



FINHAM PARK SCHOOL

A Mathematics and Computing College

CURRICULUM POLICY

Finham Park School
Green Lane
Coventry
CV3 6EA

Tel: 024 7641 8135
Fax: 024 7684 0803
Email: headteacher@finhampark.co.uk
www.finhampark.co.uk



Executive Headteacher: Mark Bailie
Chair of Governors: Alethea Fuller



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Aims of the Policy

The purpose of the curriculum is to help pupils to:

- develop lively, imaginative and enquiring minds
- acquire knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and a world of rapid and continuous technological change
- have sound numeracy, literacy and ICT skills
- develop personal and moral values, respect for shared values and for other cultures, religions and ways of life
- develop an understanding of the communities in which they live-both locally and the wider world
- appreciate human achievements and aspirations
- take their place in society as informed, confident and responsible citizens

Main Principles

- The curriculum at Finham Park School has the following characteristics: breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation; progression and continuity; coherence.
- The curriculum builds the following skills: reflection, research, problem solving strategies and independent learning.
- The curriculum develops creativity, instilling a sense of wonder in all students
- The curriculum promotes knowledge and understanding; mastery of intellectual, physical and interpersonal skills and personal qualities, values and attitudes.
- The curriculum provides experiences to reflect on for the future
- The school has a commitment to provide equality of access for all pupils to academic experiences
- We provide appropriate tasks and learning opportunities to support high expectations and appropriate challenge
- All pupils have an entitlement to work related learning at KS4
- Parents are provided with curriculum information relevant to their child
- The curriculum is subject to planned evaluation and review

Outcomes

The curriculum:

- delivers the current and future statutory requirements
- is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated
- enable pupils to fulfil their potential
- prepares pupils to make informed and appropriate choices at all relevant stages of their education
- meets the needs of the full range of abilities within the school
- ensures continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education
- fosters teaching styles which will offer and encourage a variety of relevant learning opportunities
- encourages a respect for the school and its environment so that learning is a positive and pleasurable experience for all

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- helps pupils develop lively, enquiring minds, an ability to question and argue rationally and an ability to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- helps pupils acquire understanding, knowledge and key skills relevant to school, adult life and employment in a fast-changing world
- helps pupils to use language, number and ICT effectively
- helps pupils develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, religions and ways of life
- helps pupils understand the community in which they live and also the wider community
- helps pupils to appreciate human achievements and aspirations

The School therefore endeavours to provide:

- an environment in which young people of all abilities are able to develop the skills and attitudes which will facilitate lifelong learning and sustained personal development.

Although nationally the specialist status for any school is no longer funded, Finham Park remains committed to its specialism in Mathematics, ICT and Computing. As such we are committed to:

- raising standards of achievement, particularly in Mathematics, ICT and Computing for our pupils;
- extending the range of opportunities available to children which best meet their needs and interests;
- developing a unique identity which reflects the School's specialist status;
- benefiting other schools in the area, both secondary and primary;
- strengthening the links between schools and the wider community.

Each area of the curriculum is allotted sufficient time to make its specific contribution, but not so much that it squeezes out other essential areas. The amount of time allocated to each subject will be reviewed annually. There are 50 one hour lessons in a two week (10 day) timetable.

As far as possible, provision is made within the school for all pupils with special needs. Additional support is provided for pupils within the classroom and within the Special Needs department's own facilities. The provision of three foreign languages. Further Mathematics and the three separate GCSE science subjects, along with the progressive introduction of setting, stretches the brightest children and enables them to achieve in excess of 11 GCSEs by the end of Key Stage 4.

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Year 7

In Year 7, students broadly follow the National Curriculum. The lesson structure is as follows:

- Mathematics, English, Science, Discovery (a combination of Mathematics and Science)
- IT,
- PE,
- Modern Foreign Languages,
- History, Geography RE and Citizenship,
- Art, Drama, Music and Technology,
- Enrichment

Pupils are taught in mixed ability classes except for Mathematics, where they are set by ability in the October half term.

Discovery has been part of the curriculum for several years and is well established. It links the real world to the Mathematics behind it.

Our enrichment programme is designed to introduce students into areas that are not normally covered by the National Curriculum. Students opt for the areas they would like to study and are taught in mixed aged groups across years 7 and 8. Included within these sessions is an emphasis on developing a student's learning skills which should impact upon their progress across all subjects and the opportunity to experience a subject area that they may wish to pursue in their future learning. All year 7 students will study a 12 week module in Mandarin, learning about the culture of China and some simple language skills. These groups will comprise of year 7 students only.

New in September 2016 is the Mandarin Excellence Programme through which students can choose to opt for Mandarin Chinese instead of French or Spanish. They will receive 8 hours contact time every two weeks and a series of opportunities funded by an external grant.

For 2016-17 the areas are:

- Drama – Theatre in Education
- Interactive Fiction
- Mandarin (for both year groups but this is the only subject where year 7 students are taught separately from year 8)
- Media – Film and Video Making
- Music – The Power to Change
- Language Explorers
- Philosophy for Children
- Psychology
- Dance

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Years 8

This year students follow:

- Mathematics, English, Science,
- IT, PE,
- Modern Foreign Languages,
- History, Geography RE
- Citizenship, Art,
- Drama, Music
- Technology.
- Enrichment

All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups except for Mathematics. Some students who are able linguists, are offered an opportunity to enhance their progress by learning their modern foreign language through Geography.

As explained above, the year 8 enrichment programme is co-taught with the year 7 students and the subjects on offer are the same. However all year 8 students study 1 term of Mandarin which will be taught separate to the year 7 groups.

Year 9

This year begins the KS4 Programmes of study. Students follow:

- Mathematics, English, Science,
- IT –starting on the KS4 course GCSE ICT or GCSE Computing,
- PE,
- Modern Foreign Languages,
- In addition to this student have chosen 6 subjects to begin their KS4 courses. All students had to choose at least one humanity and 1 practical/creative subject.

Students are taught in ability sets in Mathematics and Science and in mixed ability groupings in all other areas.

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Year 10

For 2016-17 year 10 students will be following the second year of their KS4 courses. Pupils continue to follow the statutory requirements, whilst embarking on public examination courses leading to GCSE and other qualifications.

All pupils study:

Religious Education	(1 period out of 50),
English	(7)
Mathematics	(7)
Science	(9)
P.E.	(4)
IT.	(5)
PSHE	(1).

English includes English Literature for all students and the most able mathematicians will study GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics. This course is designed to support transition to post 16 study in Mathematics.

The contact time for ICT has been increased to meet the more stringent demands of the GCSE ICT course.

In addition, pupils have the option of studying up to four subjects from the following:

PE	Drama (GCSE)
Art (3D, Fine Art, Art Graphics or Photography)	History
Citizenship	Geography
Music	MFL (French, Spanish or Mandarin)
Business Studies	Philosophy & Ethics
	Technology-Catering, Product design, and Btec Engineering

Alternative Routes

Students have access to a wide range of vocational courses through our partnerships with local colleges. They attend these courses one day per week and work towards recognised qualification.

For the academic year 2016-2017 there are 7 students attending college 1 day per week; all students are working towards a recognised qualification



Year 11

The curriculum rolls forward in all areas from the year 10 timetable from 2015-16 except for Btec IT where the contact time has been reduced to 2 lessons. The additional 3 lessons per two weeks are used in one of the following ways.

- All of these students study an additional Mathematics lesson increasing their contact time to 8 per 2 weeks.
- All of these students study an additional English lesson increasing their contact time to 8 per 2 weeks.
- All of these students study an additional RE lesson increasing their contact time to 3 per 2 weeks.
-

Across the year, close monitoring of students sometimes results in amendments to timetables to ensure maximum success in other areas.

Alternative Routes

All college courses continue throughout year 11. For the academic year 2016-2017 there are 4 students attending college 1 day per week; all students are working towards a recognised qualification

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Courses currently being studied at KS4

Course	Qualification
Art - Fine Art	GCSE
Art - Graphics	GCSE
Art - Photography	GCSE
Biology	GCSE
Business	GCSE
Business	BTEC Level 2 Certificate
Catering	GCSE
Chemistry	GCSE
Citizenship	GCSE (short course)
Computing	GCSE
Drama	GCSE
Engineering	BTEC First Diploma
English	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE
Film Studies	GCSE
French	GCSE
Geography	GCSE
History	GCSE
Mandarin	GCSE
Mathematics	GCSE

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Mathematics-Further	GCSE
Media Studies	GCSE
Music	GCSE
Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)	GCSE
Physics	GCSE
Product Design	GCSE
Science (double)	GCSE
Spanish	GCSE
Sport	GCSE
Step Up	Entry level 1 &2
PHSE	Not assessed
Core PE	Not assessed

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Years 12 & 13

Students either follow the A level route or the A level and BTEC route. The decision about the programme of study in year 12 will be dependent on the wishes of the student and prior academic achievement (ie GCSE point score). It will be overseen by the Head of the Sixth-form in consultation with Subject Leaders and will be conditional upon meeting entry requirements.

1) A level

In year 12 students are expected to choose a minimum of 3 AS levels and an enrichment course. Students have access to a broad range of A levels delivered here on site but also to all A levels offered across the Federation (and sometimes across Coventry). The advantage of working within Coventry is that students have relatively easy access to all Coventry schools so that compromises can be kept to a minimum.

2) Applied A Levels and/or BTEC Route

Some students wish to follow a more vocational route and can combine the level 3 BTEC courses with an A level programme. The expectation is that students will follow the equivalent of 4 AS subjects in year 12 and 3 subjects in year 13.

3) The AQA Baccalaureate

Some students follow the AQA Bacc which is designed to prepare students with a more holistic education. By accrediting students' academic studies, personal development and contributions to the wider community, the Baccalaureate encourages them to integrate with the school, the local communities and develop as individuals and citizens. Students have the following components:

- a) Depth of study (equivalent to 3 A2 courses)
- b) Broader study (on additional AS level)
- c) EPQ
- d) Personal development (enrichment activities or non-academic pursuits)

All students follow the Enrichment programme which offers a wide range of opportunities to ensure they have a broad range of experiences to take to the next stage of their career. This will include re-sitting GCSE Mathematics or English for those students who did not achieve a grade C or higher in year 11.

Year 13

Students either follow the A level route or the A level and BTEC route combined. Progress to year 13 will be overseen by the Head of Sixth-form. Students are expected to re-enrol in year 13 and should be aware that transition is not automatic. There is a minimum of 3Ds at AS level in order to qualify for studying in year 13. Students can study a combination of AS and A level courses.





CURRICULUM POLICY

Written by V Maginnis
Reviewed by V Maginnis
Reviewed by V Maginnis

July 2010
July 2015
October 2016

Next review date:

July 2017

Approved by Governors:

15.11.16

Signed:

MARK BAILIE
Executive Headteacher

Signed:

ALETHEA FULLER
Chair of Governors

Date: 15.11.16

Date: 15.11.16

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