

Curriculum Policy

The staff and governors of North Walsham High School believe that the school should strive for the following goals: the best possible academic achievement for its students; the development of effective young adults and future citizens.

The school's curriculum is wider than the subjects that are taught in the classroom. It includes experiences and activities that develop students' interests and capacities as individuals, and as members of the local, national and international communities.

The school commits itself to providing for all its students both an **entitlement to learning and developmental experiences** and also **wider opportunities** from which students may choose to pursue interests and develop talents

Area	Entitlement	Opportunity
Academic	Development of the highest possible standards of literacy and numeracy. English, Maths, Science, Languages, Humanities, the Arts, Technology and Physical Education EBacc for all students capable of attaining this All students to study at least 8 Examination subjects to GCSE or equivalent KS4 to start in Year 9	Suitable pathways to cater for aptitude and aspirations Access to up to two Vocational Qualifications/Courses 'Period 6' opportunities including creative, practical and academic subjects
Personal	Study skills Leadership experience Health and Safety awareness Moral and Spiritual awareness	Additional study support Participation in various activities organised outside the formal curriculum Development of particular skills and talents
Social	Residential experience Service experience Citizenship Media awareness Experience of participation in formal events	Participation in decision-making bodies Development of positive relationships
Cultural	Urban experience International experience Attendance at a professional high calibre performance	Performance to an audience
Economic	Financial awareness Work-related learning Enterprise experience	Work placements where appropriate

Academic Entitlement

Key Stage 3 (KS3) – Years 7 and 8

- All students will be taught literacy in English and numeracy in Maths. Also all other subject areas will have policies for the teaching and development of literacy and numeracy skills.
- Where students have not met national standards in literacy and numeracy significant intervention will take place which may necessitate modification of the formal curriculum.
- The formal curriculum in KS3 will include English, Maths, Science, Languages, History and Geography, ICT, Design and Technology, Art, Drama/Dance, Music, Ethics, Personal and Social Development (PSD) and Physical Education (PE).
- Students will be placed in one of two pathways based on academic attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) in English and Mathematics. With five form entry, Pathway A will comprise English sets 1a, 1b and 2a and Pathway B English sets 2b and 3a.
- Pathway A will have greater emphasis on the teaching of Languages, History and Geography than Pathway B. Pathway B will have greater emphasis on the teaching of English and Design and Technology than Pathway A.

Key Stage 4 (KS4) – Years 9, 10 and 11

- High standards of literacy and numeracy are vital if students are to access the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and have the skills necessary to progress to education, training and work beyond the age of sixteen. All subject areas will have policies for the teaching of literacy and numeracy.
- The core formal curriculum in KS4 will include English, Maths, Science, Ethics, PSD and PE.
- By the end of Year 11 all students will have studied and completed at least eight examination subjects to GCSE or an equivalent level (all students will study at least six subjects at GCSE).
- In Year 9 students will be placed on one of two pathways based on academic attainment and aptitude. With five form entry, Pathway A will comprise English sets 1a, 1b and 2a and Pathway B English sets 2b and 3a.
- Pathway A will enable students to follow EBaccalaureate subjects to examination level. Pathway B will enable students to follow Level 1 and Level 2 GCSE and Vocational courses.
- All students will study English (Double Award), Science (Double Award) and Maths at GCSE from Year 9.
- All students will complete an ICT Examination course in Year 9.

Academic Opportunities

Key Stage 4

- Students in Set 1a English who have successfully completed both components of the double award GCSE and reached Expected Progress, will study a level 3 English exam course in Year 11.
 - Students in Set 1a Maths who have successfully completed GCSE Maths and reached Expected Progress will study a Level 3 Maths course in Year 11.
 - Students in Set 1a Science will study three separate Science subjects at GCSE: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
 - All students in Year 9 will study one subject to Examination level which will have been selected from a list of Arts, Technology and practical subjects. Decisions about allocations will be based on professional judgement and take account of student and parental preferences.
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- Students in Sets 1a and 1b for Languages will study both French and German to GCSE level. Students in Set 2a for Languages will study French to GCSE Level.
- Students on Pathway A will study either History or Geography to GCSE level in Years 9 and 10.
- Students on Pathway B will study non-examination courses in Modern Foreign Languages, History, Geography, Design and Technology and Drama in Year 9.
- Students on Pathway B will select two examination courses to study in Years 10 and 11 from a list of GCSE and vocational subjects at Levels 1 and 2. Decisions about allocations will be based on professional judgement and take account of student and parental preferences.
- There will be opportunities in Year 11 for all students to select at least one further examination course to be studied intensively over one year, on the condition that they have successfully completed examinations in Year 10 and made Expected Progress. Decisions about allocations will be based on professional judgement and take account of student and parental preferences.
- Students will have opportunities in Years 9 and 10 and Years 10 and 11 to study an additional examination subject in 'Period 6' (this will follow the end of the 'normal' school day). Subjects will be offered based on demand and availability of resources. Students will be selected based on aptitude and suitability for additional study. Courses may include GCSE Latin, GCSE Art, GCSE Photography, GCSE Food and BTEC Music.

Personal Entitlement

KS3 and KS4

Throughout their time at North Walsham High School all students will be given formal opportunities to develop personal skills. This will happen in subject areas on the timetabled curriculum, particularly in Personal and Social Development sessions, on especially-focussed 'suspended timetable' days, in tutor periods and during assemblies:

- Students will be taught specific and generic study skills to enable them to access the formal curriculum, to confidently attempt external assessments and to study and learn independently.
- All students will gain leadership experience in Year 7 through Young Leader Awards during a planned 'suspended timetable' day and have further planned opportunities to develop these skills in PSD and PE Lessons.
- Health and Safety awareness will be promoted in all areas of the curriculum. A Health and Well-Being 'suspended timetable' day will be provided for Year 10. Schemes of work in Science, PSD, PE, Design and Technology will particularly focus on developing awareness. Tutor periods and assemblies will be used to give a high profile to current issues.
- Moral and Spiritual awareness will be promoted in all areas of the curriculum. PSD and Ethics, form periods and assemblies will particularly contribute to developing this area.

Personal Opportunities

KS3 and KS4

- Additional study support will be provided for students, particularly before key examinations and controlled assessments.
 - Throughout each school year various activities will be organised outside the formal curriculum for students to opt into.
 - Students with particular talents or skills will be given further opportunities to develop them.
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Social Entitlement

KS3 and KS4

- All students will be given residential experience away from home at some point in their school careers. The main focus for this will be Activities Days when normal timetable will be suspended. Access to such an experience will be audited annually.
- All students will provide service to the school community in Year 8 by participating in main reception duties for at least one day.
- All students will have access to Citizenship studies in PSD and actively participate in the work of the Student Council.
- All students will develop media awareness through curriculum subjects such as English, PSD and History and will experience participation in a 'BBC Media Day' in Year 8 when normal timetable will be suspended.
- All students will be expected to participate in formal events. Celebration assemblies and awards evenings will be the main vehicles for this.

Social Opportunities

KS3 and KS4

- Students will have the opportunity to take formal participation in decision-making bodies such as the Student Council
- Throughout students' school careers, the opportunities to develop positive relationships with peers, adults and others will be actively promoted.

Cultural Entitlement

KS3 and KS4

- All students will be given experience outside of their local context. The vehicles for this will include schemes of work in subjects such as Geography, PSD and Modern Foreign Languages; may include visits to urban and international venues; may include the use of technology such as video-conferencing and emailing.
- All students will be encouraged to develop an appreciation of the Arts through the formal curriculum in Art, Drama and Music.
- All students will at some point in their school careers attend a high-calibre professional performance – this may be a visiting production to the school or at a venue elsewhere.

Cultural Opportunities

KS3 and KS4

- Students will be given the opportunities through school visits and exchanges to develop cultural awareness in the Arts and outside their local context.
- Students will be given a variety of opportunities to perform to audiences in for example: assemblies and school productions.

Economic Awareness

KS3 and KS4

- All Students will be given opportunities to develop financial awareness in PSD and Mathematics lessons.
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- All students will be given opportunities to develop work-related learning – the main vehicle for this will be PSD.
- All students will be given Enterprise experience – the main vehicle for this will be a suspended timetable day for Year 9 students.

Economic Opportunities

KS4

- Students will have the opportunities to follow work placements and gain experience in the world of work where this is appropriate and available.
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