

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School



Curriculum Policy

2022-2023

BACUP AND RAWTENSTALL GRAMMAR SCHOOL CURRICULUM 2022-23

The curriculum at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School reflects our core values, promoting and developing ambitious, resilient students who are encouraged to take full advantage of opportunities but who also support one another, learning the crucial importance of trust and respect.

We provide a broad programme of experiences which enables students to appreciate their cultural inheritance and understand more about themselves and the world in which they live. It also promotes the view that learning should be experienced as something which is enjoyable, engaging, rewarding and confidence building.

Our curriculum aims to:

- inspire and motivate
- foster life-long learning
- develop individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- develop responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

The curriculum is broad and balanced, recognises national guidelines and fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum and beyond. We have chosen to maintain a three year KS3 as we believe all students should have full access to arts, humanities and two modern languages for as long as possible to give them a broad, balanced education with a wide range of study. Art, drama and music are a central part of our curriculum at KS3 and the GCSE uptake reflects this, as do the high number of pupils learning to play an instrument and the range of co-curricular art and music clubs.

Our knowledge-rich curriculum ensures our students' proficiency in a range of fields and develops students who are able to speak knowledgeably and with authority on a wide range of topics and not be bound by their circumstances or experience, gender or their socio-economic background. Our curriculum provides depth: deep knowledge and secure understanding as we believe every learner is entitled to a curriculum that is varied, challenging and inspiring, which enables every individual to fulfil her or his potential to the highest possible standard, developing enquiring minds capable of original thought and well-balanced critical argument.

We provide education that is suited to able students and there is great emphasis on academic excellence. At the heart of our curriculum is a strong academic core for all our students at KS3 and KS4: the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). At KS4, all students select a minimum of one humanity and one MFL (Germanic or Romance). The vast majority of our students also undertake three separate sciences at GCSE as we believe the widest possible participation in STEM education is crucial to a better prepared workforce for the future, enabling all our students, to take full advantage of future opportunities in this field if this is their choice. At post-16, we maintain a particular focus on academic A-Level subjects. We believe all our students are entitled to access an ambitious curriculum programme, securing the best achievable qualifications, providing them with the greatest opportunities in higher education, higher level apprenticeships and employment.

However, we firmly believe that the value of our curriculum goes beyond purely what is examinable. The changing nature of work means that life-long learning and the emotional resilience that goes with it, have become necessities rather than luxuries. The development of the correct attributes, habits of mind and thinking skills are central to our evolving curriculum. Our curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and in society more widely. Religious studies is taught from year 7 right through to year 9 by members of the Religious Studies department and is also available as a distinct course for students in KS4 and KS5. PSHE is a fully timetabled subject and is taught throughout KS3, KS4 and KS5 following a spiral curriculum and incorporates Relationships and Sex Education. Additionally, we ensure a strong focus on personal development through a structured tutorial programme at KS3, KS4 and our Sixth Form.

It is our intention to lay secure foundations for progression into Further and Higher Education and we consider preparation for Sixth Form Advanced Level study to be a key feature of our 11-16 education, with the Gatsby Career Benchmarks forming a framework for our practice with a comprehensive 'Next Steps' programme. From the beginning of Year 7, students begin to receive specific Careers Education and Guidance through the IAG Programme and our Careers Adviser, aiming to support our students in making the right choice for them and effective transition

to the next stage of learning or employment. Students in Year 10 benefit from a diverse range of work experience placements with Year 12 students also able to pursue this opportunity. We also value and encourage the participation of local business in our wider curriculum. Our curriculum includes a wide variety of co-curricular and enrichment activities and we encourage our students to take full advantage of these.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 students follow a broad and balanced course.

- Year 7 students follow English, maths, science, art, computer science, design and technology, drama, food technology, geography, German & another MFL (French or Spanish), history, personal, social and health education (PSHE), physical education, religious education, and textiles.
- Year 8 students follow English, maths, science, art, computer science, design and technology, drama, food technology, geography, German & another MFL (French or Spanish), history, personal, social and health education (PSHE), physical education, religious education and textiles.
- Year 9 students follow English, maths, biology, chemistry, physics, art, computer science, design and technology, drama, food technology, geography, history, MFL (German or French/Spanish or dual MFL), personal, social and health education (PSHE), physical education and religious education.

Comparison of KS3 National Curriculum with BRGS KS3 Curriculum

Subject	KS3 National Curriculum	BRGS KS3 Curriculum		
		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biology				✓
Chemistry				✓
Physics				✓
Art and Design	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citizenship	✓	✓	✓	✓
Computer Science	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design and Technology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Drama		✓	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓	✓	✓
History	✓	✓	✓	✓
MFL	✓	✓	✓	✓
French			✓	
German		✓	✓	✓
Spanish		✓		✓
Music	✓	✓	✓	✓
PE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal, Social and Health Education	✓	✓	✓	✓
Careers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Religious Education	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sex Education	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key Stage 4

At the end of Key Stage 3 students select their GCSE courses. All Year 9 students are provided with advice throughout the school year to help guide them about their GCSE options. This advice takes the form of presentations during the school day about the nature and demands of their subjects at GCSE and potential careers. This is followed by a special parents' evening, known as the Key Stage 4 Option Evening, to explain and discuss the careers options available to each student. This advice ensures that each student is fully informed regarding the mix of courses selected, leaving open maximum options for the Sixth Form and future career choice.

The GCSE examinations are completed at the end of Year 11 and include a core of:

- English Language, English Literature, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics (as 3 separate GCSEs)
- one humanity subject, chosen from geography and history
- one modern foreign language (MFL), chosen from French, German or Spanish.

Students also choose 2 GCSEs from the following optional subjects. They are given a free choice and every effort is made to meet those choices:

Art, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, German, History, Physical Education, and another MFL (French or Spanish).

Students achieve 10 full GCSE qualifications in total. In addition, students follow non-examination courses in PSHE and physical education.

Key Stage 5

In the Sixth Form students choose from 22 different linear A Level courses. All courses are advertised to students when they apply in the autumn term, but courses are offered, subject to demand. A decision is made when all applications have been received based on the numbers of students applying for a course, the priority given by each student, and the availability of similar courses in the curriculum. All students receive one to one interviews shortly after applying and again on enrolment. In addition, taster sessions are provided during Year 11 to aid understanding and inform choices.

The majority of our students start with 4 subjects in Year 12 and continue with 3 of these in Year 13. A-Level linear examinations will be taken at the end of Year 13.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is also on offer. The numbers taking this is increasing year on year and students are finding huge benefits from studying their own individual project in depth and having to present their findings and evaluations to an audience.

The majority of the Sixth Form proceed to degree courses in universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Sixth Form students are encouraged to develop responsibility for their own learning, a skill crucial for those moving on to Higher Education and the world of work.

The curriculum is completed by a programme of guidance and enrichment activities. Year 12 and Year 13 students are guided by their Form Tutors in a fortnightly timetabled session and on a one-to-one basis by their Form Tutor. All Year 12 and Year 13 students have a fortnightly timetabled session for PSHE. Core enrichment and personal development activities are undertaken by all Year 12 students on Wednesday afternoons. There are many optional opportunities in computing, debating, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, leadership development, media, music, science, sport and work experience.

YEAR 12 OPTION BLOCKS 2022-2023

12A	12B	12C	12D	12E
Biology	Biology	Art	Business Studies	Biology
Computer Science	Chemistry	Biology	Chemistry	Business Studies
Economics	Double Maths	Chemistry	Computer Science	Chemistry
English Lit.	Drama	German	English Lit.	English Language
History	Economics	Law	French	Law
Physics	English Language	Physics	Geography	Further Maths
Physical Ed	Geography	Psychology	Mathematics	Psychology
Psychology	History	Sociology	Mathematics	
Religious Ed.	Mathematics		Mathematics	
Sociology	Mathematics		Music	
	Psychology		Psychology	

YEAR 13 OPTION BLOCKS 2022-2023

13A	13B	13C	13D	13E
Art	Art	Biology	Biology	Biology
Biology	Biology	Business Studies	Chemistry	Chemistry
Chemistry	Business Studies	Chemistry	Economics	Computer Science
Double Mathematics	Chemistry	Computer Science	History	Economics
Law	German	English Lit.	Law	English Language
Mathematics	Physics	Geography	Music	English Lit.
Mathematics	Psychology	History	Physics	Geography
Physical Ed	Religious Ed.	Mathematics	Psychology	Further Maths
Psychology	Sociology	Mathematics		Physics
Spanish				Sociology

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher overseeing curriculum development. It will be reviewed annually.

Date of last review:

Date of next review: June 2023

Review period: annual

Curriculum Structure

The structure of the BRGS curriculum is monitored and reviewed through the Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body.

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