

Gunnersbury Catholic School Curriculum Statement

Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum intent is set within a context of a Catholic vision for education which is reflected in our Mission Statement:

"Gunnersbury Catholic School strives to educate all its pupils within an environment where the Catholic traditions of learning, truth, justice, respect and community are promoted.

It encourages all to engage in as broad an interpretation of education as is possible, and one which is in keeping with the motto 'Ad Altiora' - 'To Higher Things.'"

Gunnersbury Catholic School aims to:

1. build a community based on Christian values
2. maximise the potential of the individual within the school in academic, personal, physical, social and spiritual terms
3. produce young men and women who will take their values beyond school to promote a better, more just society

We seek to achieve this by:

1. demonstrating fairness and justice in all school systems
2. promoting relationships based upon respect, tolerance and understanding throughout the school
3. creating a partnership in learning which identifies and develops the talents of each individual
4. learning, living and celebrating our Catholic tradition

In order to succeed in our mission we intend to develop every student to their full potential through a curriculum which:

- Is broad in its concept, balanced for the ability of each child and increasingly challenging whilst fostering a love of learning
- Is enriching and engaging and delivers opportunities for all students to be successful regardless of their background or prior attainment
- Enables students to gain the useful transferable skills of numeracy, literacy, oracy and ICT skills required for success in the wider curriculum and adult life

- Enables high standards of academic achievement where outcomes empower students to progress to Higher and Further education and employment
- Ensures that all pupils are able to thrive and develop as healthy individuals and good citizens within the wider community

Implementation

The curriculum is organised around a 30 period week with lessons each being 50 minutes in length. In key stage three students are offered a broad experiential curriculum including Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, History, Geography, Computing, Design Technology, Physical Education, Music and Art. In addition students are taught British Values, how to be safe, given careers guidance and are taught how to have healthy lifestyles.

At Key Stage Four pupils have some choice to allow for their individual interests and desired career paths. The majority of pupils follow the Ebacc and a few follow an alternative pathway with an element of vocational qualifications. Pupils are offered routes which afford them the greatest chance of success and progression. The GCSE and A Level options process is supported by careers advice and guidance as well as information evenings for parents and pupils.

In the Sixth Form students follow a two year curriculum plan of either A Level or BTEC National Level 3 Courses. A Level students initially chose four A Levels with the majority moving to three after the first term, some students continue with four A Levels. BTEC courses are offered in Business and Sport.

Baseline data and a personal knowledge of the student used to produce lessons that will stimulate and engage them enabling students across the academic spectrum to be challenged and stretched. Assessments are strategically planned into schemes of work enabling teachers to give high quality feedback to students and parents and using the student/parent/school partnership to support the development of the student. Our assessment and rewards systems recognise the importance of the effort and dedication shown by our students. We expect that all students will realise their potential through our curriculum and will develop in confidence and as Catholic citizens. This document should also be read with in conjunction with our SEND and Equal Opportunities policies.

The curriculum is regularly reviewed by the SLT, Subject Leaders and in Department meetings to ensure coherence and continual development. Subject Leaders are responsible for formulating their Curriculum Intent and overview which is shared with all members of their Departments. Subject Leaders ensure that teachers have the knowledge and expertise to enable students to make good progress across the curriculum.

The Wider Curriculum

As well as the formal aspects of our curriculum, the informal curriculum greatly contributes to the development of our students in the fullest sense. The Liturgies, Masses and Retreats are a regular and

integral part of the Catholic life of the school. An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities are offered including Duke of Edinburgh, Debating Competitions, Peripatetic music lessons, Jack Petchy activities, UKMT challenge, GCSEs in home languages, Orchestra, music groups, sporting clubs and teams, large whole school drama productions and visits within and outside of the school day. Well-Being weeks also support the development of the student and as an individual and the Aquinas group are prepared for life at university and beyond.

Impact

Our curriculum model leads to excellent pupil progress and achievement in public examinations. The breadth of the curriculum enables students to go on to study a variety of A Level and BTEC Level 3 qualifications. Students progress from our Sixth Form to a variety of destinations which include Oxbridge as well as other Russell Group universities.

The continual monitoring of pupils through our reporting system enables them to be encouraged and supported throughout their route to the public examinations. The curriculum is monitored and its development and refinement is a continual process. The Governing Body is consulted and involved in curriculum developments and actively engages with subject leaders. The curriculum statement is approved by Governors annually and parents are kept informed via newsletters, parents' evenings and information evenings. This ensures all of our school community are aware of our curriculum intentions and goals.