

Tomlinscote School & Sixth Form College

Curriculum Statement

We are proud to provide our students with a curriculum that is as wide in breadth as it is rich in content. At its heart is a long-held belief that our primary aim is to encourage students to find their own academic and extracurricular passions, in order to best prepare them for a happy and fulfilling life. They will be ‘Inspired To Learn’ and will enjoy learning that is both engaging and challenging.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This statement sets out the learning that the school plans to provide for students. The main elements are:
- A breadth of knowledge, skills and experiences delivered through a wide range of subjects,
 - The development of attitudes and values that will support students as they work and live alongside others in education, at work and in their wider adult life,
 - Experiences that challenge students in ways that develop their capacity to respond positively to change, which broaden their understanding of others and help them develop a healthy lifestyle.
- 1.2 The school believes that examination results are important keys to future opportunities for students. Central to our philosophy we also believe it is important that our school helps students build skills and qualities such as teamwork, resilience, honesty, courtesy and reliability. Our Curriculum is designed to meet this goal and so contribute to the rounded development of each person.

2 What do we mean by the curriculum? Our principles:

- 2.1 Our curriculum is a framework that provides a stimulating and challenging environment, where every young person has the opportunity to develop the skills required to enable them to fulfil or exceed their potential in their future lives. What they have learnt when they join us (their ‘Prior Attainment’) is a base to build on, it is not a limit. Our first task is to **consolidate** learning; staff will then provide **challenge** to extend learning. Our curriculum is made up of
- a number of individual subjects that vary for different year groups;
 - a support and guidance programme including tutor time, Assemblies and Careers activities; and
 - Extra Curricular - an extensive range of clubs, trips, competitions, representative roles and International opportunities.
- 2.2 Years 7 and 8 have a deliberately wide curriculum. They will study 14 or 15 subjects and learn the skills needed to settle into secondary school (induction) and have whole day activities when normal lessons are suspended – for example an activity to develop problem solving skills. Year 9 continues this pattern, adding some careers work and some specialist subjects – for example preparation for Triple Science.

This curriculum is based on our values; an educated person should successfully enjoy a broad education that challenges them, equips them for later specialisation and is valued for its own merits.

Late in Year 9 students start ‘option’ subjects alongside a core curriculum (Maths etc). There is the opportunity to start new subjects like Business or Psychology.

Most subjects will lead to GCSE examinations while some lead to industry qualifications or BTECs. Students will follow courses that meet their interests, career goals and motivations. This means that many students follow ‘EBacc courses’, but they do not have to.

2.3 The Tomlinscote Curriculum is shaped by three strands:

Technology. While IT systems will change, the adaptability to use new systems is a key requirement of all employment. All our students will have an iPad and use this in school and at home to extend their learning.

As a school, we believe an understanding of other cultures and countries is a critical part of becoming an educated person. We call this **Internationalism**. All our students study a modern language (most to GCSE), will visit other countries and will reflect upon values that underpin our society.

We think learning that is directly linked to the world of work (**Vocational Studies**) is very important. The opportunity to follow vocational subjects on our site is unusual for a school and is a sign of the high value we place on this learning.

3 What subjects make up the Tomlinscote Curriculum?

3.1 **Year 7** English, Mathematics, Science, French or German, Art, Music, Drama, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Technology, Computing and half a year each of Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. In Year 7 only, time is given to a literacy programme, Accelerated Reader, and a Mindfulness programme.

3.2 **Year 8** As Year 7 with the addition of Spanish. Students can choose whether to continue Mandarin Chinese or Japanese through lessons outside the timetabled day.

3.3 **Year 9** As Year 8 with students covering content for Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

3.4 **Year 10** The core curriculum consists of English, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, French or German, Physical Education, Religious Studies and a Personal, Social and Health Education programme. Students then choose from a large array of 'option' subjects.

3.5 **Year 11** As Year 10 with examinations in the summer.

4 Responsibility for the Curriculum

4.1 The leadership of the school – the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors' Teaching and Learning committee – are responsible for strategic direction.

4.2 A Vice Principal has overall responsibility for the learning the curriculum leads to.

4.3 Heads of Faculty oversee groups of subjects, each of which is led by a Head of Department.

4.4 Information about the curriculum, and the meaning of flightpaths and the linked assessments, can be found on the school website. Questions about students' progress with the curriculum should be raised with the subject teacher in the first instance.