

## **HELSEBY HIGH SCHOOL**

### **CURRICULUM POLICY 2018-2019**

#### **Rationale**

At Helsby High School we believe that education should be a safe, stimulating and engaging experience for all students, one that allows them to discover their inner talents and nurtures their individuality. As such we embrace a broad and balanced curriculum that provides our students with the opportunity to learn across a wide range of subjects and excel both academically and creatively, providing them with experiences that raise their aspirations and expectations. Our curriculum also encompasses every aspect of a young person's learning from personal well-being and social skills, whilst promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of students' reading, writing, communication and mathematical (RWCM) skills. We believe that our curriculum encourages, challenges and supports students to reach their full potential and ensures students are equipped with the necessary skills and qualifications for life beyond school. The school's curriculum provides programmes of study for all students based on academic suitability and appropriateness regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief as outlined in the school's Equalities Policy. It follows the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and reflect the school aims and ethos.

#### **Aims**

The school's curriculum aims to:

- provide students with an entitlement to rewarding learning experiences and essential reading, writing, communications and mathematical skills.
- create opportunities for students to cooperate, embrace diversity and show tolerance respect and fairness.
- encourage high aspirations and maximise progress and potential.
- prepare students for independence, future challenges and the world of work.
- promote healthy lifestyles.

N.B. Full details of curriculum models and subjects available at each Key Stage can be found in Appendix 1

#### **Curriculum Statement**

The curriculum:

- will be guided by the principle of entitlement and comply with current legislation.
- will ensure that all students have a broad and balanced curriculum to access a range of subjects that meet their individual needs.
- will attempt to maintain and raise educational standards.
- allow for continuity and progression through the Key Stages.

- will be concerned with the development of values and attitudes and provide spiritual and moral guidance.
- will provide sufficient challenge to maximise students' progress and potential.
- will recognise, celebrate and take pride in the achievement of students.
- will develop students' personal and social skills including: establishment of good relationships; encouragement of personal initiative and responsibility; development of perseverance and resilience; development of self-confidence; self-esteem and a sense of dignity.
- will follow time allocations and setting arrangements for each curriculum area at each key stage that follow the annually published structure.
- will follow unitised schemes of work that will be revised on an annual basis and will include: description of content with clear learning objectives and outcomes; details of T&L techniques and resources that will be used; homework tasks relevant to the unit of work, and assessment to inform student progress.
- will provide rewarding learning experiences that go beyond that which is taught in the classroom, including organised after school activities, Educational Visits, Exchange trips, Outdoor activities, Work experience etc.

### **Features of the Key Stage 3 Curriculum**

- All students follow a programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) which includes elements of British values, sex and relationships, drugs, political, careers and personal finance education. This is taught by a specialist team in Years 7 to 11.
- All students follow the statutory programmes of Religious and Physical Education in Years 7 to 9.
- All students study at least 1 Modern Foreign Language in Years 7 to 9.
- In addition to a core of Mathematics, Science and English, all students follow courses in Art, Technology, the Performing Arts, Computing and Humanities.
- In Year 7 students who need to improve their RWCM skills to catch up with their peers take the Advance course for 2 lessons per fortnight, instead of a full course of 4 lessons per fortnight in MFL.
- In Year 9 some students receive extra RWCM support instead of 2 of their 5 hours in their chosen MFL.
- The taught curriculum in all years is enhanced by a full programme of extra-curricular activities.

### **Features of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum**

- All students follow a programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education which includes elements of British values, sex and relationships, drugs, political, religious, careers and personal finance education taught by a specialist team in Year 10 and Year 11.
- All students follow a programme of physical education in Years 10 and 11 for two hours in the 50 period cycle.
- In addition to the core of Mathematics, Science and English, Physical Education, PSHCE and Computing, all students have the opportunity to opt for courses in Art, Design, the Performing Arts, Computing, Business, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities.
- In the Key Stage 4 core, students can opt to study Science as separate disciplines or as a combined course.
- The taught curriculum in all years is enhanced by a full programme of extra-curricular activities.

### **Features of the Key Stage 5 Curriculum**

- In Year 12 students normally choose three or four subjects at Level 3 to study in Years 12 and 13.
- In Year 13 a small number of students have the opportunity to study 2 subjects and complete work experience, approved by the school, as their third option.
- Each subject is usually studied for nine lessons over the 50 lesson cycle.
- All students follow a programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education which includes elements of sex and relationship, drugs, political, careers and personal finance education. This is taught alongside the curriculum in extended assemblies, tutor time and off timetable events.
- Students who have not achieved a grade 4 or better in GCSE in English or Maths are required to continue to study these subjects and support for retakes is provided.
- The taught curriculum in the Sixth Form is enhanced by a full programme of extra-curricular activities.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored by the SLT with responsibility for Curriculum, who will report to the Headteacher on its implementation on a regular basis.

Review date: May 2018

Next review date: May 2019

**KS3 Curriculum**

KS3 (Years 7 to 9) Number of lessons per two week cycle of 50 periods					
Year 7	Lessons	Year 8	Lessons	Year 9	Lessons
English	7	English	6	English	6
Mathematics	7	Mathematics	7	Mathematics	7
Science	6	Science	6	Science	6
French or German*	4	French/German**	6	French/German***	5
Geography	3	Geography	3	Geography	3
History	3	History	3	History	3
Religious Education	3	Religious Education	2	Religious Education	3
Art	2	Art	2	Art	2
Drama	2	Drama	2	Drama	2
Music	2	Music	2	Music	2
PE	4	PE	4	PE	4
Design and Technology	2	Design and Technology	2	Design and Technology	2
Computing	2	Computing	2	Computing	2
Food Studies	1	Food Studies	1	Food Studies	1
Textiles	1	Textiles	1	Textiles	1
Tutorial/PSHCE	1	Tutorial/ PSHCE	1	PSHCE	1

\*In Year 7 students will either study French or German and will continue this language through KS3. Students who have not made the DfE threshold of 100 KS2 points study 2 lessons of MFL per fortnight and 2 lessons of the Advance course, comprising RWCM development work enabling them to catch-up with their peers.

\*\*In years 8, students in sets 1 and 2 for MFL take French (3 lessons) and German (3 lessons), students in sets 3 and 4 take French only (6 lessons).

\*\*\* In Y9 students will study either French or German for 5 lessons as per their choice at the end of Y8. Some students in set 3 take 3 lessons in French and extra RWCM support for 2 lessons.

**KS4 Curriculum**

KS4 (Years 10 and 11) Number of lessons per two week cycle of 50 periods		
Subject	Y10 Lessons	Y11 Lessons
English	8	8
Mathematics	8	7
Science	9	10
Humanities*	5 or 6 lessons in Y10 that then switch in Y11 depending upon the Option Block for the qualification	
Modern Foreign Languages*		
Option A		
Option B		
PE	2	2
PSHCE	1**	1**

\*\* Includes the statutory provision for Religious Education

NOTE:- The statutory provision for Computing will be delivered in sessions throughout the key stage.

**Year 10 Students (Class of 2020) had a choice of either two or three subjects:**

Pathway One	Pathway Two	Pathway Three
Sets 1 & 2 MFL	Sets 3 & 4 MFL	Set 4 MFL Selected students

<b>Compulsory Subjects for all students</b>	GCSE's include: Mathematics English Language English Literature Science	Statutory requirements: PSHCE PE Computing	GCSE's include: Mathematics English Language English Literature Science	Statutory requirements: PSHCE PE Computing	GCSE's include: Mathematics English Language English Literature Science	Statutory requirements: PSHCE PE Computing
<b>Science Option</b>	Double Science (2 GCSEs)  OR  Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)		Double Science (2 GCSEs)  OR  Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)		Double Science (2 GCSEs)	
<b>EBACC Option</b>	Choose 2 subjects here:  1 language (French or German)  AND  1 other subject from History, Geography or Computer Science		Choose any 1 subject from this list:  French  German  Computer Science  Geography  History		Choose any 1 subject from this list:  French  Geography  History	
<b>Free Option Choices</b>	Choose a further 2 options from the Open subjects.		Choose a further 2 or 3 options from the Open subjects.		Choose a further 2 options from the Open subjects.	
<b>Vocational Option</b>					Choose any 1 subject from this list:  CIDA  Travel and Tourism  Enterprise and Marketing	

**Year 11 students (Class of 2019) had a choice to study two options subjects from:**

Geography	History	French	German
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RE			
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and a further 2 options from:

Art	Business Studies	CIDA	Drama
Geography	History	Food Studies	Health & Social Care
Media Studies	Music	Design and Technology	PE
French	German	Separate Science	Computer Science
Photography	RE		

### KS5 Curriculum

In Key Stage 5 GCE and Applied courses are chosen from:

Art	Biology	Business Studies	Chemistry
Computer Science	Drama	Economics	English Language
English Literature	French	Geography	German
History	IT	Mathematics	Maths - Further
Media Studies	Music	PE	Photography
Physics	Political Studies	Psychology	Philosophy and Ethics
Sociology	Applied Business (BTEC)	Applied IT (BTEC)	Criminology (L3 Dip)
Health & Social Care (Cambridge Technical Award)	Engineering (L3 Dip)	Performing Arts (BTEC)	

Other Opportunities in the Sixth Form include:

Student leadership	Extended Project Qualification	Representative sports
Engineering Education Scheme	Nuffield Bursary in Science	In class support
NCS	Duke of Edinburgh	Work experience