



The Belvedere Academy

Curriculum Policy

This policy is a statement for the academic year 2017/18. Progressive plans for the Academy are part of and will continue to be developed in the Academy Development Plan.

1. Curriculum Overview

- 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 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.
- 1.4** In Years 7 to 9, 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, Languages, , Drama, Art, Music, ICT and Physical Education throughout the Key Stage. The Year 7 intake is placed in sets for Mathematics and English and in broadly banded groups for all other subjects according to ability. Most students have the opportunity to study three Foreign Languages throughout the key stage including Mandarin Chinese.
- 1.5** In Years 10 and 11 all students follow an academic curriculum with a broad range of GCSE subjects. Core GCSE subjects of English, English Literature, Mathematics, Citizenship and at least one Modern Foreign Language are studied. Students also study either Co-ordinated Science Double Award or the three separate Sciences to GCSE level. Students choose from a wide range of optional subjects to complete their GCSE portfolio, including Applied Science, Art, Business Studies, Drama, Geography, History, Home Economics, ICT, Graphics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Textiles and Technology. 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 KS4. Careers Education is integrated into the PHSCE programme. Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of Enrichment activities and to seek opportunities to take the lead in these.
- 1.6** There is an open choice at 'A' Level and many students cross the Arts/Science divide; however the emphasis tends to be on specialisation rather than maintaining breadth and balance.
- 1.7** 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 AQA Baccalaureate which consists three A-Level subjects as well as the Extended Project Qualification.

- 1.8 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.
- 1.9 Careers guidance is given before choices are made at both GCSE and 'A' Level. 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 Homework is considered an integral part of the learning experience and is set for all year groups.

2. Academy Specialisms

- 2.1 Modern Foreign Languages is the primary, and Science the secondary specialism of the Academy.
- 2.2 Students study French and Spanish throughout Lower School, the two languages rotating status annually as major and minor languages in terms of curriculum time. . Students continue with at least one language to GCSE level. At Key Stage 5 both French and Spanish are offered. Mandarin Chinese is taught to all lower school students. Additional languages including Italian, Arabic, and Latin are offered through the enrichment programme.
- 2.3 Students study Physics, Chemistry and Biology throughout Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Optional subject choices at GCSE and Sixth Form – popular choices

GCSE

- Art
- Applied Science
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Citizenship
- Drama
- Economics
- Food Technology
- French
- Geography
- Graphics
- History
- ICT
- Mandarin Chinese (from Sep '18)
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Religious Studies
- Science Double Award
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Study Plus
- Textiles Technology

Advanced Level

- Art
- Applied Science
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Citizenship
- Drama
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- Health and Social Care
- History
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sociology
- Sport and Physical Education
- Textiles
- Travel and Tourism

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: May 2017