

017 Curriculum Plan

Responsibility: KL

Date: September 2020

Next Review: September 2021

Our vision

Holmfirth High School is a caring, positive learning community where everyone has a passion for learning, feels safe and happy, and has a desire to grow intellectually, spiritually, physically and emotionally. We seek for every student to achieve their potential within a broad, creative, challenging, dynamic and engaging curriculum. We build on our successful partnerships within education, sport, the arts, music, business and culture to extend academic challenge, participation and opportunity for all. We value community and empower people to change their lives and that of their community for the better. Our students leave feeling equipped to contribute fully to society and have the social confidence to seize all opportunities, and truly stand as equals in any situation.

Our Curriculum

The curriculum of any school is central to achieving success. If students can access the right courses for them, then motivation, enjoyment and achievement are certain to improve. We have worked extremely hard to create a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum. Our aim is to provide as personalised a curriculum as possible; our curriculum should suit the needs of each student, not the other way around. At Holmfirth High School there is a strong focus on the core subjects; English, maths and science, subjects which we believe are central to supporting understanding, skills and success elsewhere in the curriculum. We offer a full and varied range of academic courses but also wide access to vocational options; these include hairdressing and motor vehicle maintenance both of which delivered in school on-site in our specialist facilities.

We recognise the world economy today not only pays for what people know but also for what they can do with what they know. Our curriculum and lessons are designed to provide students with regular opportunities to develop a range of skills which are essential to success in the world of work. Skills such as leadership, digital literacy, communication, emotional intelligence, entrepreneurship, global citizenship, problem solving and team-working are taught across the curriculum. All our students follow enrichment programmes through core and discrete subjects; these include Food Hygiene, First Aid and Health and Safety at Work. We also run a full programme of work experience in year 10; we believe it is essential for students to experience the world of work from an early age. Many students also gain formal leadership qualifications during their time at Holmfirth High School including the Sports Leadership Award. We also have a very popular and extremely successful Duke of Edinburgh Award group.

At Holmfirth High School we believe very strongly in the importance of languages and of international links. As a school, we believe that it is very important for most students to

learn a minimum of one language through to GCSE level in order to develop them as citizens ready for the challenges of the global economy.

Timetable

The school timetable runs over a fortnightly cycle for 5 periods per day. The tables below show how many of these 1 hour periods are allocated to each different subject in the different year groups.

Key Stage 3

The key stage 3 curriculum is taught across years 7, 8 and 9. Students follow the national curriculum in all subjects across all year groups.

Year 7

	English	Maths	Science	Art	Music	Drama	Geography	History	RPSE	Computing	MFL	PE	Technology	Total
Y7	7	7	6	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	6	4	3	50

In year 7 students are placed in mixed ability teaching groups with approximately equal numbers of boys and girls in each; students are taught in these groups for most subjects. In Maths and English, students are grouped according to their prior attainment scores and progress made to date. In PE and technology, students are grouped with other teaching groups to assist with the smooth delivery of these practical subjects. Students will study French in year 7. Religious studies and personal, social and health education are delivered by subject specialists through RPSE lessons across key stage 3.

Year 8

	English	Maths	Science	Art	Music	Drama	Geography	History	RPSE	Computing	MFL	PE	Technology	Total
Y8	7	7	6	3	2	1	3	3	3	2	6	4	3	50

In year 8 students continue to study a broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst pupils are once again placed in mixed ability teaching groups for most subjects. In Maths and English, students are grouped according to their prior attainment scores and progress made to date. Students continue to study two foreign languages. Technology and PE are delivered in a similar way to year 7.

Year 9

	English	Maths	Science	Art	Music	Drama	Geography	History	RPSE	Computing	MFL	PE	Technology	Total
Y9	8	8	5	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	6	4	3	50

In year 9, students opt to study just one foreign language in preparation for their GCSE courses. The make-up of teaching groups follows the same pattern as year 8.

Enrichment

On the final week of summer term each year students will be off timetable to take part in Activities Week. As part of Activities Week, students will have a choice of a range of trips or activities designed to enhance their learning and experience of school. Each student will

select a trip or activity package from a range of varied opportunities. Each package lasts all four days with some being school based workshops, day trips or overnight residential stays. The week is designed to enable all students to take part in an extra curricular activity, be that to pursue an interest or passion or try something new.

Key Stage 4

	English	Maths	Science	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	PE	RPSE	Total
Year 10	8	8	9	5	5	5	5	3	2	50
Year 11	9	8	10	5	5	5	5	3		50

The curriculum model provided for year 10 and 11 students follows the national curriculum requirements for key stage 4. All students study qualifications in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science. The religious education curriculum and personal, social and health education (RPSE) is delivered by a team of specialist teachers through timetabled lessons in year 10 and year 11. Students wishing to gain a GCSE qualification in religious education can choose this course as one of their option subjects. All students will study aspects of computing throughout their key stage 4 courses. GCSE Computing is also available to students through the options process for those who wish to gain formal qualifications in this subject.

Most students study 4 option subjects at key stage 4; some students may require a more personalised curriculum and will follow fewer option subjects depending on their individual needs.

Options available in 2020 were:

Art and Design – Fine Art	Geography
Art and Design – Graphic Communication	German
Art and Design – Textile Design	Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy
Business studies	History
Computer Science	Motor Vehicle Maintenance
Dance	Music
Design and Technology	Photography (Lens and Light-based Media)
Drama	Physical Education - GCSE
Engineering	Religious & Philosophical Studies
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Separate Sciences
French	Spanish

Inclusion

We pride ourselves in being a truly inclusive school. To help those who have additional learning needs we have a dedicated team of highly qualified support staff to assist students in class. We recognise all our students as individuals, respect them accordingly and are committed to developing the learning of all students regardless of ability or background. Whilst seeking to provide a world class education for our students, our curriculum has at its core the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. For those students who find

the transition to high school difficult, we have an enhanced transition programme. We also have our own child and family specialist nurse together with an in-house counselling service.

Extra-curricular

At Holmfirth High School we see the curriculum as much more than the “taught curriculum”. We believe education is very much about the education of the “whole child” and central to this, in any school, is a rich and diverse programme of extra-curricular activities which are valued by students, staff and parents alike. We are extremely proud of the wealth of extra-curricular activities available to students: links and annual trips include Malawi, Peru, China, Paris, Spain and Berlin. There are theatre visits, sports tournaments, music festivals, art exhibitions, computer camps, shows and dance activities, and there are many groups for students to join. The offer is extensive, participation rates are high and we believe this is something which sets us apart from many other schools.

‘my children have achieved...and they’ve enjoyed – they are rounded people.’

(Parent comment on OFSTED Parent View)