

## CURRICULUM POLICY

### Preamble to Curriculum Principles

The following provide the context for North Walsham High School's Curriculum Policy:

The Schools White Paper 'The Important of Teaching' *Nov 2010*  
The New Secondary Curriculum *Sept 2007*  
Requirements of the English Baccalaureate  
Every Child Matters  
Personalised Learning  
A flexible 14-19 Curriculum  
Specialist status in the Arts  
The Norfolk Agreed Policy for RE.

The Key Stage 3 Secondary Curriculum will be delivered to Years 7 and 8.

The Key Stage 4 Secondary Curriculum will be delivered in Years 9, 10 and 11.

From Year 9, students will be selected for a 'Baccalaureate Route' or 'General Route'.

The school is part of the North East Norfolk Consortium for the 14-19 Curriculum and is delivering a Diploma in Creative and Media from September 2010 - June 2012.

North Walsham High School has aligned its timetable structure according to LA guidelines to cater for the delivery of diplomas and to provide access to a range of 14 -19 externally provided courses:

- In Year 11 (2011/12) Monday, Wednesday and Friday are exclusively 'core' days. Optional pathways and subjects and externally provided courses are accessed exclusively on Tuesday and Thursday.
- In Year 10 (2011/12) Monday, Tuesday and Thursday will be exclusively 'core' days and externally provided courses will be accessed exclusively on Wednesday and Friday.

From September 2011 'Period 6' (3:00 - 4:30/5:00) classes will be delivered to Year 9 and 10 students in Latin, Music, Art and Photography.

Outside the formal curriculum there are many planned extended opportunities for learning throughout the school year including activities days, visits, sports activities and arts workshops performances and productions.

### Curriculum Principles

#### Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8)

- English, Maths, Science, ICT, Design and Technology, a Modern Foreign Language, History, Geography, Art, Music, PE, Ethics and PSD, and Drama/Dance will be delivered as separate subjects.

- English groups 1a, 1b and 2a will have 3 hours per week of MFL and History/Geography. English groups 2b and 3a will have 2 additional hours of English per week.
- Citizenship, sex education and work-related learning will be delivered mainly through the Personal and Social Development (PSD) programme.
- Curricular organisation will enable separate setting in each of the following: English, Maths and Science.
- DT and PE will each have individual groupings in two separate bands.
- All other subjects will be grouped according to English sets
- Students will experience at least 2 hours per week of PE.
- 'Suspended Timetable' days will be scheduled on the calendar to focus on Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTs), Functional Skills and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL)
- Activities days will provide a range of opportunities including residential and international experiences.

#### **Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)**

- Students will be selected, based on prior attainment and their capability of attaining relevant subjects at Grade C GCSE, for an English Baccalaureate Pathway or General Route, with delivery starting in Year 9.
- 'English Baccalaureate Pathway': all students will study English, Maths, Two or Three Sciences, History or Geography, French and/or German and an Arts subject. These courses will be taught to GCSE level over two or three years. Additionally students will study ICT to examination level in Year 9, and PE, Ethics and Personal and Social Development.
- 'General Route': all students will study English, Maths and Science at GCSE level from Year 9 (Courses will last two or three years dependent on students' progress). ICT will be studied to examination level in Year 9. Also in Year 9 students will study KS3 National Curriculum subject specifications for MFL, History, Geography, Art, Music and PE and study Ethics and Personal and Social Development. Prior to Year 10, students will be guided to select further exam courses, with some opportunities to access external provision. PE, Ethics and Personal and Social Development will continue to be taught in Years 10 and 11.
- Further opportunities to select additional exam courses will be provided in 'Period 6' (3:00-4:30/5:00) during the normal school day, dependent on individual progress of students.
- Opportunities to complete external accredited qualifications before the end of KS4 will be provided for students who have made good progress towards their targets.
- All students will follow a programme in citizenship, sex education and work related learning to be delivered mainly through Personal and Social Development (PSD) lessons.
- Individual support for post -16 progression routes will be primarily through the PSD and tutor programmes.
- All students will have access to leadership opportunities and/or work experience during KS4.
- A limited number of places at both Levels 1 and 2 will be funded by the school to provide specialised external vocational courses. Transport will also be provided. Access to such courses will be dependent on selection procedures involving the school and external providers and on the school's ability to fund the courses. [Students in Year 11 (2011/12) are funded on a different basis and parents have agreed to make their own transport arrangements.]
- Students on vocational courses will have access to regular work placements where appropriate.
- All students will have access to two hours per week of PE.
- English, Maths and Science will be taught in separate sets based on ability and attainment.
- During the three years of KS4 students will have the opportunity to access examination courses in Design and Technology, Humanities, Arts, Modern Foreign Languages and other subject

areas.

- School activities days will include opportunities for residential and international experience for Year 9 students and leadership development and work experience for Year 10 students
- 'Suspended Timetable' days will support functional skills in Year 9 and Personal and Social Development in Years 9-11. These will be scheduled on the school calendar.
- The school may modify the timetables of individual students to support progress towards targets in exam subjects.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored by students and Curriculum Governors Committee and reviewed annually.