



# Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form Curriculum Policy

**Curriculum & Standards Committee**

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<b>Ratified Committee:</b>	
<b>Designated Postholder:</b>	Deputy Headteacher

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## Key Stage 3 Principles

At Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, we are committed to a three-year Key Stage 3 that ensures we have time to create confident and independent learners. Our curriculum is broad, balanced and inclusive. When students join us in Year 7, they begin a five-year journey to GCSE success, which leads into appropriate post-16 courses. We establish a firm foundation to build on, as students gather the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to thrive as confident, responsible citizens. Our students receive a curriculum which provides them with the essential 'cultural capital' they will need to succeed and flourish in their future lives.

At Key Stage 3 we use the freedom from external exams to innovate and design a curriculum that captures the imagination of all our students, and fosters enjoyment and enthusiasm for a wide range of subjects. Our students study English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science, Music, Drama, Art, Personal Development Time (PDT), Physical Education, History, Geography, Religious Education, Modern Foreign Languages, Design Technology and Food Technology. Communication, reading and mathematics are at the core of the curriculum, and many interventions are centred around these areas as they allow us to communicate effectively, make decisions and solve problems. Personal development is fostered not only through the taught personal development programme, which has been fully revised to meet the latest guidance, but also through the tutor time programme, assembly programme and the recognition of celebration days, events and weeks.

We do more than this. We build cultural capital and prepare citizens for the demands of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in modern Britain and the World. Our learning extends beyond the classroom. We actively encourage students to take part in a wide range of enrichment opportunities across the curriculum - there is something for everyone. We have a 'Pledge Passport' which students complete with the goal of achieving the Notley Award, which recognises a wide range of achievements and personal growth. Throughout the whole curriculum and especially in form time, PDT, and our programmes of student leadership, we instil our ethos via the NOTLEY Way:

Never give up on your goals and ambitions  
Opportunities to strive and achieve success  
Try your hardest to make yourself proud  
Learning to build skills for life  
Equal opportunities for all no matter what  
Your future begins here

alongside our strapline,

*"Learning together, succeeding together".*

The role of the tutor is central to this and enables the building of secure and lasting relationships. Careers, employability skills and pathways to success are emphasised from day one. A culture of aspiration permeates everything we do.

We have high expectations, promote meta-cognition and self-regulation ~~a growth mindset~~ and to develop independence in students. We build in challenge, aspiration and clarity so students can see their own clear route to success. Positive, critical and formative feedback ensures students understand the next steps needed in order to make progress and achieve highly.

The curriculum is designed to ensure access for all students, which adaptive approaches used as far as possible to ensure the curriculum is not narrowed or restricted unduly and that breadth is maintained.

## **Key Stage 4 Principles**

In Key Stage 4, it is important to ensure that students receive an education that is broad, balanced and relevant.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of compulsory (core) subjects and chosen subjects that will enable students to follow courses appropriate to their interests and abilities. Students will follow a total of four option choices in all. We offer a range of qualifications, namely GCSEs, OCR nationals, BTECs and Technical Awards as well as Cambridge National Certificates. In addition, students complete a KS4 Pledge Passport which builds on the pledges made in KS3 and captures the richness of this next significant stage in their learning and development journey.

Our ambition is for all our students to achieve to the maximum of their potential. This means that we would expect a significant proportion of them to be able to go on to study at sixth form level when they finish Year 11. The only optional subjects that they must have taken at GCSE in order to take the A Level are languages unless they speak the language as a home language.

This means that many students will choose to go on to study at university or pursue a higher level apprenticeship. The continued study of modern languages is encouraged and promoted to students as subjects which facilitate progression for students and they are given advice and guidance to support their choice over whether or not to continue studying a language. However, the school believes students should and must decide for themselves using the available information, and therefore has not made the study of this subject compulsory.

### **EBacc Subjects**

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) recognises those students that have studied a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, Sciences (which includes computing), History or Geography, and a Language. The school promotes the EBacc subjects as subjects which facilitate progression, but does not insist that all students study the EBacc suite of subjects.

### **Compulsory (Core) Subjects**

GCSE English Language and Literature 2 GCSEs  
GCSE science – Combined Science or 2 GCSEs separate GCSE Sciences  
(Biology, Chemistry, Physics) 3 GCSEs  
GCSE Mathematics 1 GCSE

In addition to the above range of GCSE compulsory (core) and chosen subjects, students will have at least two lessons of Physical Education (PE) over a fortnightly timetable and two lessons of Personal Development Time (PDT), which includes a focus on careers education.

### **The Option Subjects**

Students will be asked to express a preference for four subjects (options) from the following list. We strongly recommend that students take subjects from different areas, as this will help provide a broad and balanced education.

Students must choose one of the following subjects:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science

### **Other Subjects:**

GCSE Art Craft & Design

GCSE Art: Textiles

GCSE Business

Cambridge National Certificate Level 1/2 Child Development

GCSE Computing

Level 1/2 Technical Award Construction and the Built Environment

Cambridge National Certificate Information Technologies (a new course is being explored for September 2023 when this course will end)

GCSE Drama

BTEC Enterprise Level 2 Extended Certificate

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE French

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Media Studies

GCSE Music

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Design and Technology (Product Design)

GCSE Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics & Religion)

GCSE Spanish

### **Key Stage 5 Principles**

At Braintree Sixth Form, students choose the courses which best suit their interests and abilities, and which offer them appropriate opportunity for progression. Initial course choices are made via the online application form and all applicants have a counselling meeting to give advice and guidance on their choices.

In addition to their academic studies, all students will follow a programme of enrichment that takes place on a Wednesday afternoon and includes opportunities for a range of extra-curricular

activities and sports. Students also follow a programme of activities designed to develop competencies in organisation, teamwork and communication skills.

The personal development programme, offered via the tutor and assembly programme, focuses on a wide range of skills and knowledge to prepare for adult life and further study and the workplace, including study skills, Relationships and Sex Education, Careers education, information and guidance, and PHSE.

The current offer, subject to cohort size, is:

A Level Art Craft & Design  
A Level Biology  
A Level Business Studies  
A Level Chemistry  
A Level Computer Science  
A Level Design Technology - Product Design  
A Level Drama and Theatre Studies  
A Level Economics  
A Level English Language and Literature  
A Level English Literature  
A Level French  
A Level Geography  
A Level History  
A Level Law  
A Level Mathematics/Further Mathematics  
A Level Media Studies  
A Level Music  
A Level Physics  
A Level Politics  
A Level Psychology  
A Level Religious Studies  
A Level Sociology  
A Level Spanish  
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)  
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science  
OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Business  
WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology  
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport  
EDUQAS Level 3 Applied Diploma in Tourism  
OCR Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care