

KS3 Curriculum

2018/19



The start of Key Stage 3 marks an exciting phase in the lives of our students. It is the period when they build on their primary education and prepare for their Key Stage 4 choices, most of which will be made in Year 8. Our curriculum is designed so that students can master the basics without sacrificing on breadth.

There are four key principles underpinning the design of the academy's curriculum:

- All students have access to a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum that supports learning.
- A strong core ensures that basic skills are embedded at an early stage so that students are able to access the wider curriculum.
- A range of learning pathways to support and challenge all students.
- An extended curriculum ensures all students have access to catch-up, extension and enrichment.

Subjects studied and time allocations at KS3 – 2018/19:

Subject	Weekly Lesson Allocation					
	Year 7			Year 8		
	Group 1 / 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 1 / 2	Group 3	Group 4
English	5	6	6	5	6	6
Mathematics	5	6	6	5	6	6
Science	4	4	4	4	4	4
Humanities	3	3	3	3	3	3
MFL	3	3	3	3	3	3
Art / DT	2	2	2	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2	2	2	2
Music	1	1	1	1	1	1
PE	2	2	2	2	2	2
Stretch	2	0	0	2	0	0
CCE	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Drill	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	31	31	31	31	31	31

Groups 3 and 4 are allocated more curriculum time in the core to ensure that all students are supported to climb the mountain to university or a real alternative. Students who are not on track to achieve their targets in the core may be expected to attend practice sessions in English, mathematics, science, geography, history and / or Spanish before school (from 7.30am).

During Stretch lessons, Groups 1 and 2 are challenged to extend their thinking by participating in weekly dialectic lectures. These lectures focus on enquiry-based themes around critical thinking, philosophy, politics and ethics.

All KS3 students are expected to complete one independent 'Stretch Project' in Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. Projects are mainly completed at home; however, students are supported by their Advisor and through stand-alone year group sessions that take place at intermittent points within a Cycle.

Each week, all students in years 7 to 10 spend an afternoon taking part in Drill and Co-Curricular. The 20-minute Drill session can take many forms: whether learning something new that the students would not typically come across within the curriculum or having a short lecture based on feedback from cycle assessments. Students sit in their houses during Drill and compete for House Points. Following the short Drill session, students are dismissed to their Co-Curricular Electives. Students can change their electives each cycle in a range of enriching activities as part of our Autonomy approach. The Co-Curricular Electives include: games, media, Urdu, drama, music, STEM, sign language, fencing, cooking, public speaking, chess and photography. Students electing drama and music deliver an arts showcase at the end of each cycle. In addition to this, all students take part in a sports showcase at the end of Cycle 3.