

CURRICULUM

At Northumberland Park Community School, we value a balanced curriculum and believe that students do well when they are studying courses which are both challenging and fun. Our curriculum aims to develop creative learners with a curious mind who will work collaboratively with their peers to achieve their personal goals.

During **Key Stage 3 (KS3)**, Years 7 and 8, students study a wide range of subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities: Geography, History and Religious Education
- Modern Foreign Language: French or Spanish
- Design Technology: Food Technology, Textiles and Resistant Materials
- Art
- Computer Science and Information Communication Technology
- Performing Arts: Drama and Music
- Sport & Physical Education
- Personal, Social & Health Economic education

Students also follow the Accelerated Reader programme during their English lessons. Teaching groups are set on the basis of ability in Core subjects.

At **Key Stage 4 (KS4)**, Years 9, 10 and 11), we offer a wide range of courses that will suit the different needs of all our students. Student choices are based on a personalised Pathways programme suitable for their ambitions and ability.

All students follow a CORE CURRICULUM of:

- English Literature and English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- PSHE
- PE

Students are also able to choose three subjects based on their pathway including Art & Design, Computer Science, Drama, Home Economics: Child Development, Food Technology, French, Geography, Graphic Products, History, Media Studies, Music, Music Technology, Physical Education (PE), Resistant Materials, Sociology, Spanish, Textiles, Foundation Catering

This has been a very turbulent year in education but we are confident that the options offer this year will allow our students to progress onto college or sixth form with the best possible grades. The new performance measures coming into force in 2016 will report on the following:

- Progress across 8 subjects*
- Attainment across 8 subjects*
- The percentage of pupils achieving a C grade or better in both GCSE or iGCSE English and maths
- The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

*Both the Progress 8 and the Attainment 8 the subjects will be made up from English and Maths, both having a double weighting, 3 Ebacc subjects and 3 other subjects which may include GCSEs and vocational approved by the Department for Education.

Not only will the changes to reporting in 2016 affect your child, all GCSEs are now linear, meaning that students are no longer able to resit exams and will have to sit their exams in the summer. Another significant change is the introduction of an external component to all vocational courses including BTEC's meaning that students taking these courses will also need to sit an examination to complete their course.