

St Mary's College Curriculum Summary

The aim of the school is to foster the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils, believing that each individual pupil has a right to access a forward thinking, varied and exciting curriculum. We aim to provide an education where pupils can explore their own beliefs and values whilst appreciating those of others, heighten their spiritual awareness, develop high personal standards and take time to care for the feelings of other people, acknowledge the significant contribution made to the school and wider community through the rich variety cultures represented within our school.

In its widest context the curriculum is everything related to the school including the normal school timetable, the school ethos, what happens during break and lunch times and the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. The curriculum at St Mary's College is designed to reflect our belief that the person of Christ and His message, is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school. This relates to all taught subjects, assemblies, liturgies and extra-curricular activities, since there is nothing which does not ultimately relate to God. Each day begins with an act of collective worship and religious education accounts for in excess of 10% of curriculum time across all key stages. Throughout all lessons, weekly assemblies and our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) programme we promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those of other faiths or none.

Our holistic education aims to challenge and encourage each and every student to strive to achieve their full potential. We have flexibility within our curriculum which allows pupils to follow a pathway which is appropriate for them. Many of our students will pursue qualifications in a traditional English Baccalaureate based timetable. Additional timetabled lessons for pupils who require support in English and Mathematics are available and personalised programmes are put in place for others. By constantly seeking ways to raise achievement, we have developed a curriculum where the needs of every pupil are addressed.

Our pupils benefit from outstanding modern facilities and an adult rich environment where specialist learning mentors and teaching assistants lend guidance and support both inside and outside the classroom.

Years 7 And 8

In years 7 and 8 pupils have the same curricular provision, in line with the demands of the National curriculum: Art, Computing, Design and Technology, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and Science.

The PSHCE programme is delivered through half day tutorial session and forms an integral part of most other lessons.

Years 9, 10 And 11

Year 9, 10 and 11 students have a core curriculum of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Physical Education, Religious Education and Science.

Most students will continue to study a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History allowing them to meet the demands of the English Baccalaureate. To ensure sufficient stretch and challenge for our most able students a high number will follow a Triple Science programme with many also obtaining a GCSE in Further Mathematics. Personalised programmes of study are put in place for other students during Years 9, 10 and 11.

All students will be able to select option subjects to commence in Year 9 from a range including Art & Design, Business, Computing, Dance, Drama – Acting, Food Technology, Health & Social Care, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Media, Music, Musical Theatre, Physical Education, Product Manufacture, second Modern Foreign Language, second Humanities subject. The programmes of study in these subjects are a mixture of GCSE and BTEC allowing pupils of all abilities and learning styles to access a curriculum that is appropriate to them.

Sixth Form

Housed primarily within our new state of the art SM6 building we welcome back a high number of returning students and an increasing number of external students of all faiths and denominations from across the city and surrounding areas. Together they contribute to a vibrant and exciting learning environment.

Our students are encouraged to become independent learners and develop the skills required for life beyond the sixth form. Whilst they are given freedom to develop as young adults, they are supported, guided and advised every step of the way by an expert staff and specialist pastoral team.

SM6 delivers outstanding post 16 provision at St Mary's college. We offer a wide range of exciting courses including Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, AS and A2 Level qualifications supporting students of all backgrounds and abilities. Examination results in show SM6 to be a high performing sixth form.

The subjects offered are reviewed on a regular basis but currently include Art & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Drama, English Language, English Language/Literature, English Literature, Film Studies, Further Mathematics, Geography, Health & Social Care, History, Law, Mathematics, Media, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Photography, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, Religious Education, Sociology and Sport.

Our recently established Academies of Sport enable students to benefit from high quality coaching programmes in a variety of sports alongside their academic studies. We have links with the professional clubs; Hull City and Hull FC and a wide range of other local sporting clubs.