



Wanstead High School Curriculum

Our whole-school curriculum has been designed to reflect our school's commitment to delivering a holistic education, which ensures that our students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to fulfil their potential and make a valuable contribution to society.

Our curriculum intent is achieved through our broad and balanced curriculum. This includes our enrichment provision and our core values, which permeate every aspect of life at Wanstead High School.

Our curriculum is inclusive and ambitious to enable all students to develop their character, to have high aspirations and to overcome barriers.

Our taught curriculum is organised into three distinct phases across the three key stages:

Key stage 3 (KS3) our students have access to 15 discreet subjects and they follow the full national curriculum. This allows them to experience a wide range of subjects for the three years of KS3.

At Key stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) students study the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Technology, French or Spanish, History, Geography, Religion and Philosophy (RP), Art, Music, Drama, Dance, Physical Education, PSHCE (a programme which delivers personal, social, health, citizenship, enterprise and careers education), RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) and library.

Students at key stage 3 and 4 study Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). Parents do have the statutory right to withdraw their children from aspects of RSHE. However, the scheme of learning has been constructed in the hope that parents will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal. Parents with concerns are encouraged to discuss these with the Curriculum Team Leader responsible for the whole school RSHE initially.

Key stage 3 students study Spanish in Year 7, French in Year 8 before choosing with parent consultation to continue either French or Spanish in Year 9. All students make a guided choice in Year 9 to continue with French or Spanish, though it is not currently compulsory to study a modern foreign language at key stage 4.

At key stage 4 all students study the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science (combined or triple GCSE), PE and RSHE. Students currently have an open choice of GCSE options from a wide range of subjects including Computer Science, Media Studies, Design Technology, Dance, Drama, Music and Sociology. Most students go on to gain 9 GCSEs. Some students will study fewer and instead will be given support through a Support or (English as an additional language) EAL option.

Our key stage 5 curriculum offers a broad range of A levels subjects. In addition to A-Level choice, all students have the option of taking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) - an independent research project on any subject of the student's choosing. It is equivalent to half an A-Level and is highly valued by universities and employers. Additionally, students in Year 12 are timetabled for 1 hour per fortnight to develop study skills and help them to understand how to learn and revise effectively. This Learn 2 Learn course is specifically designed to help support their independence, meet the demands of their courses and support their progress in their subjects.

Many extra-curricular clubs and activities are available for our students to participate in, as part of our enrichment offer. These include orchestras, choirs, drama and sports clubs, as well as revision and sessions to assist with GCSE and A Level courses.

Main changes to the Curriculum to be implemented in the new timetable for September 2023

At key stage 3, we have made some adjustments to our core curriculum to address staffing concerns and focus on areas, where improvements need to be made.

In English, we have incorporated the library lesson within the English timetable and also added an additional period. English lessons at Year 7 and 8 are now delivered over 8 periods (a change from 5). Similarly, in Year 9 the English curriculum offer has increased from 6 to 7 periods. Our maths offer has decreased from 8 periods to 7 periods in Year 7 but remains the same as the current model for Year 8 and 9.

The modern foreign languages curriculum has been adapted. The expectation is that the languages team will offer an internal carousel of both Spanish and French. At the end of Year 8, the students will choose the language they wish to continue studying in Year 9.

Personal Social and Health Education is now in one block, which gives the school the opportunity to organise whole school activities and drop-down sessions, without impacting on other curriculum areas.

At Key Stage 4, there were a number of issues which needed to be addressed. The options within the current model limited student choice to three subjects. The core curriculum (Fourth Option) navigates students to choose between Triple, PE or RP. Often students had to choose a course, which they had not intended to take. For the new cohort of Year 10s, we have disbanded what was called the core curriculum and students now have an open choice of a fourth subject, which also includes triple science.

Impact

The impact of our curriculum is assessed by considering:

- External examination results
- Exam meetings with all middle leaders
- A formal review (spotlight) every 2 years of each department
- The participation of students in a variety of extra-curricular and enrichment activities
- The retention of students from Year 11 into the Sixth Form
- The proportion of students who are able to choose the courses they want to at GCSE and at A Level
- The destinations of our leavers at Year 11 and Year 13.