



Walton High School

Curriculum

At Walton we are proud of our curriculum. We believe that it lies at the heart of everything we are trying to achieve. It is the vehicle which enables our students to learn – that is to say, to acquire knowledge which will be useful to them not only for their public examinations, but for the rest of their lives. Our curriculum has been designed and refined over many years to match the needs and aspirations of the children of our community. We believe that our curriculum is central, therefore, to the success of our school and we want it to be as broad, balanced, deep and enriching as it possibly can be.

It is our view that our curriculum is so much more than simply a school timetable. It is vital that we devote serious time and serious thought to what it is that we teach and what the purpose is behind these choices. We need to plan carefully not only what we deliver but how we can ensure challenge and progression in order that our students have the opportunity to acquire a deep and thorough understanding of what it is that they are studying. We also need to ensure that we equip our students with the core skills they require to access and remember what we are delivering to them – that is to say, skills in literacy, numeracy and the transfer of knowledge into their long term memory. After all, it is difficult to argue that you have “learnt” something in life unless you are able to remember it!

At Walton High School each student is entitled to study the following subjects at Key Stage 3 (KS3):

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- A Modern Foreign Language (French or German)
- PE
- Technology (via a rotation through Food, Textiles, Resistant Materials and Graphics)
- RE
- Music
- ICT
- Art

Performance and progress in these subjects is measured through our internal “Platinum”, “Gold”, “Silver” and “Bronze” assessment system in which, crucially, each student, whatever their starting point, has the opportunity to progress to our very highest standard of “Platinum”.

We cherish our “free option choice” system at KS4. All of our students are free to choose four options at KS4, without the hindrance of an option block system. In many schools, choices are limited to only two or three options; subject combinations are limited by unwieldy options blocks and free choice is limited by a student’s prior attainment. Unfortunately, in many schools subjects which we consider to be important are not offered at all and have been replaced by subjects which gain the school greater credit in the Department for Education Performance Tables. The opposite applies at Walton High School: students are free to choose four subjects that they want to study (with the only proviso being that one choice must come from the EBacc group of subjects: History, geography, Modern Foreign Languages or Computer Science). We then endeavour to make our timetable fit our students’ preferences (and we have an annual success rate of approximately 98%) – i.e. our timetable serves our curriculum, as opposed to determining it.

The fact that we have been able to retain such a broad offer at KS4 feeds in perfectly to our Post 16 (P16) curriculum which, we believe, stands up to scrutiny against any school in the country. Through the use of “twilight lessons” after the end of the normal school day, we are able to offer A-levels in:

- English Language & Literature
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Product Design
- Textiles
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Art
- Business Studies
- Economics
- PE
- Photography
- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Music
- Computer Science

Whilst also offering vocational courses in:

- Forensic Science
- Food & Nutrition
- Sports Science

for our students who do not wish to pursue a more traditional A Level route.

Bruce Fletcher

Dr Joanne Rowley

Acting Headteachers