



# Bury St Edmunds County Upper School



## Curriculum Statement

### Curriculum Aims

Our aim is to empower our students and enrich their lives to ensure they aspire to take their place in the world as useful citizens who will make a positive contribution. We want students to enjoy learning, to become independent and effective learners and to achieve academic success in an atmosphere that fosters positive relationships and mental health, promotes equality and celebrates diversity.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced; it provides intellectual challenge, develops creativity and curiosity and enables our students to articulate their thinking confidently. High-quality subject-specific teaching supports our curriculum and we encourage all staff to engage with local and national subject communities.

The curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities promote social and cultural enrichment and a strong sense of community. The advice and guidance we offer enables students to make wise, informed and ambitious choices.

We promote the values of positivity, respect, integrity, compassion, courage and endeavour. We want our students to engage with the local and wider community in the belief that they can make a difference.

We firmly believe that the curricular and extra-curricular programme we offer makes a major contribution to our Trust's vision to **'make remarkable things happen.'**

### Key Stage Three

Key Stage Three provides the bedrock of knowledge for success at Key Stage Four, whilst being an important stage in its own right. Our all-through curriculum provides continuity across key stages two and three. It aims to deepen students' knowledge in specialist subject areas. In addition to the core subjects and Humanities and Arts, students study separate Sciences and are introduced to French and then to German in year eight for those whose linguistic ability enables them to benefit from it. Students can study Latin and, in the final year of key stage three, have opportunities to study Spanish and Japanese. This exposure to language develops students' grammatical literacy. Through all subjects, students are provided with opportunities to develop their research and analytical skills and to articulate their opinions coherently and confidently.



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Through assemblies and the pastoral and academic curricula we promote the values underpinning British society including equality and diversity. Students are taught about the importance of good mental and physical health including relationships and sex education as well as environmental awareness and how to be positive members of the community both locally and globally. Extensive extra-curricular opportunities in all areas help to foster a strong sense of community, identity and wellbeing.

### Key Stage Four

Our Key Stage Four curriculum is designed to provide a diverse range of educational opportunities to suit the needs of all of our students. It is aimed at enabling our students to reach the highest levels of achievement and personal development. Our options allow for greater personalisation of a challenging, broad and rich curriculum. All students have four subject choices so that they can keep their programme broad and balanced. While the majority take the EBacc qualification, not all choose that path and we are proud that we build our curriculum around their choices. Students develop oracy further to become articulate and confident in expressing opinions informed by a knowledge rich curriculum.

We aim to develop a love of learning and appreciation of a wide range of talents, so that students flourish in key stage five whatever route they take. The curriculum aims to enrich rather than accelerate. The pastoral system supports students as they prepare for external examinations and make decisions about their future pathways. A core aim of the PSHE programme is to foster resilience and confidence and to promote the school's core values. We aim to equip students with the skills to keep themselves safe in the face of social media and peer pressure. Extensive extra-curricular opportunities continue in all areas to help to foster a strong sense of community, identity and wellbeing.

### Key Stage Five

Our KS5 curriculum provides specialisation, depth and skills to equip our students to be successful in the 21st century. Our curriculum aims to stimulate our students intellectually through engendering a spirit of scholarship and enquiry. It develops in our students the ability to assess the validity and appropriateness of sources in an information-rich, global society. Students take increasing responsibility for their own learning by reflecting on and responding to assessment and feedback and engaging in wider reading and research. Students typically take three 'A' levels or equivalent together



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with the Extended Project Qualification. The latter enhances opportunities for independent reading and research and builds on habits developed in prior key stages. The most able students will take four subjects. High expectations are set by demonstrating belief in everyone's ability to achieve.

Our extra-curricular programme, myriad leadership opportunities and enrichment week provide students with experiences that will facilitate further study and develop students into well-rounded individuals. At the heart of our tutorial programme is the objective to nurture our students' personal, social, moral and cultural development through debate, community outreach, fundraising and a programme of guest speakers. Extensive extra-curricular opportunities develop self-confidence and foster a sense of school community.

Excellent careers guidance prepares students for Higher Education, and a variety of pathways including apprenticeships. It not only prepares them for life beyond sixth form but also ensures they leave with confidence, but not arrogance, firm in the belief that they are arbiters of their own destinies.

### **Additional Documents**

Each subject has a 'Curriculum at a Glance' document for each key stage and there is a curriculum year booklet for each year.

All the documentation is available on our website.