Curriculum Policy

The school is aware of the need for the curriculum to be accessible to all students and will take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all students, including those students with an EHC plan and will make all necessary reasonable adjustment.

The whole school statement of curriculum philosophy

- An academic culture, with high expectations and a rigorous, differentiated curriculum.
- It will not undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Additionally, teaching will not discriminate against students on the basis of protected characteristics[1] or a special educational need.
- We wish each student to achieve his/her full academic potential. Thus, our aim is to add as much value as possible to what they know and can do in a multiplicity of academic scenarios. The aim always is to challenge and extend them through a rigorous grounding in academic skills.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced, flexible and responsive to change. It is subject to continuous assessment and review. It is made up of 60 periods over a two-week cycle.
- Whilst there is a logical progression from year to year and key stage to key stage, students joining the School at any time will be able to integrate into the academic culture comfortably.
- We build our curriculum to enable students to make a seamless transition from their previous schools, whether they be independent or state. In many areas we follow the National Curriculum but are not constrained by it. Subject courses may well start in parallel with the National Curriculum, but then move on to other areas that engage, stretch and challenge the ability profile of BMS students.

Many aspects of the curriculum support, enrich and extend our students.

Develop issues which are covered in our extensive programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Junior School Curriculum Philosophy

- We encourage the students to achieve the best possible results whilst developing a love of learning for its own sake.
- Apart from Mathematics, which is taught in ability related sets throughout Years 3-6, all teaching groups are mixed ability within the selective intake referred to above. All classes are tailored for the maximum educational benefit of the students they comprise and differ within and between subjects.
- We aim to provide the best possible all round Junior School education for each individual student in our care.
- We prepare them for the next stage of their education with a view to that taking place in our Senior School.
- By whatever means we ensure that the transfer at 11+ is as seamless and straightforward as possible.

[1] Protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation

- Through the specified curriculum and co-curricular activities, we provide as broad and as enriching an experience as we can by ensuring that we challenge the able, support those requiring it, but set achievable goals for all.
- We reflect on our teaching practice in all subjects. This best practice may include traditional methods for laying foundations, innovative ways of increasing knowledge and/or relevant aspects of both to enhance the student's learning. To this end we should be guided by the heads of subject and subject co-ordinators and be willing to learn from each other; responding if our tried and trusted methods are no longer appropriate or need revision and being willing to employ new techniques of proven worth.
- All of the above is achieved in a challenging yet nurturing and safe environment in which we set and accept only the highest standards of behaviour and attitudes to study.
- Two lessons a cycle are dedicated to PHSE

Senior School Curriculum Philosophy

- Apart from Mathematics, which is taught in ability related sets throughout years 7-13, science which is taught in ability related sets in Y10 & Y11 and some setting in Modern Foreign Languages, all teaching groups are mixed ability within the selective intake referred to above. All classes are tailored for the maximum educational benefit of the students they comprise and differ within and between subjects.
- An important element of the curriculum is the high level of student choice in the selection of the curriculum from the Spring term of Year 7 onwards. It is very rare that the School is unable to provide any required options: but reserves its right to ask students to think again if option combinations are unsatisfactory for either economic or educational reasons.
- We are concerned especially to balance the imperative of achieving the best possible results with the insistence of developing a love of learning for its own sake: which involves the development of the faculties of critical and lateral thinking, information gathering, independent learning and objective reflection.
- Study skills are delivered outside of and through the timetable using a mixture of internal and external providers.
- There is an extensive programme of guidance provided throughout the careers of our students especially at the key points of transition. The realistic goal of the vast majority of our Sixth Formers is a place at their first choice University but degree apprenticeships offer an increasingly attractive route for some.

Curriculum Policy

Year 3 and 4

Students follow a broad-based curriculum in Years 3 and 4. English have 12 lessons per cycle, Maths have 12 periods and Humanities have 7. Science have 4 and it is topic based and takes place in their classroom. In Year 3 formal French is introduced for 2 lessons per cycle with a specialist linguist and this is then continued in Year 4. DT and Art are assigned 3 periods each per cycle and 2 for Music and ICT. Children are taught 1 Drama lesson per cycle but have elements of drama embedded in the English schemes. They have 6 lessons of Games, 2 PE lessons and 2 Swimming lessons. Two lessons per cycle are dedicated to PHSE. See Appendix A for curriculum plan.

Year 5

Students follow a broad-based curriculum in Year 5. English have 11 periods per cycle, Maths have 10 periods and 8 for Humanities. Science is increased to 5 periods per cycle and they also have 2 French lessons taught by a specialist. The creative subjects of Drama,

ICT, DT, Music and Art have the same time allocation as in Year 4. They have 8 lessons of Games, 1 PE lesson and 2 Swimming lessons. Two lessons per cycle are dedicated to PHSE. See Appendix A for curriculum plan.

Year 6

Students follow a broad-based curriculum in Year 6. English have 9 periods per cycle, Maths have 10 periods and 8 for Humanities. Science have 5 periods per cycle. There are 4 periods of languages per cycle; 4 MFL. The creative subjects of Drama, ICT, DT, Music and Art have the same time allocation as in Years 4 and 5. They have 8 lessons of Games, 1 PE lessons and 2 Swimming lessons. Two lessons per cycle are dedicated to PHSE. See Appendix A for curriculum plan.

Junior School Assessment

The Junior School carries out on-going assessment throughout the year. All subjects use progress grids and target sheets to monitor attainment, celebrate success and highlight areas for improvement. End of topic tests are administered in core subjects.

Years 7 and 8

Students follow a broad-based curriculum in Years 7 and 8. English, Maths and Science (where students have a single teacher for combined science) all have equal weighting of 7 periods per two-week (60 period) cycle. Humanities (Geography (3), History (3) and RS (3)) have 9 periods, whilst students study French, German and Spanish in Y7 and a choice of two from three plus Latin in Y8. Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology and ICT all have a similar weighting throughout the two years. PE and Games makes up 6 periods in Years 7 and Year 8. PSHE and RSE have 2 periods. See Appendix B for curriculum plan.

Year 9

The first major choice students make is in Y9 when they have to choose 4 subjects from 8. This is explained to them by the Deputy Head Academic in an assembly and to their parents by email. The options are French, German, Spanish, Latin, Art, Design Technology, Music and Drama and they study 4 periods of each per cycle. The only constraint is that students must study at least one Modern Foreign Language. Students who struggle with English may be encouraged to join a small English Support Group which counts as one of their 4 options and is intended to get them to a level where they can tackle GCSE in Year 10 with confidence. English (6), Maths (7) and Science (4+4+4) still dominate their timetable but now Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught by subject specialists and begin the IGCSE courses. The three Humanities subjects retain 9 periods whilst PE and games occupies 6 periods. Students also have ICT for 2 periods. PSHE and RSE have 2 periods. See Appendix B for curriculum plan.

Years 10 and 11

Most students will sit 10 (I)GCSEs. The compulsory core is English Language and English Literature (7), Mathematics (7) and separate IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (15) plus 4 other (I)GCSEs. Within these choices students who may struggle to cope on a full 10 GCSE programme may be encouraged to study one fewer option subject and make use of the academic support centre, giving them a total of 9 GCSEs. We appreciate the logic behind the English Baccalaureate and expect the vast majority of students to study at least one Humanities subject (Classical Civilisation plus Geography, History and Religious Studies). The vast majority of students are also expected to choose one Language unless given permission by the Deputy Head Academic. This is likely to be because they have joined in Y9 or Y10 without having previously studied a language that we offer or

have additional barriers to learning. The options subjects from which they have a totally free choice (on 6 periods per cycle) are:
French, German, Spanish, Latin, Classical Civilisation, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Drama, Music, Computer Science, Design Technology (Product Design), Art and Academic PE.

They also have 5 periods of non-examined PE and Games. PSHE and RSE have 2 periods. See Appendix C for curriculum plan.

Exams

Students will sit school exams in the summer term for Years 7 to 10 and January of Year 11 in preparation for public exams in the Summer Term of Year 11.

Years 12 and 13

In Year 12 students choose four subjects from a possible 27, on 12 periods per cycle. Students are guided in their choices, but all combinations are initially possible. Generally, students require at least a grade 6 in a subject at GCSE to pursue it at A Level (grade 7 required for Maths). Obviously late changes must fit within the confirmed option blocks. The expectation is that most will drop to three subjects by Year 13. We also offer students the opportunity to do an Extended Project (EPQ), equivalent to half an A level during Year 12 as well as Core maths (AS equivalent), study for both begin in January of Year 12. Students can study any of the subjects offered at GCSE level plus we also offer:

Politics, Philosophy, Psychology, Film Studies, Economics and Business.

They also have 4 periods of non-examined Games. PSHE and RSE have 1 period. See Appendix C for curriculum plan.

Sixth Form Exams

Students sit trial exams in all subjects at the end of Year 12 and mid-way though Year 13 to aid university applications. Students will then sit A level exams at the end of Year 13.

See Appendix D for summary

Mr H Hewlett
Deputy Head Academic (Senior School)

Mrs K Harpin
Deputy Head Academic (Junior School)

October 2026
Review Date October 2027

2026/27 Junior School

Year3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
12												12												7							4					2		2		1		3				3			2		2				4					2			2		
En												Ma												Hum							Sc					Fr		Mu		Dr		Ar				Dt			ICT		PSHE				Ga					KS			Pe			Sw		

Year4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
12												12												7							4					2		2		1		3				3			2		2				4					2			2		
En												Ma												Hum							Sc					Fr		Mu		Dr		Ar				Dt			ICT		PSHE				Ga					KS			Pe			Sw		

Year5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
11												10												8							5					2		2		1		3				3			2		2				8									1		2	
En												Ma												Hum							Sc					Fr		Mu		Dr		Ar				Dt			ICT		PSHE				Ga									PE		Sw	

Year6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
9									10										8										5					4					2		1		3				3			2		2				8									1		2	
En									Ma										Hum										Sc					MFL					Mu		Dr		Ar				Dt			ICT		PSHE				Ga									PE		Sw	

Subject Key	Ga-Games
En-English	Pe-Physical Education
Ma-Maths	Sw-Swimming
Hum- Humanities	KS – Key Skills
Sc-Science	
Fr-French	
MFL-Modern Foreign Languages	
Mu-Music	
Dr-Drama	
Ar-Art	
Dt-Design and Technology	
ICT- Information Communication Technology	

2026.27 Curriculum Plans

Year 7 Curriculum Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	4				2		1	1	7							2		3				3		4				4					7							7							3				3				3				3			
G	Games				Pe		PSHE (in tutor groups)	RSE (in tutor groups)	Ma							It		Dt				Ar		MFL1 Fr/Gn/Sp				MFL2 Fr/Gn/Sp					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Dr				Mu			
H					Pe				Ma							It		Dt				Ar		MFL1 Fr/Gn/Sp				MFL2 Fr/Gn/Sp					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Dr				Mu			
J					Pe				Ma							It		Dt				Ar											En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Dr				Mu			
L					Pe				Ma							It		Dt				Ar		MFL1 Fr/Gn/Sp				MFL2 Fr/Gn/Sp					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Dr				Mu			
M					Pe				Ma							It		Dt				Ar											En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Dr				Mu			

(PE - in tutor groups)

(DT & Ar - 3 forms in 4 classes & 2 forms in 3 classes)

Year 8 Curriculum Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	4				2		1	1	7							2		2			2	4				4				5					6							7							3				3				3				2			2	
B	Games				Pe		PSHE (in tutor groups)	RSE (in tutor groups)	Ma							It		Dt		Ar		MFL1 Fr/Gn/Sp				MFL2 Fr/Gn/Sp				La					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Mu				Dr			
F					Pe				Ma							It		Dt		Ar		MFL1 Fr/Gn/Sp				MFL2 Fr/Gn/Sp				La					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Mu				Dr			
M					Pe				Ma							It		Dt		Ar											La					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Mu				Dr			
O					Pe				Ma							It						MFL1 Fr/Gn/Sp				MFL2 Fr/Gn/Sp				La					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Mu				Dr			
R					Pe				Ma							It		Dt		Ar											La					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Mu				Dr			
T					Pe				Ma							It															La					En							Sc							Gg				Hi				Rs				Mu				Dr			

(PE in tutoe groups)

(Ma - 3 forms in 4 sets)

(PE, DT & Ar - 2 forms in 3 classes)

Year 9 Curriculum Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	4				2		1	1	7							2		4				4				4				4					6							4				4				4				3				3				3			
G	Games				Pe		PSHE (in tutor groups)	RSE (in teaching groups)	Ma							It		Opt A				Opt B				Opt C				Opt D					En							Bi				Ch				Ph				Gg				Hi				Rs			
H					Pe				Ma							It																					En							Bi				Ch				Ph				Gg				Hi				Rs			
J					Pe				Ma							It																					En							Bi				Ch				Ph				Gg				Hi				Rs			
L					Pe				Ma							It		Opt A				Opt B				Opt C				Opt D					En							Bi				Ch				Ph				Gg				Hi				Rs			
M					Pe				Ma							It																					En							Bi				Ch				Ph				Gg				Hi				Rs			
N					Pe				Ma							It																					En							Bi				Ch				Ph				Gg				Hi				Rs			

Year 9 Subject Options

(Ma - 3 teaching groups in 4 sets)

French	Art	Drama	Pick at least 1 MFL
German	Design & Technology	Music	
Spanish			
Latin	English Support (a small group, students nominated by Eng Dept)		

Year 10 Curriculum Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	4				1	1	1	7							6						6						6						6						6						7						5						5						5				
G	Games				Pe	PSHE (in tutor groups)	RSE (in En teaching groups)	Ma							OptA						OptB						OptC						OptD						En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
H					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
J					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
K					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
L					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
M					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
N					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
P					Pe			Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										

(Ma - 4 teaching groups in 4 sets)

(Sciences - 4 teaching groups in 4 sets)

Year 11 Curriculum Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	4				1	1	1	7							6						6						6						6						7						5						5						5				
G	Games				Pe	PSHE (in tutor groups)	RSE (in En teaching groups)	Ma							OptA						OptB						OptC						OptD						En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
H								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
J								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
K								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
L								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
M								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
N								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										
P								Ma																																	En						Bi						Ch						Ph										

(Ma - 4 teaching groups in 4 sets)

(Sciences - 4 teaching groups in 4 sets)

GCSE Subject Options

Art	Classical Civilisation	French	Pick at least 1 Language and 1 Humanity
Computer Science	Geography	German	
Design Technology	History	Spanish	HPQ also offered
	Religious Studies	Latin	
Music	Physical Education		
Drama & Theatre Studies			

Year 12/13 Curriculum Plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	12												12												12												12												4				1	7								
Y12	Option A												Option B												Option C												Option D												Games				PSHE & RSE (in tutor groups)	Private Study								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	12												12												12												12												4				1	2		5						
Y13	Option A												Option B												Option C												Option D												Games				PSHE & RSE (in tutor groups)	Act	Private Study							

Sixth Form Subject Options

- Fine Art
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology - Product Design

- English Language & Literature
- English Literature
- Film Studies

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Latin

- Business
- Economics
- Politics
- Philosophy
- Psychology

EPQ, Core Maths, Community Service and a variety of Wellbeing options also offered

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

- Classical Civilisation
- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies

- Further Mathematics
- Mathematics

- Physical Education

Key: Act - Y13 Enrichment Activities

- Music
- Drama & Theatre Studies

BMS Curriculum Plan (Compulsory and Options) 2026-27 60 x 50 minute periods per 2 week cycle								
	Maths and English	**Science**	**Humanities**	**Languages – some setting where possible**	**Creative Subjects**	**ICT**	**Sport**	**PSHE/RS**
Year 7 **Class size** **~ 22**	7 Maths – 5 sets across 3:2 split of year blocks 7 English	7 Combined Science	3 Geography 3 History 3 Religious Studies	8 Carousel of French, German and Spanish until January, then free choice of 2 from 3	3 Art 3 Design Technology 3 Drama 3 Music	2 ICT	2 PE 4 Games	2
Year 8 **Class size** **~ 22**	7 Maths – 8 sets across half year blocks 6 English	7 Combined Science	3 Geography 3 History 3 Religious Studies	5 Latin plus **two** from: 4 French 4 German 4 Spanish	2 Art 2 Design Technology 2 Drama 2 Music	2 ICT	2 PE 4 Games	2
Year 9 **Class size** **~23**	7 Maths – 8 sets across half year blocks 6 English	4 Biology 4 Chemistry 4 Physics	3 Geography 3 History 3 Religious Studies	Choose **four** (to include at least one language) from: 4 French 4 German 4 Spanish 4 Latin 4 English Support (by selection)	4 Art 4 Design Technology 4 Music 4 Drama	2 ICT	2 PE 4 Games	2
Year 10 **Class size** **~20** **Most study 10 GCSEs** **optional Higher Project Qualification**	7 Maths – 8 sets across half year blocks 7 English Language & English Literature	5 Biology 5 Chemistry 5 Physics Set across half year blocks e.g. a student is in set 2 for all 3 sciences.	For vast majority, at least one from: 6 Classical Civilisation 6 Geography 6 History 6 Religious Studies	For vast majority, at least one from: 6 French 6 German 6 Spanish 6 Latin	Possibly one or more from: 6 Academic PE 6 Art 6 Computer Science 6 Design Technology 6 Drama 6 Music		1 PE 4 Games	2
Year 11 **Class size** **~20** **Most study 10 GCSEs** **optional Higher Project Qualification**	7 Maths – 8 sets across half year blocks 7 English Language & English Literature	5 Biology 5 Chemistry 5 Physics Set across half year blocks e.g. a student is in set 2 for all 3 sciences.	For vast majority, at least one from: 6 Classical Civilisation 6 Geography 6 History 6 Religious Studies	For vast majority, at least one from: 6 French 6 German 6 Spanish 6 Latin	Possibly one or more from: 6 Academic PE 6 Art 6 Computer Science 6 Design Technology 6 Drama 6 Music		1 PE 4 Games	2
Year 12 **Class size** **~ 12**	Free* choice of 3 or 4 subjects from a choice of 27 – all of the above plus Business, Economics, Film Studies, Politics, Philosophy and Psychology. 12 periods plus enrichment programme * *Dependent on GCSE grades.* Students who drop to 3 subjects by January of Year 12 may pick up Extended Project Qualification or Core Maths. Further Maths can only be studied alongside Maths.						4 Games	1
Year 13 **Class size** **~12**	Continue 3 or 4 to A Level, plus enrichment						4 Games	1