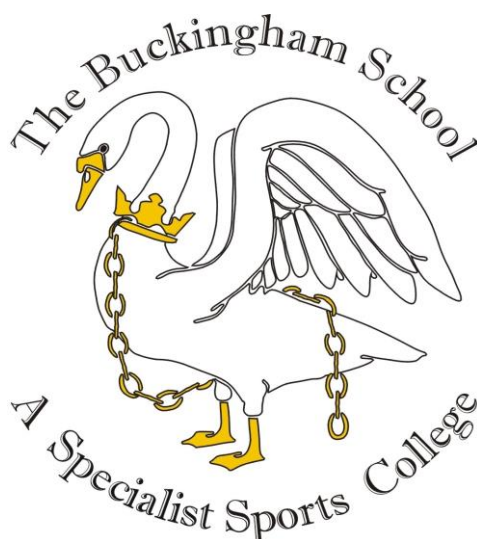


CURRICULUM POLICY FOR THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



NAMED PERSON: D Fox
ATTACHED COMMITTEE: CURRICULUM

Reviewed: October 2018
Cycle: 2 Years
Next Review Date: October 2020

Curriculum Intent:

The curriculum at The Buckingham School firmly underpins our vision of 'success for all through achievement, challenge and enjoyment. The staff and governors of the school believe that the school's curriculum should provide equality of opportunity for all students, irrespective of social background, culture, race, gender or of differences in ability or disabilities.

Underpinned by the aims and values of the National Curriculum, and responsive to significant changes in Government policy, the curriculum provision at The Buckingham School will enable students to:

- Learn, make progress and achieve throughout their time at the school
- Become confident individuals who can lead safe and healthy lifestyles
- Become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

The curriculum will seek to be accessible and worthwhile for all of the students whilst reflecting the changing needs of the society into which they will emerge as young adults. It will endeavour to develop an enjoyment of learning and promote a commitment to lifelong learning experiences.

Organisation of the curriculum

The curriculum is organised into 3 Key stages – KS3 (Years 7/8) KS4 (Years 9/10 & 11) and KS5 (the sixth form – Years 12 & 13). Each Key stage has a model for the delivery of the subjects expected to be taught from which a timetable is constructed. The models are reviewed each year and developed to take into account national and local initiatives, student choices and staffing constraints.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum meets the requirements of the emerging national curriculum and ensures that all students are offered a broad and balanced experience, covering all core and foundation subjects plus Citizenship and Philosophy & Ethics.

The core subjects are presently English, Mathematics and Science, which are compulsory across Key Stages 1-4.

Foundation subjects for Key Stages 1-3 are:

Art and Design
Design and Technology (D&T)
Geography
History
Computing
Music
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) (at Key Stage 3 only)
Physical Education (PE)
Citizenship (at Key Stage 3)

Foundation subjects for Key Stage 4 are:

Citizenship
Computing
Physical Education

In Year 8, students are guided through a process which seeks to match their aspirations and ability with the subject choices for their Key Stage 4 experience, where national external examinations are taken to give either a GCSE or a vocational equivalent qualification. Students' performance data, as well as national performance data of students from different starting points, are scrutinised and dialogue with students, parents and teaching staff is undertaken so that each student is engaged on the most appropriate course for the next stage of their school career. Students are encouraged to make appropriate choices supported by information, advice and guidance in Year 9. This is further enhanced by our link with the Connexions service, who offer impartial advice. There are constraints for access to some subjects due to restricted learning space or staff expertise, but on the whole, students have a free choice of 2 or 3 subjects, in addition to the core subjects. The Buckingham School has made amendments to the student's curriculum in order to meet the performance measures of Progress 8. Our curriculum design takes into account the vast array of student interests and abilities within our cohort and seeks to offer a pathway suitable for all.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)

Our KS4 curriculum meets the needs of all students at The Buckingham School and serves to provide them with a broad education which challenges and engages, is linked to individual students' abilities and identified progression plans in preparation for life after school, whether in further learning, employment or training.

The Buckingham School does this by:

- Providing all students with extensive information, advice and guidance on all options and pathways available
- Supporting students with career choices through career education, guidance and research opportunities including impartial advice and guidance from Connexions
- Enabling students to consider and define their own career pathways and future plans in order to enable them to make effective and informed choices
- Providing parents and carers with accessible information and with opportunities for face-to-face information and guidance so that they are able to effectively support students in the options process
- Providing students and parents/carers with signposts to further information and impartial guidance

The Buckingham School guides students towards:

- Subjects they are good at
- Subjects they enjoy
- Subjects that will stretch and challenge them
- A balanced range of subjects to ensure students do not 'narrow' their choices in the next phase of their education.
- Subjects that are linked to individual progression plans Post 16 and beyond

Core Studies

The core studies curriculum offer is set for all students. The Buckingham School core offer includes

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Personal Development
- PE

Success for All through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment



Options

Options include a range of CGSEs and vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications are, in the main, BTEC Level 2 qualifications that are equivalent to GCSE and are graded in the same way, BTEC qualifications tend to be more vocationally linked, assessed through a portfolio of evidence more than through formal examination and often include practical, hands-on skills development alongside theory and classroom learning. Students at The Buckingham School are permitted to opt for up to but no more than 3 vocational (non-GCSE) subjects.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) is not a qualification in itself but when a certain group of subjects studied together as part of a curriculum. Students gain the Baccalaureate if they attain GCSE A*-C or 9-5 grades in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Two qualifying Sciences (including Computing)
- A Modern Foreign Language – such as French or Spanish
- Geography or History

The advice to students is to consider this when choosing their options. If it is an appropriate combination of courses suited to them, students need to ensure they choose one Modern Foreign Language (MFL) and either History or Geography as part of their options. If students do not feel they want to study these subjects, they can choose any of the other subjects listed in those option blocks if it is appropriate. We actively promote the curriculum to students who are Most Able, have aspirations of University, or have previously attained well in all the qualifying subjects.

Optional GCSE subjects

The following GCSE subjects are available through option blocks. Please note that you are able to select and study one subject from each option block and combinations of subjects must be achievable within the block system. Examples of subjects will include:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Dance
- Drama
- Food Technology
- French
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science
- Media
- Music
- PE
- Psychology
- Spanish

Optional Vocational subjects

- BTEC Media
- BTEC Business Studies
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Construction
- ASDAN
- Arts Award
- Sports Leadership

A small number of our students require a programme that includes provision outside the school environment for some of their timetable. Where alternative provision is required, the school will work with all necessary stakeholders to ensure a package is offered to meet the needs of the individual.

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 & 13)

The sixth form at The Buckingham School offers a broad curriculum for Post-16 students. There are a range of traditional A Level subjects available alongside BTEC vocational subjects. Combinations of academic and vocational subjects are possible, enabling students to develop a programme that is entirely suited to them as individuals.

KS5 students are offered a further enriched curriculum in subjects such as Sports Leadership, EPQ, study skills and careers education. Sixth Form students will also be expected to use allocated time for independent study.

Courses at Key Stage 5 are at Level 3, though some students may be resitting GCSE courses in English or Maths. The courses on offer will be made available on the website and as appendices in the Sixth Form prospectus.

THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL – A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



CURRICULUM POLICY

Adopted: Sept 2018
Reviewed: October 2018
Cycle: 2 Years
Next Review Date: October 2020

Mr Matthew Watkins
Chairman
Governing Body

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Watkins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signed: Date: October 2018