

## WHOLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

The curriculum at New Hall is designed, in the light of the Mission & Ethos Statement and Aims of the School, to offer breadth and balance, as appropriate to the needs and interests of the students and the size of the School.

The content of our curriculum aims to make provision for excellent academic achievement alongside nurturing the spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development of all children. It is supplemented with visits, workshops and outside speakers. Children will acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy.

We acknowledge that an effective curriculum is:

- Broad
- Balanced
- Relevant
- Purposeful
- Differentiated
- Stimulating
- Cross-curricular
- Enjoyable
- Engaging

The School aims to provide a curriculum accessible to all students, which enables them to develop and make progress in a wide range of areas, including the cross-curricular skills of speaking, listening, literacy, numeracy and ICT. Work planned in all areas of the curriculum is differentiated for all students, including those with special educational needs, students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, those who are More Able & Talented and for those for whom English is an additional language. Where a pupil has an EHCP, the education provided fulfils its requirements.

*See Differentiation Policy; Most Able & Talented Policy; EAL Policy; Disability Policy; SEN Policy.*

The curriculum provides full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996), and it gives students experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. The curriculum is also designed to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Full detail of the delivery of the curriculum is provided within the Schemes of Work for each subject.

Personal, social and health education, which reflects the School's aim and ethos, takes place across all year groups via regular PSHEE lessons.

*See PSHEE Policy.*

Careers guidance is provided for students and this ranges from assisting students with their subject option choices to supporting students with their UCAS/apprenticeship applications and helping them to plan their lives beyond New Hall.

*See Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Policy.*

## **1. Preparatory Divisions**

*For Nursery Division and Reception, please also refer to Early Years Curriculum Policy.*

### **1.1 Curriculum Content**

In the Preparatory Divisions, the curriculum is based upon the knowledge and skills laid out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum (Nursery and Reception) and the National Curriculum (Years 1-6). It is delivered through a range of exciting and engaging topics and is built around a progressive ladder of skills. In addition, the School has built into the Key Stage 2 curriculum the knowledge and skills required for the SATs assessments and for entrance examinations at local schools, including the Senior Divisions at New Hall.

### **1.2 Subject Allocation New Hall Preparatory Divisions**

Our curriculum is comprised of the following subjects:

#### *Core Subjects*

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) / Computer Science

#### *Foundation Subjects*

- Art, Design & Technology
- Classics (Latin & Ancient Greek, Year 5 and Year 6)
- Chaplaincy (Year 5 and Year 6)
- Cookery (Year 5 and Year 6)
- Drama (Year 5 and Year 6)
- French (Year 3 to Year 6)
- Geography
- History
- Language & Culture (Nursery 2 to Year 2)
- Music & Choir
- Outdoor Learning (Nursery 2 to Year 2)
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHEE)
- Politics (Year 5 and Year 6)
- Physical Education (including Dance, Swimming and Sport)
- Spanish (Year 5 to Year 6)

Most subjects are taught by the Class Teachers in differentiated ability groups within each class. Setting across whole year groups takes place within the Preparatory Division for English and Mathematics. This allows pupils to be challenged and stretched still further.

The following subjects are delivered across the Preparatory Divisions by subject-specialist teachers:

- Music (including the Year 3/4 Music Scheme)
- Physical Education (including Dance, Swimming and Sport)
- Politics (Including the Level 1 GCSE Foundation Project Qualification in Year 5 and Year 6)
- Languages (Classics, French, Language & Culture and Spanish)

Subject-specialist teaching takes place in all subjects in Year 6. This allows a more in-depth knowledge and understanding of each subject to be shared with pupils, thereby raising attainment. The model also prepares the children for their transition to the Senior Divisions, or other secondary education establishments.

### 1.3 The Preparatory Divisions Curriculum

- **Spiritual**  
As befits a Catholic school, Religious Education is taught as a core curriculum subject. In Years 5 and 6, students also receive a dedicated Chaplaincy lesson once per fortnight.
- **Mathematical**  
Mathematics is a core curriculum subject throughout the Preparatory Divisions and all pupils receive a daily Mathematics lesson. Numeracy also underpins the work covered in many other subjects across the curriculum, especially Science. Further numeracy support, where required, is offered to students with SEND through Learning Development lessons.
- **Linguistic**  
Like Mathematics, English is a core subject and pupils receive a daily lesson. The Nursery, Pre-Prep and Preparatory Divisions all follow the same Phonics scheme. This ensures a consistency of approach and allows pupils to make the maximum progress as they move between the Divisions. Literacy also underpins work in all subjects across the curriculum. Further literacy support, where required, is offered to students with SEND through Learning Development lessons. Students with English as an Additional Language (EAL), will also receive additional support from our EAL Department.

Teaching pupils to communicate in different languages and exposing pupils to different cultures begins from the Nursery through Language & Culture lessons. These are led by language specialists and incorporate a range of languages including French, Spanish, Mandarin. From Year 3, pupils begin to learn French and we then also introduce the learning of Spanish and Latin from Year 5.

- **Scientific**  
Science is a core subject across the Division and pupils are encouraged to embrace investigations and practical work. In Years 5 and 6, subject-specialist teachers deliver lessons in a dedicated Junior Science Lab (the Octagon). This facility enables students to undertake practical laboratory Science.

Pupils are taught core ICT skills across the Pre-Preparatory Division, allowing them to learn Computer Science from Year 3. All pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 are given a School iPad and the use of digital platforms is embedded across schemes of work in all subjects.

- **Human and Social**  
History and Geography are studied by all pupils, either in discrete lessons or in Topic based lessons. PSHEE is taught through weekly lessons.
- **Technological, Aesthetic and Creative**  
Music is taught to all pupils. In Years 3 and 4, pupils participate in the Preparatory Music Scheme. Under this scheme, all pupils are provided with a musical

instrument and are given lessons from our team of Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs). Currently this includes Trumpet, Clarinet, Violin, Cello and Flute. In Years 5 and 6, the teaching of Music is led by subject-specialist teachers and pupils receive a fortnightly year group Choir lesson. The delivery of Music is enhanced by our dedicated St Cecilia's Music Suite.

Art, Design & Technology is also taught to all pupils. Pupils learn to appreciate a range of styles of art, as well as developing their skills in Design and product development. Teachers make use of the dedicated Preparatory Divisions' Art room to enable pupils to experiment with a range of materials and techniques.

Pupils in Years 5 & 6 receive Drama lessons, taught by subject-specialists and making use of the Drama studios and other spaces within School. At this point, we also introduce Cookery lessons, teaching pupils the basics of nutrition and food preparation. These lessons are led by our Cookery Assistants and are based in our dedicated Cookery room.

- **Physical**

All pupils across the Preparatory Divisions have weekly Physical Education lessons and pupils within the Preparatory Division also have one Sport afternoon per week.

#### **1.4 The Enriched Curriculum**

A full programme of activities, drawing on and augmenting the curriculum, is offered to all pupils at lunchtimes and evenings. *See the Preparatory Divisions Co-Curricular Activities Booklet.*

The Preparatory Divisions also offer childcare before school from 8.00am and run an After School Care provision from the end of the School day until 6.00pm. Further childcare provision is available via Breakfast and Supper Club and through our boarding programme. This offers a wide range of activities in a caring and supportive environment which acknowledge that high educational standards and pupil well-being go hand in hand. Children succeed best when they are healthy, self-confident and well-motivated. Extending the range of services that schools can offer is crucial to making sure children and families are given the support they need to thrive.

## **2. Senior Divisions**

### **2.1 Curriculum Content**

In the Senior Divisions, the curriculum is designed from Year 7 so that students are able to experience a broad, but balanced, range of subjects. This develops the skills required for academic success and enables them to make informed choices regarding GCSE and A Level subjects. Alongside this, the curriculum is complemented by a programme designed to nurture the spiritual, social, moral, cultural, physical and creative development of our students.

Our curriculum is comprised of the following subjects:

- Theology (Religious Education)
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer Science

- Art, Design & Technology
- Photography
- Classics (Latin & Ancient Greek)
- Chaplaincy (Year 7 to Year 9)
- Cookery (Year 7 to Year 9)
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Choir (Year 7)
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHEE)
- Politics (Year 10 and Sixth Form)
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Psychology (Sixth Form)
- Economics (Sixth Form)
- Business (Sixth Form)
- Chinese (Native speaker provision)
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Academic Projects (HPQ and EPQ)

Most subjects are taught in mixed ability groups. Setting occurs in Mathematics, French and Spanish from Year 7. Setting is then introduced in Science from Year 9 and English from Year 10.

## 2.2 Senior Divisions Curriculum Content

The School aims to provide a curriculum accessible to all students, which enables them to develop learning in a wide range of areas:

- **Spiritual**  
As befits a Catholic school, Religious Education (known as 'Theology' in the Senior Divisions) is taught as a core curriculum subject in Key Stages 3 and 4, with the opportunity for all students to take a GCSE in the subject at the end of Year 11. In the Sixth Form, as well as being available as an A Level option, students in Year 12 receive a weekly general RE lesson (named Horizons). Year 13 students have general RE through termly Human & Spiritual Days and through their weekly PSHEE and Horizons programme. In Years 7, 8 and 9, students also receive a dedicated Chaplaincy lesson once per fortnight.
- **Mathematical**  
Mathematics is a core curriculum subject throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, with the opportunity for all students to take a GCSE in the subject at the end of Year 11. Both Mathematics and Further Mathematics are available as A Level options. Numeracy also underpins work in many subjects across the curriculum, especially the Sciences, and our departments work collaboratively in order to reinforce skills. Further numeracy support, where required, is offered to students with SEND through Learning Development lessons.

- **Linguistic**

English is a core subject in Key Stages 3 and 4, with the opportunity for all students to either take GCSEs in English Language and English Literature, or equivalent EAL qualifications. English Literature is available as an A Level option, alongside EAL qualifications such as IELTS. Literacy also underpins work in many subjects across the curriculum, and our departments work collaboratively in order to reinforce skills. Further literacy support, where required, is offered to students with SEND through Learning Development lessons.

At Key Stage 3, Latin is also offered as a core subject, alongside either French or Spanish. Some students who show particular aptitude for languages are offered the opportunity to study both French & Spanish from Year 8. Latin is offered to all students and Ancient Greek is introduced through Latin classes and as a co-curricular club. From Year 9, both Ancient Greek and Latin can be studied on timetable. French, Spanish, Latin and Ancient Greek are available as optional subjects at both GCSE and A Level. We also offer the French and Spanish Language Diplomas (DELF/DELE) to students from Year 7-13. Chinese is offered to native speakers.

- **Scientific**

Science is taught as three separate subjects, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All three Sciences are taught as core subjects throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, with the opportunity for all students to either take GCSEs in all three Sciences (Triple Award) or the double award GCSE in Combined Science. All three Sciences are options at A Level, alongside Psychology.

Computer Science is also a core subject in Key Stage 3 and becomes an option at GCSE and at A Level. Through the Computer Science curriculum, and supported across all subjects, students are taught core ICT skills that enable them to make use of the range of digital technologies available to them. All students within the Senior Divisions are given a School iPad and the use of digital platforms is embedded across schemes of work in all subjects.

- **Human and Social**

History and Geography are studied by all students at Key Stage 3 and are options at GCSE and A Level. PSHEE, incorporating Careers Guidance, is taught through weekly lessons across the Senior Divisions. Economics, Business and Politics are all options at A Level. Students in Year 10 are able to choose to study a bespoke UAS Politics course, designed by our Politics Department and accredited by AQA.

- **Technological, Aesthetic and Creative**

Art, Design & Technology, Drama and Music are taught to all students in Years 7 and 8; two of these subjects can then be chosen for study in Year 9 through our Creative Arts options process. In Year 7, students also have a dedicated Choir lesson. At GCSE and A Level, Art, Photography, Drama and Music are available as options. Students will also have experience of Cookery in Years 7 to 9, and in Year 13. Dance is available as a co-curricular activity.

- **Physical**

All students at Key Stage 3 have weekly Physical Education lessons and one Sport afternoon per week. At GCSE and A Level, students have one Sport afternoon per week and Physical Education is available as an option.

### **2.3 Project Qualifications**

Students have the opportunity to undertake project qualifications at various levels. This is an excellent way of developing important academic skills, such as the capacity for independent research, use of resources, essay writing, presentation skills and the ability to manage a large and complex task over an extended period. The most frequently chosen of these is the Extended Project Qualification, taken by students in the Sixth Form.

### **2.4 GCSE Curriculum (Year 10 and Year 11)**

A core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science and Theology is broadened by the addition of subjects from a range of options to provide for a wide variety of interests at GCSE level. We also encourage all students to undertake the Higher Project Qualification to demonstrate their independent learning and to explore their preferred subject areas beyond the curriculum. Most students study nine or ten GCSE subjects, though some study eight and a few eleven or twelve.

### **2.5 A Level Curriculum (Year 12 and Year 13)**

A wide range of subjects is offered at A Level. Students typically choose three subjects to study alongside weekly PSHEE lessons and the 'Horizons' programme. Students also receive a Games afternoon each week and the majority choose to undertake the Extended Project Qualification. Students can also undertake a course in Cookery. Those students who wish to continue studying French and/or Spanish, but do not wish to take the full A Level, can opt to study the DELF/DELE language Diplomas.

A small number of students opt to study four A Level subjects. This is often through the choice of Further Mathematics (which takes up two option choices and leads to two A Level qualifications) alongside two other subjects. Permission to study a fourth subject at A Level is granted on an individual basis dependent on the skills of the student and the range of subjects they wish to take.

### **2.6 The Enriched Curriculum**

A full programme of activities, drawing on and augmenting the curriculum, is offered to all pupils at lunchtimes and evenings. *See the Senior Divisions Co-Curricular Activities Booklet.*