



ALLESTREE WOODLANDS SCHOOL

OUR CURRICULUM

Our Curriculum

At Woodlands we are committed to ensuring that each student reaches their full potential and achieves their very best in their studies. We have high expectations of all students to achieve of their very best at every stage of their time at Woodlands in particular gaining good exam results at GCSE and 'A' Level.

The 'curriculum' is really everything we do at Woodlands inside and outside the classroom. We strive to develop the whole person and have a huge range of opportunities for our students to experience.

All students at Woodlands follow a broad and balanced curriculum, which reflects the needs of our students and national priorities. It allows students to develop the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the adult world now and in the foreseeable future.

We aim to develop confident and successful young people, who enjoy learning and appreciate the value of learning and qualifications and who grow into confident, responsible citizens ready to make a positive contribution to their local community and to society.

The school day is divided into five one hour lessons giving a total of twenty five timetabled lessons a week. Please find below lists of the timetabled lessons we have at Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9), Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) and Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13).

The Curriculum at Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 and 9

The first three years at Woodlands are the years for establishing a strong and broad foundation for further study. Students are taught in a variety of different ways, dependent on their needs and abilities

The curriculum at Key Stage 3 includes teaching and learning in the following subjects:

Core Subjects:

English, Maths and Science

Foundation subjects:

Art, Computing, Design and Technology (which includes catering, textiles, graphics and product design), Drama, Geography, History, French or German or Spanish, Music, Physical Education (PE), Personal Development (PD - which includes personal, social, health, sex and relationships, careers and citizenship education) and Religious Education.

Subjects	Taught lessons per week x 1 hour
English	3
Maths	3
Science	3
Art	1
Computing	1
Design Technology	2
Drama	1
Geography	2
History	2
French OR German OR Spanish	2
Music	1
Physical Education	2
Personal Development	1
Religious Education	1
Total	25

More specific details about what topics are taught in each year of each subject can be found in the 'Subjects' section of the website.

The GCSE Curriculum at Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) students follow a core curriculum of English, Maths, Double or Triple Science*, Personal Development (PD - which includes personal, social, health, sex and relationships, careers, religious and citizenship education) and Physical Education (PE) and then have a choice of four subjects to specialise in. These choices are from the following subjects, some of which will be new:

Art	Business Studies
Catering	Computing
Creative Media	Drama
French	Geography
German	Graphics
Health and Social Care	History
Music	Personalised Curriculum
Physical Education	Philosophy and Ethics
Product Design	Spanish
Textiles	Travel and Tourism
Work Related Learning	

* *Students studying Triple Science have an extra lesson for an hour after school on Tuesdays.*

Subjects	Taught lessons per week x 1 hour
English	3
Maths	3
Science	5
FOUR Option subjects	3 each
Physical Education	1
Personal Development	1
Total	25

Students will be placed in the most appropriate teaching group to each subject although opportunity exists for moving from one group to another depending on the progress made. We are very focused on ensuring that curriculum is flexible broad and balanced to the current and future lives of our students.

The A level curriculum at Key Stage 5 – The Sixth Form - Years 12 and 13

After successfully completed GCSEs students will be able to move onto our excellent Sixth Form. Students choose four subjects to study at AS in Year 12 and drop to three subjects at A2 in Year 13. There is a wide number of academic 'A' levels to choose from:

Art	Biology
Business Studies	Chemistry
Computing	Creative Media (BTEC Level 3)
English Language	English Literature
French	General Studies
Geography	German
Government and Politics	History
Hospitality (BTEC Level 3)	Mathematics
Mathematics – Further Maths	Performing Arts
Philosophy and Ethics	Physical Education
Physics	Product Design
Psychology	Sociology

Subjects	Year 12 Taught lessons per week x 1 hour	Year 13 Taught lessons per week x 1 hour
Year 12 FOUR AS Option subjects	4 each	
Year 13 THREE A2 Option subjects		5 each
Personal Development	1	1
Curriculum Support	1	1
Personal study	7	8
Total	25	25

Extra-Curricular Activities

There is a full and varied programme of extra-curricular activities which supports and enriches the curriculum at Woodlands. It includes a wide variety of sporting and arts activities, charity fundraising, community service plus many more.

Preparing students for life in modern Britain

Alongside our formal curriculum and our extra-curricular activities, there are many activities, events, routines and daily expectations which contribute to students' social, moral, cultural and spiritual education.

'Fundamental British Values' include

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law,
- Individual Liberty and Equal Rights
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

These are all taught explicitly in Personal Development in Years 7 to 13 and underpin our basic school expectations regarding behaviour and attitudes towards others. Our Personal Development schemes of work include modules on these topics in each year, including local and national politics, the European Union, Diversity and Human Rights.

These values are promoted in the following ways throughout all years at Woodlands

- Weekly formal House and Sixth Form Assemblies
- Informal House and Sixth Form Assemblies
- An active School Council made up of year group representatives, elected from tutor group representatives, who are elected by members of their tutor group.
- Mock elections
- A strong history of fund raising for charities, predominantly initiated and led by pupils.
- An annual Act of Remembrance on November 11th
- A planned programme of tutor time activities for each year group, including discussion work on topical issues, current affairs, competitions etc.
- Sixth form ambassadors and Year 11 mentors running form time activities for whole tutor groups and small groups/ individuals.
- An extensive programme of trips and educational visits, with both curriculum and social aims, locally, within Britain and abroad.
- Students involved in Project Uganda disseminate information through assemblies and plan fund raising events.
- Students involved in the Holocaust Education Trust disseminate information through assemblies and plan fund raising events.
- Regular student surveys including questions about equal opportunities and bullying.
- Immediate follow-up of issues raised by students and parents/carers regarding bullying etc., resulting in very high parental satisfaction levels on Parent/Carer and student questionnaires.

Employability Skills

We place strong emphasis on ensuring students becoming qualified and equipped with the skills required for the world of work. Our success is proved by our exceptional NEET (Not in Education and Employment) figure of 0%.

Contributory factors include

- A broad, balanced curriculum which places emphasis on the development of skills and knowledge.
- Regular work on Careers in the Personal Development programme of study, which includes modules on 'Employability' in Years 7-11 and 'Labour Market Information' in Years 9-11.
- Work Experience for all pupils in the July of Year 10
- Detailed preparation for interviews, CV writing, filling in application forms and putting together a record of achievement.
- A mock interview evening for all Year 11 students
- An annual World of Work Day for Year 11 students
- Talks by local employers and Woodlands alumni
- Visits to and participation in competitions run by local industries.
- Careers Interviews and guidance, every lunchtime with PSHE teachers and once a week with external advisors in school.
- Individual guidance on subject choices, where required for Year 9 pupils choosing their options and Year 11/12/13 students choosing A-level and University courses
- Year 11/Post-16 options information evening for Year 11 students and their parents/carers

Life Skills

Much of our personal development and tutor programme, our curriculum as well as our daily expectations helps students develop the skills and attitudes necessary to lead happy, safe, healthy lives.

The following contribute to this

- A comprehensive Personal Development programme, including Sex and Relationships Education, healthy eating, drugs, alcohol, money management, politics, health and hygiene
- All students study catering in Key stage 3 and learn basic skills, hygiene and healthy eating.
- A culture of 'Reading for Pleasure' through form time activities and the English department's use of the Library
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities in Art, Music, Drama and Dance including regular concerts, productions, theatre visits, visiting artists and sculptors, bands, competitions.
- Numerous sports opportunities, for students in school teams and for many others.
- Inter-House sports competitions
- A variety of mentoring schemes in which older students support younger students, e.g. peer mentor reading, running tutor time activities.
- Small group English lessons for students for whom English is an additional language (EAL) to develop their verbal and written communication skills.
- Counselling and guidance for pupils with poor organisational skills, behavioural issues, emotional issues, conflict resolution skills.
- The use of student organisers, revision timetables etc. which train students in managing their time and identifying priorities.