



Curriculum Policy

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NCS Curriculum Policy

What is the Curriculum?

At the NCS the curriculum comprises all the opportunities for learning that we offer. This includes the formal programme of lessons on the timetable, the extra/super-curricular and out of school activities we promote and also the climate of relationships, attitudes, behaviour and general quality of life established in the Sixth Form community. We believe that the 'hidden curriculum' of values reflect the ethos of the Sixth Form and provides the context for learning for our students, and can affect their achievement.

Curriculum Intent

NCS is committed to providing our students with a rigorous and challenging academic curriculum to meet their aspirations of studying at competitive universities or high-status school leaver programmes. The co-curricular programme will provide our students with experiences to develop their cultural/social capital and soft skills to improve social mobility.

What are the aims of the Curriculum?

The whole curriculum at NCS should enable our students to:

- develop their full potential for their lives at university, work, home, at leisure, in the community and as active empowered participants of society;
- develop intellectual curiosity and a love of learning for learning's sake;
- develop a sense of self value and self-respect and also to understand and respect the right to social, religious and cultural differences amongst others;
- acquire knowledge, skills, understanding and practical abilities with the motivation to use and extend them;
- appreciate human achievement in all areas of activity;
- acquire an understanding of the social, economic and political nature of society;
- develop personal and social qualities which allow them to establish successful personal relationships;
- develop a critical and questioning approach to society and prepare them for an active role in shaping a better society;
- extend their horizons in terms of future careers and opportunities in their lives

What makes an outstanding Curriculum?

An outstanding curriculum should motivate our students to learn and achieve beyond their perceived potential. We believe that our curriculum should:

- be relevant to our students' needs, interest and stage of education
- be challenging and motivating
- provide a coherent experience for students
- be focused on the needs of the individual students
- allow all students to achieve success
- be differentiated and appropriate to the needs of the students
- be built on previous learning and experience, developing skills, knowledge and understanding
- be explicit in the values it promotes both through its formal and informal aspects
- prepare students for independent study at university and beyond

How do we ensure our students' entitlement to a good Curriculum?

We aim to do this through:

- The formal timetable structure of lesson which provides a curriculum covering the A level requirements for subjects and providing opportunities for enrichment activities which enhance students' learning;
- Our staffing policy which aims to appoint staff with appropriate qualifications, experience and personal qualities who can establish good staff/student relationships and who hold high expectations of students' achievement and behaviour;
- Our professional development programmes that promote the necessary skills, attitudes and expertise within our staff;
- Valuing the commitment and expertise of our staff, both teaching and non-teaching;
- Forward planning as a body of staff to meet any new legislative requirements both centrally and in curricula areas;
- The provision of sufficient and appropriate teaching and learning resources both centrally and in curricular areas;
- The recognition and rewarding of student achievement in all areas of Sixth Form life;
- The provision of a range of learning experiences for students, both in and outside classrooms;
- The provision of a stimulating learning and teaching environment in and outside of classrooms;
- The use of regular feedback to students regarding their progress and achievement, involving a variety of assessment strategies;
- Our partnership with parents and Governors and the community to increase understanding and participation;
- Through regular monitoring and evaluation of our work as teachers and leaders

How is the Curriculum organised?

The formal part of the curriculum is taught through timetabled lessons. The Sixth Form week consists of 28 periods each lasting one hour. In year 12 nearly all students will study four A Level subjects of 5 hours per subject, they will also have an hour of super curriculum and an hour of 'Ignite' during the week. In year 13, the majority of students will continue with only three A level subjects. Our higher education and CPSHE programmes will be delivered through form time, Ignite and drop-down days. Where students do not have a timetabled lesson, they will be in directed private study.

Curriculum Enrichment Activities

Curriculum enrichment activities can take place within the timetabled lesson but more often occur through organised trips, visits and lectures. Extra-curricular activities are organised for students at lunchtimes and after school. The range of enrichment activities that the NCS offer in any one year could include the following (depending on availability and take up):

- Community work
- Music and glee club
- Horse riding
- NCS Sports
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Young Enterprise
- English Speaking Union Debating Competition
- World Challenge

- Love London!
- Learn a new language
- Air Cadets
- Chance to be a Chancellor
- Target +2.0
- The Bar Mock Trial
- NCS Dragons' Den/Apprentice

Super Curricular Activities

The NCS is committed to providing our students with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to take their place at some of the most competitive universities in this country and abroad and secure internships with high profile companies. Our super curricular has been designed to allow our students to become deep thinkers, critical enquirers and intellectual risk takers. The super curricular programme comprises the following:

- U-Study Programme
- NCS Lecture Programme
- NCS Master Classes
- NCS Summer School
- NCS Early Risers Programme
- Preparing for Entrance Examinations

Monitoring, Review & Evaluation

The Governors will receive regular reports on:

- Learning and teaching initiatives;
- The standards reached in each subjects against national standards and similar schools; and
- The evidence of impact of NCS strategies on standards