CURRICULUM POLICY

RATIONALE

When departments are developing their schemes of work they consider teaching techniques, resources, differentiation, and individual pupils' needs which may have been identified through the work of the Learning Support Department, baseline testing or teachers' observations. All students must be provided with every opportunity to learn and make progress.

We aim to ensure that the curriculum provision will enable all students to enjoy a broad and balanced programme with sufficient flexibility for each pupil to choose additional subjects to develop their own particular enthusiasms and interest. Students will experience Linguistic, Mathematical, Scientific, Technological, Human and Social, Physical and Aesthetic and Creative subjects.

The curriculum covers three stages: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4/GCSE and Key Stage 5/Post-16.

The College is well resourced with specialist facilities in Science, Computing, Art, DT, PE, Sport, Music and Drama.

The Special Educational Needs provision and support made to students who require this is provided by a qualified team led by the SENDCo. They either support students and teachers in the classroom or through a programme of withdrawal where the students concerned are taught in the Don Bosco Centre for Learning Support (See 5.6 SEND and Learning Support Policy for full details).

Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) is delivered by tutors and subject specialists during the form periods throughout the week (See 5.21 PSHE Policy and PSHE Schemes of work for full details). Each form has a dedicated period each week specifically for Catholic Social Teaching.

Within the PSHE programme, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is a statutory and integral component, particularly within the areas of healthy relationships, physical and sexual health, and diversity and prejudice. Together, PSHE and RSE provide a progressive programme across all key stages that equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to build respectful, responsible relationships—both online and offline—while exploring key themes such as consent, boundaries, communication, and emotional and sexual health in an age-appropriate way. The programme supports students' personal development in line with the College's aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, promoting safeguarding, resilience, emotional literacy and respect for others, and enabling students to reflect on their values, make informed decisions, and contribute positively to society.

The Careers coordinator ensures that appropriate and impartial careers guidance is provided to all students in the College so that they can make informed choices and fulfil their potential. (See 5.25 Careers Education and Guidance policy).

Appropriate formative and summative assessment (see 5.3: Marking, Assessment and Presentation Policy) is an integral and implicit part of the curriculum system.

The entire curriculum is supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities and/or individual tuition, which includes Music, Drama, Chess and sports fixtures and coaching. The curriculum is also supported by visiting speakers, relevant study visits, field study courses, adventure and sports tours, cultural visits and exchanges.

Throughout the College opportunities are given to experience leadership through the School Officer roles, academic and pastoral mentoring system, Form Captains, Library Monitors and the School Council / Year Councils.

In partnership with parents, the College seeks to 'send out into the world happy and confident young people'. (see The College Mission Statement).

The College aims to provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum. We pay regard to the National Curriculum, covering the schemes of work entailed. In most subjects Key Stage 3 material is taught in an accelerated fashion.

For full details of the current College curriculum, see the *Additional Information* booklets and the College website.

In recent years, the College curriculum has expanded considerably with the introduction of new subjects throughout the age ranges, including Design & Technology GSCE, Latin GCSE, Additional Maths GCSE, Politics A-level and Music Technology in KS3. Additionally, all Year 10 students take the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) course which ensures that every student gains a qualification in an ICT-based subject.

The Curriculum Committee, in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team, regularly reviews subjects offered at all stages.

YEARS 7-9

We will continue to keep broadly in line with the National Curriculum requirements in so far as they ensure a good pattern of learning in the Core and Foundation subjects. All students will study Art, Biology, Computing, Chemistry, Classics, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Education and Spanish.

Some setting takes place in Mathematics from Year 7, in English from Year 8 and Modern languages from Year 9.

GCSE OPTIONS PROCEDURE

During Year 9, subject teachers begin discussing the focus of the subjects for GCSE. In the Spring Term each student is given an Options booklet detailing GCSE courses, specifications, along with general requirements and the compulsory elements. This is taken home to be discussed with parents before the Parents' Evenings and Options Evening. At the Options Evening, the Senior Deputy Headteacher gives general guidelines, and the parents are invited to meet all the subject teachers individually to discuss the options available. Every care is taken to offer first choices and the options groups are matched to the students' individual requests.

YEARS 10 & 11

Students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies to GCSE level. A Modern Foreign Language is also strongly advised. Students will either take 'Combined Science' (two GCSEs) or all three separate sciences (Triple Science).

We organise the Option groupings to enable as many of the students as possible to do their first choice of subjects. Students will take 10 GCSEs.

YEARS 12 &13

The option choices in Years 12 & 13 are kept as wide as possible and the following subjects may be studied up to A-Level: Fine Art, Graphic Communications, Photography, Biology, Business, Computer Science, Chemistry, Drama & Theatre Studies, Economics, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy & Ethics, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology and Spanish.

Year 12 and 13 have a wide range of enrichment curriculum options during a Wednesday afternoon including team sports, health and fitness as well as Drama, Business and volunteering opportunities.

All students in Year 12 have one period each week of Spiritual, Personal Understanding and Development (SPUD) in line with the requirement of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales that Religious Education form a minimum of 5% of the curriculum at key stage 5.

Students in Year 13 may elect to study for the Extended Project Qualification. This allows them to focus upon a particular area of interest and to obtain an additional, recognised qualification. They are taught in small groups or as an individual.

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