

# York High School

Resilience ~ Aspiration ~ Success

## Curriculum Policy

Adopted by Governors: March 2024

Review timetable: 1 year



### Status of the Policy

Updated March 2024 by Steve Hardy.

#### 1. Introduction

The curriculum at York High School is broad and balanced throughout KS3 with pupils having full access to the National Curriculum throughout their studies. During Y9, pupils select between 2-4 optional subjects (depending on their pathway) for more specialised study at KS4, whilst maintaining a strong focus around the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, PE and RAS (PSHE/Citizenship and RSE education.)

#### 2. Intention

Our curriculum is designed to equip students with Resilience, Aspiration and Success, which are our core curriculum aims. We passionately believe that high quality first teaching coupled with a broad and balanced curriculum; studying subjects which allow students to develop a rounded skillset is vital in preparing students to be successful members of society. We therefore strive to fulfill the following principles:

- To ensure that our students benefit from a rich, exciting curriculum from Y7-11 which ensures they secure the best possible academic outcomes at the end of their time at YHS and beyond.
- To enrich the curriculum with a varied offer of extra-curricular opportunities.
- To engage our students in the classroom and develop them into active, engaged learners who ask thought provoking questions to further develop their learning.
- To provide a curriculum that is tailored to the needs of our learners; ensuring that all learners, whether those who are gifted and talented, or those with special educational needs and disabilities, are challenged and supported to achieve their very best.
- To ensure that our students develop effective study skills in order that they are fully prepared for the demands of the GCSE's.
- To equip our students with the necessary skills for their futures Post 16. This is delivered through individual subjects but also includes the Careers, advice and guidance which is delivered through our Aspirations programme that runs throughout the school.
- 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.

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### 3. Implementation

At KS3 all students study the following subjects:

- Computing
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages (French)
- Performing Arts (Drama, Music)
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Technology (Art, DT, Food)

RAS (Personal Development) is also studied and includes activities that improve awareness and identity, facilitate employability and relationship and sexual education (RSE)

We also co-ordinate a program of literacy and numeracy catch up to support students who start KS3 below the KS2 expected standard.

#### Curriculum Structure: Key Stage 4

Students in KS4 follow the following pathways:

Aspire: Pupils study Triple Science, French, Geography or History (or both) and 2 options from: Child Development, Drama, Health and Social Care, I-Media, Music, Religious Studies, Art, Engineering, Hospitality & Catering, Sports National.

Succeed: Pupils study History or Geography (or both) and 2 options from: Child Development, Drama, Health and Social Care, I-Media, Music, Religious Studies, Art, Engineering, Hospitality & Catering, Sports National.

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Thrive: This is a bespoke pathway to offer additional support to those students that need it. Thrive students receive additional English and Maths support, BTEC Workskills and 1 option from: History, Geography, Child Development, Drama, Health and Social Care, I-Media, Music, Religious Studies, Art, Engineering, Hospitality & Catering, Sports National.

In addition, all pupils will also study

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- RAS (includes Careers Information, Advice & Guidance, Religious and Life studies and Relationship and sexual education)
- Core Physical Education

### e) Curriculum Delivery and Entitlement (Teaching Groups)

We believe in a combination of mixed ability and setting of pupils (using KS2 scores initially) so that they can learn with peers of similar ability to ensure that teaching can be targeted. Many pupils are in different sets or groups for different subjects so they can progress at the right pace for them.

From Primary transition we work closely with our higher ability pupils, providing a range of academic and extra curricular opportunities as they move through secondary school. We work closely with the York's Independent State School Partnership, which strives to give pupils new experiences and build relationships with likeminded young people from across the city. Pupils are invited to attend a variety of Masterclasses and are offered places at a number of conferences throughout the year. In addition, through our Roots programme, identified pupils are engaging with Further and Higher education from a young age, giving them, a clear understanding of the steps they can take to fulfil their aspirations. For pupils with special needs there are a range of interventions including additional support through specialist teaching and the support of Teaching Assistants.

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) forms part of the curriculum and is delivered through RAS and subject contributions.

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### 4. Enrichment of the Curriculum

There is a range of extra-curricular opportunities available for all our students. The list of “Enrichment Activities” is available to view on our Website.

The Learning Resource Centre encourages access to books and the internet as sources of information to broaden the knowledge of learners. This is further supplemented by the availability of the ICT facilities at lunchtimes and after the end of the school day. These sessions are in addition to the full range of enrichment opportunities offered across school.

Subjects will be leading numerous educational visits, both home and abroad, to further enrich the curriculum.

Steve Hardy

Assistant Head Curriculum Development