

The academy curriculum - Sept 2015

Rationale:

Changes both National and local mean that it is timely for the academy to review current curriculum structures and provide a model that ensures all students make good progress and successfully achieve the qualifications they need for their future.

From Sept 2015 the academy will run a new curriculum model. This change will impact on years 7-9 in the first instance (10 and 11 will complete their GCSE course in the current curriculum model).

Aims

The academy curriculum should:

- Provide challenging and inspirational learning opportunities that promote independence and autonomy
- Prepare students for success at GCSE – over the five years from year 7
- Bridge the gaps between current student skills and the new examination demands
- Raise literacy levels
- Provide a greater academic rigour that prepares students for new A levels
- Improve outcomes for students across the whole ability range
- Close gaps in performance for those who are disadvantaged

The main features of the new model:

- GCSE choice will be made in year 9 – student are more mature and better able to make choices for their future
- GCSEs begin in year 10 – GCSE is commonly a two year course
- The skills for success at GCSE will be taught from year 7 onwards – students will be developing their ability to think independently, write fluently and retrieve, recall and apply information.
- A literacy curriculum framework will underpin all subject areas from years 7-11 – key skills in reading, writing and oracy will be taught and developed from Year 7 through to 11
- Students will follow one of four pathways from entry – each pathway will have a slightly different curriculum model that best meets the needs of students and builds the skills for success at GCSE and beyond.

More details will be shared in the next parent forum in February which should further clarify the planned changes.

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