



# CURRICULUM OFFER

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

*Success* for All

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# Curriculum Statement

Our vision underlies everything at The Buckingham School. We want children to achieve the highest possible standards, be challenged and enjoy their school experience. This underpins all that we do, whether in the classroom, on the sports field, in concert, on stage, or in the extensive range of other opportunities we offer our students at all stages of their education.

As a school, we aim to develop our students to be successful in all that life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century offers. Our curriculum is designed to achieve this by being broad and balanced, as well as offering students deep and rich learning and experiences that are all underpinned by our School Virtues.



Underpinning our curriculum is a commitment to ensure that our ambition and delivery in the following areas remains high, ensuring our students receive the best education possible.

<p><b>Quality Teaching and Learning</b></p>	<p>The looking at learning standards define the framework of excellent teaching and learning at The Buckingham School, supported by weekly briefings, staff updates and a robust programme of staff CPD. Our staff undertake CPD relevant to their needs and share best practice regularly through a programme called Walkthrus.</p> <p>Through ensuring schemes of learning are knowledge-rich, develop skills for life including our virtues, offer opportunities for lone and collaborative working and embrace technology, we are confident our students develop as well-rounded citizens.</p>
<p><b>Personal Development as a key driver of achievement, challenge and enjoyment</b></p>	<p>Our personal development programme offers students the chance to develop the skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p> <p>We focus on both performance and moral values so that students can be successful whilst being able to make informed choices in their lives.</p> <p>Our commitment to being a trauma-aware school ensures our pastoral support is personalised and as individual as our students.</p> <p>We build collaborative partnerships with our community, including our parents to ensure that students are supported as effectively as possible.</p>
<p><b>Robust Assessment of Student Progress</b></p>	<p>In Key Stage 3, our students follow a mastery curriculum where students are assessed regularly against a knowledge-rich framework.</p> <p>In Key Stage 4, we use prior data to set ambitious targets for our students that are also achievable.</p> <p>We monitor students' attitudes to learning through our ATL system, ensuring that any issues are addressed in a timely manner to ensure students achieve their goals.</p>
<p><b>Behaviour for Learning</b></p>	<p>Students are expected to show respectful behaviours towards each other, adults and the school environment, modelling our school virtues at all times. This is supported through our personal development programme where such values are explored.</p> <p>Staff follow the Code of Conduct at all times, modelling the positive behaviours we expect to see in our students, creating an environment of mutual respect.</p> <p>We ensure that positive behaviours are praised and celebrated whilst ensuring that any negative choices in behaviour are dealt with fairly and consistently, in line with school policy.</p>
<p><b>Attitudes to Learning</b></p>	<p>Our expectation is for all students to be at least compliant in their attitude and engagement with school. We assess our students' attitude through the following descriptors:</p> <p><b>Dedicated:</b> The student is passionate about learning, goes beyond expectations as a matter of course. The student uses lessons as a springboard to explore content further. The student is highly self-motivated, is determined to master any areas of insecurity.</p> <p><b>Committed:</b> The student always meets or exceeds expectations in lessons, completing tasks enthusiastically and to their very best standard. Instructions are followed straightaway and appropriate, interested questions are raised. The student is eager to learn.</p> <p><b>Compliant:</b> The student meets expectations in lessons and does as required. Tasks are completed well and the teacher does not need to intervene to ensure compliance and co-operation.</p> <p><b>Reluctant:</b> The student fails to meet minimum expectations, rarely gets involved with learning, avoids completion of tasks and requires too much teacher time. Students who act to the detriment of others will automatically receive this grade.</p>

# Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The Buckingham School Key Stage 3 curriculum model is broad and balanced with a strong emphasis on Maths, English and Science. Our curriculum aims to prepare students for their KS4 studies but also keeps students at the heart of the curriculum, fostering a love for learning in all subjects. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum runs throughout Years 7-9.

Three-Year Key Stage Three curriculum model on a two week cycle with 50 1-hour lessons. Comprised as follows:

- English (8 lessons)
- Maths (8 lessons)
- Science (6 lessons)
- PE (4 lessons)
- History (2 lessons)
- Geography (2 lessons)
- MFL - French and Spanish (3 French lessons & 3 Spanish lessons)
- Performing Arts (3 lessons)
- Computing and ICT (2 lessons)
- Design and Technology (3 lessons)
- Art (2 lessons)
- Personal Development (2 lessons)
- Philosophy and Ethics (1 lesson)

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum - Core Studies

The Key Stage 4 curriculum runs throughout Years 10 and 11 and comprises a core curriculum and four option choices

The Key Stage 4 curriculum runs on a two-week cycle with 50 1-hour lessons. The core studies curriculum offer is set for all students. The Buckingham School core offer comprises:

- English Language GCSE (8 lessons split between English Language and English Literature)
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE (7 lessons)
- Science (Separate Sciences Biology, Chemistry and Physics) 3 GCSEs (9 lessons)
- PE for health and fitness (4 lessons)
- Personal Development (PSHE) (1 lesson)
- Philosophy and Ethics (1 lesson)

Tutor time will be used to enhance the key elements of SMSC, Personal Development (PSHE), Philosophy & Ethics, British Values and Citizenship.

# Options

Options include a range of GCSE and Vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications are BTEC Level 2 qualifications that are equivalent to GCSE. BTEC qualifications are more vocationally linked and assessed through a portfolio of evidence, in addition to an external examination. These also include hands-on and practical skills development, alongside theory and classroom learning.

## Optional GCSE Subjects

The following GCSE subjects are available through the Options.

- Art GCSE
- Business Studies GCSE
- Computer Science GCSE
- Design & Technology GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Film Studies GCSE
- Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE
- French GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- History GCSE
- PE GCSE
- Photography GCSE
- Psychology GCSE
- Sociology GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

## Optional Vocational Subjects

- ASDAN
- Construction BTEC
- Health & Social Care BTEC
- Music BTEC
- Sport, Fitness & Activity BTEC

## The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification in itself. It is awarded to students who have achieved a grade 4 (old grade C) or above in:

- English
- Mathematics
- At least two Sciences (which can include Computer Science)
- A Modern Foreign Language – French or Spanish
- Geography or History

Success in Ebacc subjects can lead to taking these subjects Post 16, where they are seen as facilitating subjects. These subjects are highly recognised at top Universities; especially those in the Russell Group. For this reason, we have adapted our curriculum models so that more of our students can study these subjects, in addition to still being able to have at least two additional options.

# Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Our Sixth Form has been developed to meet the needs and career aspirations of its students. It is a vibrant hub of interaction and learning, with good study facilities and strong teaching across a broad range of subjects.

We offer a range of academic A Level subjects, as well as vocational BTEC courses, in order to provide our students with the opportunity to study subjects relevant to their career ambitions and which take their learning style preferences into consideration.

We provide individual careers support to ensure all of our students are ready to successfully progress to the next stage of their career journey when they graduate. They will either be guided through the UCAS application process or supported to secure an Apprenticeship opportunity or employment for after they complete Year 13.

Alongside gaining three or more Level 3 qualifications, we are proud of the enrichment opportunities offered to our students and these are very much part of everyday life. We expect our students to work hard and to contribute to the life of the School and Sixth Form community. Our enrichment opportunities have Student Voice and Student Leadership at their heart - both areas in which the School excels. Student Voice in the School is a key factor in helping students to make informed decisions and we believe that every student should have their say.

The combination of enrichment and pastoral programmes ensures we develop well-rounded successful, diverse and talented people.





# Careers Guidance

Our aim is to prepare our students to go on to further or higher education or skilled employment and be able to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained in School. We pride ourselves in providing a comprehensive programme to all students in every Year Group. This includes aspects of work related learning, enterprise education, option choices, trips, seminars, as well as opportunities for external providers to meet with students to provide careers and labour market information. Careers guidance is on-going throughout the year and is further enhanced by working with local businesses, colleges and Universities.

Students in our Sixth Form are very well supported as they make their applications to University, apply for Higher Level Apprenticeships or other non University post-18 pathways.

We support students by:

- helping students to write effective curriculum vitae and personal statements
- giving students individual careers guidance and advice
- arranging interview training and mock interviews
- attending career specialist workshops
- holding careers seminars and assemblies
- working with business mentors
- encourage Sixth Form students to organise work experiences
- annual careers fair
- giving support and guidance on UCAS /university application process
- providing guidance regarding different career pathways, including information on apprenticeships



# Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Students generally chose three of the following, as well as one enrichment activity. Courses are reviewed each year according to student demand.

Courses	Enrichment Activities
Accountancy A Level	Extended Project Qualifications**
Art A Level	Performing Arts
Biology A Level	Sports Leadership
Business Studies BTEC National Extended Certificate	Work Experience
Chemistry A Level	Young Enterprise
Criminology Applied Diploma WJEC	
English Language A Level	
English Literature A Level	Enablers
Film Studies A Level	Retake English Language*
French A Level	Retake Maths*
Game Development and Computing BTEC	
Geography A Level	
Health & Social Care BTEC	
History A Level	
Law Applied BTEC	
Mathematics A Level	
Photography A Level	
Physical Education A Level	
Physics A Level	
Psychology A Level	
Psychology BTEC Applied Certificate	
Spanish A Level	
Sport BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate	

\*GCSE Maths and English Language retake classes will be mandatory for any student who has not achieved a Grade 4 or higher in these subjects.

\*\**The Extended Project Qualification provides students with the opportunity to carry out their own research project. This can take the form of a Dissertation (extended writing), Investigation, Performance or Artefact. Students can tailor their project to suit the skills they already have or new ones that they want to develop.*