

# Curriculum overview 2017/18

## Structure of the teaching week:

Pupils at Key Stages Three and Four (year 7 -11) are taught for 25 hours per week. Each day is divided into six fifty minute lessons with additional time being provided for registration, an act of collective worship, break and lunchtime.

## Key Stage Three (years 7-9)

Our Key Stage three curriculum is carefully designed to focus on developing skills in the core subjects whilst at the same time providing a broad and balanced curriculum. In Year Seven, particular emphasis is placed upon English and Mathematics which are essential in helping to support progress in all subject areas. We provide expert support for pupils with Special Educational needs from highly qualified specialist teachers and support staff.

At Key Stage three pupils are placed in one of three mixed ability bands based on their form groupings. Most teaching is in mixed ability groups with a 'top' set and a Learning support set in each band for core subjects.

During years 7 - 9 pupils follow National Curriculum programmes of study in:- Mathematics, English, History, Geography, Science, French/German, Music, Art, Technology (including Food Technology, IT and Textiles) and Physical Education. Pupils also have lessons in Drama, Religious Education as well as Personal Social Health Citizenship Careers and Economic Education. In year seven all pupils will have one lesson per week of Study Skills which will help them to develop the independent and group working skills needed for success in secondary school. The Lexia programme is used in Y7-9 to improve Literacy skills for low scorers at KS2. In addition, the PiXL CODE phonics scheme is used in year 7 for students who are struggling with reading.

## Year 8 Options

In addition to the core curriculum, students in Year 8 choose one optional subject, to study in year 9, from; Design Technology, Food Technology, Music, Media Studies, Drama, Textiles, Enterprise and Physical Education (BTEC). This allows students the chance to study one of these subjects in depth and to develop a high level of skills, which may be extended and developed at Key Stage 4. In addition, if a student is ready, they may be entered for a level 2 qualification in this subject at the end of the course. Additional English and

Maths lessons are also timetabled for those Pupil Premium students who have fallen behind.

## **Key Stage Four (years 10-11)**

In years ten and eleven pupils begin to specialise and have the opportunity to choose a variety of subjects, which particularly interest them. During the Spring term of Year 9, a brochure is issued giving information on the courses available in years 10 and 11. This is followed by a period of consultation between staff, pupils and parents to determine the best course of study for each pupil. Pupil Premium students are given additional support to ensure that they make informed choices.

We believe that it is vital to ensure that pupils make sensible decisions about the subjects that they choose to study, if they are to reach their full potential. To help to achieve this we offer four distinct pathways at Key Stage four which meet the needs of different types of learners, from those who prefer a vocational approach to those who require a more traditional academic diet. This allows us to stretch the most able pupils in preparation for university applications (including Oxford and Cambridge) as well as offering high levels of support and individualised learning programmes for those with special educational needs.

## **European Computer Driving License (ECDL)**

The Whitby High School greatly values the basic ICT skills that are essential in the modern workplace. We have an Outstanding ICT department who achieved 96% A\*-C in the 2017 examination series and skill levels throughout the school are high.

In recent years all students have studied ICT up until the end of year 9 and we have accredited the high level of skills acquired using the ECDL qualification. Due to changes in our Key stage 3 curriculum, ICT is no longer studied as a discrete subject by all students at KS3. As a result, from 2018 we will only be entering students for ECDL if they have followed the optional course in ICT/Media at Y9. Approximately **140 students** will be entered in 2018.

## **Key stage four pathways**

At The Whitby High School, we have four pathways aimed at different types of learners. All Students will follow a curriculum consisting of English, English Literature, Mathematics, Physical Education, Personal and Social Education/Citizenship, Religious Education and Science. In addition to the Core Curriculum, students will usually choose three additional subjects to study.

## **Pathway P**

This Pathway P is for students who aim to progress to Advanced Level study followed by Higher Education and/or employment with training. These pupils will study the core curriculum including Separate Sciences (for the most able), GCSE Statistics, English Language and English Literature. Students choose 3 optional subjects and all pupils will be eligible for the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc).

## **Pathway A**

This pathway is for students who aim to progress to Advanced Level study followed by Higher Education and/or employment with training. These pupils study the core curriculum including Science, English Language, English Literature and a Humanity/Modern Foreign Language. Students will follow the core curriculum plus three optional subjects. Pupils will be eligible for the Ebacc if they choose to study a Humanities subject **and** a Modern Foreign Language.

## **Pathway C/E**

These Pathways are bespoke pathways designed for pupils who are motivated by a vocational and practical curriculum. They prepare pupils for Advanced Level study, Modern Apprenticeships and Higher Education. These students will study the core curriculum including English Literature, English Language, Science and Maths. They spend slightly more time studying English Language, English Literature and Mathematics in order to give them the best chance possible of achieving their potential in these vital subjects. Students will choose three optional subjects and may take part in extended work or College placements depending upon need.

## **Sixth Form (Years 12 & 13)**

The Whitby High School Sixth Form offers a suite of courses which are suitable for students with a wide range of abilities, aspirations and interests.

We are able to offer an outstanding range of courses and to build individual study programmes that ensure that all students can achieve their potential. We currently offer approximately thirty different courses at level 3, these comprise 'traditional' 2-year A level courses and level 3 Applied General courses. All of courses are 2 years in duration. Since the decoupling of AS/A levels we have opted to offer full A levels only.

In Year twelve the majority of students will study three subjects. Subjects offered broadly fit into three categories:

**GCE A level** courses are usually suitable for students who have achieved five 9-4 grades (including English and Mathematics) at GCSE. Each subject comes with entry guidance to assist students with decision-making. External assessment comes at the end of the 2-year course. These courses offer excellent preparation for university, higher apprenticeships or other work with training.

**Applied General** courses (BTECs or equivalent) are suitable for students who learn best from practical, on-going assessment and work experience as well as external assessment. These courses also offer excellent preparation for Higher Education, higher apprenticeships or other work with training.

**Level Two courses** are compulsory in English and/or Maths for those who have yet to secure a 4 or better at GCSE