

Curriculum Overview

Every student is entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum, that meets individual learning needs. Importantly, it is recognised that while much of what is taught is laid down within the National Curriculum, it is vital to develop skills, which will be needed for a lifetime of learning. These skills will equip students to enter a competitive job market with a framework in which to make use of freedom to make the right choices about their lives.

At Key Stage 3 which is years 7&8 students follow courses in: English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Technology, Information Technology, Geography, History, Modern Languages, Art, Music, Drama and PE. Moving forward into Sept 2016-2017 pupils can access the full EBACC qualification as all students can study either French or Spanish in years 7&8 with the option to study a language at KS4.

At Key Stage 4 which is years 9,10 &11 students follow a common core of English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, RE and PE with 4 option choices in year 9 which reduce down to three in year 10 to give more curriculum time to Maths, English & Science under the new reformed GCSE's. All students are guided into suitable option choices of which one choice must be either a language or a humanities based on where their strongest performance is. We ensure the curriculum meets their individual needs but also allows them to maximize the best possible outcomes from progress 8 and attainment 8 measures. The curriculum includes a range of vocational and academic courses.

- A broad range of relevant learning opportunities is offered at both Key Stage 3 and 4, which aim to enable:
- The development of full academic potential
- Support for the development of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills
- The development of the skills needed to continue learning independently as an adult.
- The development of a team spirit

Students learn successfully when teaching and learning is aimed to meet their needs, by recognising the strengths of individuals whilst supporting them in making progress in their weaker areas. The framework for learning at Saint George is such that students can be placed in different teaching groups for different subjects. We aim to use the information passed to the college from feeder schools to identify where help is needed to improve literacy and numeracy skills. Learning Support Assistants are used to help students in the classroom. There is a good programme of activities for students who are gifted and talented in particular subjects. Our Integrated Studies programme supports students with particular difficulties in Literacy and Numeracy.

For some students, Spanish is on offer as well as French from Year 8.

Personalising the curriculum is essential for continued success and achievement, enabling every student to progress and meet their full potential.

Assessment

Successful learning, in which students make the best progress, is possible when there is good communication about the extent to which suitable academic potential is being achieved.

St George has developed a good system of monitoring student progress, which uses:

- Information from the feeder school
- External tests – SATs results
- Teacher's professional judgement through teacher assessments

This system enables clear targets to be set for each individual above expected progress throughout Key Stage 3 and 4. Every subject sets a minimum and a challenge grade each year, which is to be reached by the end of the academic year. As far as possible, personalised learning programmes are arranged which meet the individual needs of the student, recognising and rewarding achievement. Importantly, it is also possible to identify students who are giving cause for concern.

Parents are kept fully informed of progress each term with assessment sheets giving information on effort, current performance and targets. It is our aim to target students who are under performing and work with parents to help their child to overcome the problems limiting his progress. Parents are kept informed about their child's potential and how help can be given at home. Parents have the opportunity to meet with tutors three times a year at Mentoring Days and once a year

with teachers at Parents' Evenings. On all of these occasions, parents are informed of their child's current progress and performance.

Extra Curricular Activities

For students whose talents are sporting, there are a many clubs both in and out of college hours. The college is proud of its sporting record, and the number of boys who not only represent the college, but the District and County in rugby, football, cricket and athletics.

There are also a number of other clubs students can join. For example, the Science department encourages the students to enjoy the awe and wonder of science, through a range of extra-curricular activities, and our Special Needs Department runs a study club after school four nights a week.

For students who wish to learn musical instruments, peripatetic lessons are available. Students are encouraged to continue learning instruments taken up in junior school. There are many opportunities to perform in college events.

Students throughout the college are able to take advantage of well-organised trips, some of which involve travel abroad. The History department runs an annual Battlefields Trip in November, and the PE department offers a ski trip. The English department also run theatre visits and reward trips are held for each year group three times a year.