We provide appropriate tasks and learning opportunities to support high expectations and appropriate challenge
- All students have an entitlement to work related learning at KS4
- Parents are provided with curriculum information relevant to their child
- The curriculum is subject to planned evaluation and review

Outcomes

The curriculum:

- delivers the current and future statutory requirements
- is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated
- enable students to fulfil their potential
- prepares students to make informed and appropriate choices at all relevant stages of their education
- meets the needs of the full range of abilities within the school



- ensures continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education
- fosters teaching styles which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities
- encourages a respect for the school and its environment so that learning is a positive and pleasurable experience for all
- helps students develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue
- rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills

- helps students acquire understanding, knowledge and key skills relevant to school, adult life and employment in a fast-changing world
- helps students to use language, number and ICT effectively
- helps students develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life
- helps students understand the community in which they live and also the wider community
- helps students to appreciate human achievements and aspirations

The School therefore endeavours to provide:

- an environment in which young people of all abilities are able to develop the skills and attitudes which will facilitate lifelong learning and sustained personal development.
- a flexible curriculum at KS4 in partnership with existing federation partners across Coventry

Although nationally the specialist status for any school is no longer funded, Finham Park 2 remains committed to its specialism in Mathematics, ICT and Computing. As such we are committed to:

- raising standards of achievement, particularly in Mathematics, ICT and Computing for our students;
- extending the range of opportunities available to children which best meet their needs and interests;
- developing a unique identity which reflects the School's specialist status;
- benefiting other schools in the area, both secondary and primary;
- strengthening the links between schools and the wider community.

Each area of the curriculum is allotted sufficient time to make its specific contribution, but not so much that it squeezes out other essential areas. The amount of time allocated to each subject will be reviewed annually. There are 50 one hour lessons in a two week (10 day) timetable.

As far as possible, provision is made within the school for all students with special needs. Additional support is provided for students within the classroom and within the Special Needs department's own facilities. The provision of three



foreign languages and the three separate GCSE science subjects, along with the progressive introduction of setting, stretches the brightest children and enables them to achieve in excess of 11 GCSEs by the end of Key Stage 4.



Year 7

In Year 7, students broadly follow the National Curriculum. The lesson structure is as follows:

- Mathematics, English, Science, Discovery (a combination of Mathematics and Science)
- IT
- PE
- Modern Foreign Languages
- History, Geography, RE and Citizenship
- Art, Drama, Music and Technology,
- Enrichment

In addition:

- Students are taught in mixed ability classes in year 7 & 8 except for mathematics which is broadly set.
- We have provided additional staffing in Mathematics and English for students that need extra intervention or support
- Discovery has been part of the curriculum for several years at Finham Park School and is well established. Its rationale is to link science and maths more closely and to develop the application of maths through science.
- Our enrichment programme is designed to introduce students into areas that are not normally covered by the National Curriculum. Students opt for the areas they would like to study and are taught in mixed aged groups across years 7 and 8. Included within these sessions is an emphasis on developing a student's learning skills which should impact upon their progress across all subjects and the opportunity to experience a subject area that they may wish to pursue in their future learning. All year 7 students will study a 12 week module in Mandarin, learning about the culture of China and some simple language skills. The Mandarin groups are taught in separate year groups.

For 2017-18 the areas proposed are:

- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Mandarin
- Digital Media – video & film
- Duke of Edinburgh introduction
- Fine art/ photography

There is a cohort of students in year 7 opting for the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) - these students will not be able to opt for enrichment subjects as the 2 hours per fortnight will be used for MEP lessons. They will still be

FINHAM PARK 2



A Mathematics & Computing College

able to access extra-curricular enrichment via our Out of School Hours Learning (OOSHL) programme.



Years 8

This year students follow:

- Mathematics, English, Science,
- IT, PE,
- Modern Foreign Languages,
- History, Geography, RE and citizenship
- Art, Drama, Music
- Technology.
- Enrichment

All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups except for mathematics which will be broadly set.

As explained above, the year 8 enrichment programme is co-taught with the year 7 students and the subjects on offer are the same. However all year 8 students study 1 term of Mandarin which will be taught separate to the year 7 groups.

Year 9

In most areas the KS4 Programmes of study starts in year 9. Students follow:

- Mathematics, English, Science,
- IT –starting on the KS4 course GCSE ICT or GCSE Computing,
- PE
- Modern Foreign Languages
- In addition to this students have chosen 4 subjects to begin their KS4 courses. All students have to choose at least one humanity and 1 practical/creative subject. Mandarin is now part of this option process.

Students are taught in ability sets in Mathematics, English and Science and in mixed ability groupings in all other areas.

Year 10 (TBC in liaison with Finham Park)

Students continue to follow the statutory requirements, whilst embarking on public examination courses leading to GCSE and other qualifications.

All students study:

Religious Education	(2 periods out of 50),
English	(7)



Mathematics	(7)
Science	(9)
P.E.	(4)
IT.	(5)
PSHE	(1).

English includes English Literature for all students and Mathematics includes GCSE Statistics for most students. However the most able mathematicians will study GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics. This course is designed to support transition to post 16 study in Mathematics.

The contact time for ICT has been increased to meet the more stringent demands of the GCSE ICT course.

In addition students have the option of studying up to three subjects from the following:

PE	Drama
Art (Fine Art or Photography)	History
Triple Science	Geography
Music	MFL (French, Spanish or Mandarin)
Business Studies	Philosophy & Ethics
Technology- Food Technology, Product design, and Engineering	

Our most able linguists who began Mandarin in year 9 have the opportunity to continue this into years 10 and 11. This will be achieved by contracting their core curriculum and using the 2 PSHE lessons, 2 PE lessons and 1 IT lesson allowing 5 lessons per two week cycle. Students that study Mandarin and Computing will need to attend 1 twilight lesson per 2 weeks

Alternative Routes

Students have access to a wide range of vocational courses through the MAT's partnerships with local colleges. They can attend these courses one day per week and work towards recognised qualification.



Year 11 (TBC)

The curriculum rolls forward in all areas from the year 10 timetable.

Across the year, close monitoring of students sometimes results in amendments to timetables to ensure maximum success in other areas.

Alternative Routes

All college courses continue throughout year 11. We recognise that some students will attend college 1 day per week; all students will work towards a recognised qualification



Courses currently being studied at KS4

Course	Qualification
Art - Fine Art	GCSE
Art - Photography	GCSE
Biology	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Chemistry	GCSE
Computing	GCSE
Core PE	Not assessed
Drama	GCSE
Engineering	OCR Cambridge Certificate
English	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE
Food Preparation & Nutrition	GCSE
French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
Mandarin	GCSE
Mathematics	GCSE
Mathematics- Further	GCSE
Media Studies TBC	GCSE



Music	GCSE
Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)	GCSE
PSHE	Not assessed
Physics	GCSE
Product Design	GCSE
Science (double)	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Sport	GCSE
Step Up TBC	Entry level 1 & 2

Post 16 Curriculum TBC

Year 12

Years 12 & 13 Students either follow the A level route or the A level and BTEC route. The decision about the programme of study in year 12 will be dependent on the wishes of the student and prior academic achievement (ie GCSE point score). It will be overseen by the Head of the Sixth-form in consultation with Subject Leaders and will be conditional upon meeting entry requirements.

1) A level

In year 12 students are expected to choose a minimum of 3 AS levels and an enrichment course Students have access to a broad range of A levels delivered here on site but also to all A levels offered across the Federation (and sometimes across Coventry). The advantage of working within Coventry is that students have relatively easy access to all Coventry schools so that compromises can be kept to a minimum.

2) Applied A Levels and/or BTEC Route

Some students wish to follow a more vocational route and can combine the level 3 BTEC courses with an A level programme. The expectation is that students will follow the equivalent of 4 AS subjects in year 12 and 3 subjects in year 13.



3)The AQA Baccalaureate

Some students follow the AQA Bacc which is designed to prepare students with a more holistic education. By accrediting students' academic studies, personal development and contributions to the wider community, the Baccalaureate encourages them to integrate with the school, the local communities and develop as individuals and citizens. Students have the following components:

- a) Depth of study (equivalent to 3 A2 courses)
- b) Broader study (on additional AS level)
- c) EPQ d) Personal development (enrichment activities or non-academic pursuits)

All students follow the Enrichment programme which offers a wide range of opportunities to ensure they have a broad range of experiences to take to the next stage of their career. This will include re-sitting GCSE Mathematics or English for those students who did not achieve a grade C or higher in year 11.

Year 13

Students either follow the A level route or the A level and BTEC route combined. Progress to year 13 will be overseen by the Head of Sixth-form. Students are expected to re-enrol in year 13 and should be aware that transition is not automatic. There is a minimum of 3Ds at AS level in order to qualify for studying in year 13. Students can study a combination of AS and A level courses.



CURRICULUM POLICY

Written by V Maginnis
Reviewed: R Plester

July 2010
2012, 14, 17

Next review date:

July 2018

Approved by Governors:

TBA

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Plester'.

Headteacher

Date: 8 November 2017

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Credity-Johnson'.

Chair of Governors

Date: 8 November 2017