



The Belvedere Academy

Curriculum Policy

This policy is a statement for the academic year 2018/19 and thereafter. Progressive plans for the Academy are part of and will continue to be developed in the Academy Development Plan.

1. Curriculum Overview

Intent

- 1.1** The Belvedere Academy aims to prepare its students for adult life by helping them to fulfil their potential in all areas. Each student is encouraged to achieve their personal best.
- 1.2** The Academy recognises the need for a broad and balanced curriculum and is aware of the vital contribution made by pastoral and Enrichment activities to the development of the whole person. It is important that students are given every opportunity to be part of a team, to take responsibility, to develop a wide range of interests and to be of service to others. All students are expected to participate in extra-curricular activities to develop educational interests and to promote independence and inter-personal links with students in other year groups.
- 1.3** The Academy's curriculum is ambitious and is designed to give all of our students, particularly disadvantaged students and students with SEN and/or disabilities, the knowledge and cultural capacity they need to succeed in life, increasing their fluency and independence.
- 1.4** Underpinning the Academy's curriculum is the need to equip all of our students with the necessary skills so that they can readily embrace the next phase of their education, be it Upper School, Sixth Form or Apprenticeships / University.

Implementation

- 1.5** The curriculum is delivered through teaching and learning across all subject areas. The timetable operates on a two week cycle of 50 one-hour periods. All departments are required to have schemes of work.
- 1.6** In Lower School, students experience a wide range of subjects across the main areas of the learning experience (scientific, mathematical, technological, aesthetic and creative, human and social, physical, moral and spiritual). All students study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, History, Geography, Languages, Drama, Creative Arts based subjects, Music, ICT and Physical Education. The Year 7 intake is placed in sets for Mathematics and English based on KS2 data and other assessment material. Students study two Foreign Languages throughout Lower School as well as Mandarin Chinese. At the end of Year 8, all students will be asked to select from the three languages above, their chosen language for GCSE study.
- 1.7** In Year 9, all students continue to follow a broad curriculum, similar to that in Lower School. In Mathematics, English, Science and Citizenship, GCSE courses will commence, as well as in their chosen GCSE language. In January of Year 9, all students will be required to choose their optional based GCSE subjects. All students are expected to choose three optional based subjects apart from in exceptional circumstances, when two will be selected.

- 1.8 In Years 10 and 11 all students follow an academic curriculum with a broad range of GCSE subjects. All students will sit their Citizenship GCSE examinations at the end of Year 10. Students also study either the Science Trilogy (equivalent to two GCSEs) or the three separate Sciences to GCSE level. Subject teachers will use assessment information to choose the appropriate Science pathway for all students in Years 10 and 11. Teaching and learning takes place in ability sets for the core GCSE subjects and in mixed ability groups for optional subjects. A mentoring programme operates to provide individual support for identified students in Upper School. Careers Education is integrated into the PHSE programme. Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of Enrichment activities and to seek opportunities to take the lead in these.
- 1.9 There is an open choice at 'A' Level / BTEC level and many students cross the Arts/Science divide; however the emphasis tends to be on specialisation rather than maintaining breadth and balance.
- 1.10 In Year 12, most students choose to study three subjects from a wide range of courses on offer. Students can also opt to take the Extended Project Qualification. Applications to study the EPQ will be considered based on internal assessment data.
- 1.11 Sixth Formers are involved in the wider life of the academy by organising clubs and doing duties. Many students gain a great deal from the extra-curricular activities which provide valuable learning experiences outside 'A' Level study.
- 1.12 Independent careers guidance is given before choices are made at both GCSE and 'A' Level by our external Careers Advisor. Students are taught across the curriculum in well-equipped specialist rooms. Wherever grouping or setting operates there is regular monitoring to ensure that students follow a programme appropriate to their learning needs.
- 1.13 We expect our students to take full advantage of all the opportunities on offer to them and view their education as an active and participative experience. We expect that as they progress through the academy they take more responsibility for their own learning and develop independence of thought.
- 1.14 Homework is considered an integral part of the learning experience and is set for all year groups.

Changing / Discontinuing Subjects

- 1.1 The Belvedere Academy expects all students to embrace the curriculum offer and to fully partake in the wide range of extra curricular activities that take place.
- 1.2 For GCSE optional subjects, the academy recognises that in exceptional circumstances there may be a desire from a student to change an optional GCSE subject. The deadline for all changes is the October half term of Year 10. In such cases, the request to change a subject must be in writing from a parent / carer and addressed to the Vice Principal (Curriculum) for consideration.
- 1.3 The academy expects all students to complete GCSE qualifications in all of their GCSE subjects (both core and optional). For GCSE optional subjects, the academy recognises that in exceptional circumstances, particularly after the mock examination period in Year 11, there may be a desire from a student/parent to discontinue a subject (e.g. medical reasons). In such cases, this request must be made to the Vice Principal (Curriculum), in writing from a parent/carers, for consideration.

- 1.4 For A Level study, all students are required to choose at least three subjects for study in Years 12 and 13. The academy recognises that in exceptional circumstances there may be a desire from a student to change a subject. The deadline for all changes is the October half term of Year 12. In such cases, the student is required to collect and complete a 'green form' from the Sixth Form office. This form then needs to be submitted to the Vice Principal (Curriculum) for consideration.

3. **Academy Specialisms**

- 3.1 Modern Foreign Languages is the primary, and Science the secondary specialism of the Academy.
- 3.2 Students study French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese throughout Lower School. Students continue with at least one language to GCSE level. At Key Stage 5 both French and Spanish are offered. Additional languages including Italian, Arabic, and Latin are offered through the Enrichment programme.
- 3.3 Students study Physics, Chemistry and Biology throughout Lower School. In Upper School, students study either Physics, Chemistry and Biology as separate subjects, Core Science and Additional Science or Applied Science. At Key Stage 5, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Applied Science are offered. Opportunities for further activities in Science are offered to students through the Enrichment programme.
- 3.4 Teaching and learning in both Modern Foreign Languages and Science takes place in specialist well-equipped rooms at all levels. Native speakers and qualified technicians support teaching and learning in Languages and Science respectively. International and scientific links extend through other subjects in the curriculum and through enrichment activities. The academy environment exhibits aspects of the international and scientific dimension through displays of students' work. Links are being developed with other specialist institutions including those beyond the UK and at university level.
- 3.5 Opportunities for educational enrichment for Key Stage 2 students in Modern Foreign Languages and Science are encouraged so that the expertise of academy staff and students in these areas of study is extended to the wider community.
- 3.6 Students are encouraged to participate in competitions, visits and work experience related to the specialisms, and opportunities are created for specialist activities and workshops run by external organisations, public and commercial companies which take place in enrichment time.

3. **Review**

- 3.1 This policy will be reviewed annually, and in accordance with the schedule drawn up by the Principal and agreed by the LGB.

Last Revised and Modified by SMT: January 2019