



# Curriculum Principles and Policy

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Sherburn High School  
Garden Lane  
Sherburn in Elmet  
LS25 6AS

# Curriculum Overview

## Curriculum Principles

### We are committed to:

1. Every student is entitled to a broad, balanced, relevant, coherent, progressive and differentiated curriculum.
2. At all stages of development education should be structured and should be stimulating, enjoyable and worthwhile, challenging and stretching all students to the full extent of their individual abilities.
3. There is equality of opportunity for all students.
4. The curriculum should be as broad as possible to provide a wide range of knowledge, skills and experiences.
5. The curriculum should be balanced to give sufficient time to each element.
6. The curriculum should be relevant to be directly related to the learner's experience.
7. The curriculum should be coherent, linking each element to make the learning experience more meaningful.
8. The curriculum should be progressive, the teaching built upon what has gone before to develop skills, knowledge and concepts in a systematic, appropriate way.
9. The curriculum should be differentiated to match teaching methods and lesson content to aptitude, ability and achievement.

In a rapidly changing world the governors and staff, in partnership with the parents and guardians of the students, wish to help the students:

1. To enjoy learning.
2. To become independent, self – disciplined and self- motivated, achieving the highest standards to which they are capable.
3. To develop lively, enquiring, imaginative, creative minds which have the confidence to ask questions and the ability to argue rationally.
4. To acquire the knowledge, skills and training that will be relevant to them not only during their school days, but also into adult life and employment.
5. To develop and be able to act upon a set of moral values, beliefs and attitudes and to understand society and their obligations towards it.
6. To develop concern for the quality of the environment and the ability to understand the world and the inter-dependence of the individuals, groups and nations in it.
7. To develop an awareness and appreciation of human achievements and aspirations in this and other societies.
8. To understand and respect the teachings of Christianity, but also to appreciate the beliefs of other groups, races and religions both in their ways and points of view.

## **The Curriculum at Sherburn High School**

- A. We offer a broad, balanced, relevant, differentiated and inclusive curriculum to all students. At Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 the curriculum conforms to the National Curriculum programmes of study and all other statutory requirements. At Key Stage 5, students are guided formally towards a personalised curriculum which meets their individual needs and aspirations. There are clear pathways through from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5.
- B. Our curriculum has been developed to meet the requirements of current national guidelines and our commitment to the provision of a wide range of subjects, including breadth and choice. Virtually all students have the opportunity to achieve the Ebacc. Students are grouped in a variety of ways according to the needs of the subject.
- C. Our commitment to providing a curriculum which reflects the English Baccalaureate range of subjects means that students take at least one Humanity (Geography, or History) and a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE level. A small number of students may follow a more guided pathway to cater for their needs.
- D. Students begin their three year Key Stage 4 starting in year 9. This provides additional stretch and challenge with personalised pathways and allows students to focus upon their desired routes of progression. We engage students and parents in decisions regarding their guided choices. All students are entitled to examination entry in their chosen subjects, provided that they have met the basic requirements of attendance and coursework, or controlled assessment completion.
- E. The curriculum offered at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 ensures that there are clear progression routes to enable students to continue their Post-16 education at Sherburn High School, and to prepare them for higher education and / or the world of work.
- F. At Key Stage 5 we have a collaborative Sixth Form arrangement with Tadcaster Grammar school that widens provision. There are a number of fixed subjects offered at either school, but is reviewed year upon year.
- G. Formal assessments of learning are conducted according to our Assessment, Recording and Reporting schedule and targets are shared with students and their parents regularly. Assessments of students' learning are also made more informally and frequently.

## **Key Stage 3**

Our students receive a rich and varied programme within Years 7 and 8 in accordance with the National Curriculum. Whilst utilising the best educational practice, we aim to develop the individual to a high level of competence in all subject areas.

### **In Year 7 and 8 this coverage includes each of the following:**

*For eight hours per fortnight:*

- English
- Mathematics

*For six hours per fortnight*

- Science

*For four hours per fortnight:*

- Physical Education
- Geography
- History
- Modern Foreign Language (French or German)

*For five hours a fortnight, students will follow a Creative subject in a carousel format throughout the year*

- This includes Art, Product Design, Textiles and Food Technology

*For three hours a per fortnight*

- Skills and Stars - Religious Education and PSHCE

*For two hours per fortnight:*

- ICT
- Performing Arts - Drama and Music

Mathematics follows broad setting and in PE some students are grouped, based upon their ability within specific disciplines. English, Science and Humanities have an extension group; all other groups are taught in mixed ability teaching groups in Year 7 and 8.

English retains a nurture group for those who require more specific literacy support and guidance.

**In Year 9, students start their GCSE option subjects over a three-year period. We believe this provides challenge and allows depth of study at this key stage.**

## **Key Stage 4**

During Years 9, 10 and 11 all students follow GCSE and other Level 2 courses. The Key Stage 4 curriculum consists of core subjects supported by a group of choice courses. A small number of students are guided onto a Level 1 vocational pathway for their Humanities and one of their option choices.

### **This coverage includes:**

*For nine hours per fortnight:*

- English
- Mathematics
- Science

*For eight hours per fortnight:*

- Science

*For five hours per fortnight:*

- Language option choice – All students
- Humanities option choice – All students
- 2 option choices for 5 periods each

*For four hours per fortnight*

- *Physical Education*

For the Core Curriculum, students are grouped in each subject, depending upon their ability. Those doing separate Sciences gain an extra hour from PE to enable them to follow the 3 Science subjects equally and prepare for extra examinations.

### **Choice:**

Our Options Curriculum includes the possibility of a number of programmes. Option choices are made in the Spring Term of Year 8 from the subjects listed below. Each student chooses from the following combinations:

- One Humanities subject - Geography or History.  
A small number can follow Level 1 Travel & Tourism
- Continuity with their language from Year 7 and 8 (German or French).

- Students then choose their remaining two subjects from this list:
  - Art and Design (GCSE)
  - Business (GCSE)
  - Drama (GCSE)
  - Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)
  - Geography (GCSE) – Allowing double Humanities if wanted
  - Information Technology (GCSE)
  - Product Design (GCSE)
  - Photography (GCSE)
  - Health and Social Care (GCSE)
  - Music (GCSE)
  - Physical Education (GCSE)
  - Textiles (GCSE)

A small number are guided towards Level 1 Hospitality and Catering.

For the Option Curriculum choices, students are in mixed ability groups for each subject.

## **Key Stage 5**

Sixth Form courses offer both continuity and variety for our students. Students select combinations of subjects from the list below.

In Year 12, most students study four subjects, with a few selecting to follow five and some decide to take three, depending upon their ability. However, we are moving towards most students following a 3 subject pathway in-line with the new linear specifications. Students are taught lessons for nine periods per fortnight for each subject (unless numbers are very small, in which case taught curriculum time is, on occasions, reduced). In addition, students can opt to take an Extended Project Qualification and appropriate support and guidance will be provided.

In Year 13, most students currently study three subjects however, some continue to study four subjects. Students are taught lessons for nine periods per fortnight for each subject.

All students are part of a Sixth Form tutor group which is for one hour per week. All subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

The full list of subjects that were available to our current Sixth Form students upon enrolment were:

- **Art & Design (A level)**
- **Biology (A level)**
- **Business Studies (A level)**
- **Chemistry (A level)**
- Computer Science (A level)
- Core Mathematics (Certificate in Mathematical Studies)
- Drama and Theatre Studies (A level)
- Economics (A level)
- **English Language (A level)**
- English Language and Literature (A level)
- English Literature (A level)
- French (A level)
- **Further Mathematics (A level)**
- **Geography (A level)**
- German (A level)
- **Health and Social Care (A level)**
- **History (A level)**
- **Information Technology (Cambridge Technical Diploma)**
- Law (A level)
- **Mathematics (A level)**
- **Media Studies (A level)**
- Music (A level)
- Philosophy and Ethics (A level)
- **Photography (A level)**
- **Physical Education (A level)**
- **Physics (A level)**
- **Product Design (3D) (A level)**
- Psychology (A level)
- Sociology (A level)

*Subjects in bold are currently offered at Sherburn High School, non bold are subjects available as part of the collaborative with Tadcaster Grammar school.*

For more information about the curriculum please contact [john.ralphs@sherburnhigh.co.uk](mailto:john.ralphs@sherburnhigh.co.uk)