

At The Holt, when our students leave us, we want them to be self-confident, to know how to build and sustain strong relationships, to have high aspirations and to have achieved their very best.

Our vision for the school is summed up as *Inspire, Challenge and Achieve*.

Inspire- every member of The Holt community to take every opportunity in and out of the classroom to learn and flourish

Challenge- everyone to be the best they can be

Achieve- success in all aspects of life.

As part of our provision to meet our vision for the school, we offer a curriculum that is broad, balanced and rigorous. The curriculum covers all disciplines to enable our students to flourish academically and to become cultured citizens with good character so they may contribute positively to their own lives and those of others.

We aim to provide a curriculum which:

- fulfils all National Curriculum requirements
- uses a variety of learning and teaching strategies which develop independent learning
- has an imaginative approach within a stimulating learning environment
- is designed to meet the needs of each individual student
- promotes cross curricular skills and knowledge
- includes opportunities for global learning

The school operates a 50 period fortnight with 5 one hour lessons per day, with an occasional period 6 for the 6th form.

1. Key Stage 3- Years 7, 8 and 9

We have a traditional three-year Key Stage 3 because we believe this offers the breadth of knowledge and cultural understanding that students need to equip them with the building blocks to move on successfully to Key Stage 4.

a. Compulsory National Curriculum subjects

- English
- maths
- science
- history
- geography
- modern foreign languages
- design and technology
- food preparation and nutrition
- art and design
- music
- physical education
- citizenship

- computingPhilosophy of Religion
- Drama

b. Setting arrangements

Year 7: Students are taught in mixed ability groups except in Mathematics where they are set by ability

Year 8: In addition to Maths, students are taught in ability groups in Physical Education, MFL, English, humanities and Science.

Year 9: All subjects, except food and technology (Design Technology and Textiles) are taught in ability groups.

c. Pathways

The Learning Link provides a tailored pathway so that all our students can flourish. Our Inspire Challenge Achieve (ICA) Pathway is successfully designed and developed for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who are unable to access some of the curriculum in the mainstream environment with the aim of improving their literacy and closing the attainment gap between them and their peers. Students work as a small group with one main teacher leading their studies in the humanities subjects.

Other students needing help receive individual or small group support, whenever possible as part of mainstream classes.

ICA students are identified in Year 7 as those who score 80 or below in the SATS KS2 scaled scores where 100 is the floor standard.

2. Key Stage 4- Years 10 and 11

GCSEs are designed to be taught over two years and this is reflected in our two-year Key Stage 4 curriculum.

Most students work towards national qualifications, usually GCSE subjects, but also Cambridge First/Btec National qualifications

a. Subjects

Students follow a core curriculum comprising

- English (language and literature)
- Maths
- Science (triple or combined)
- A modern foreign language

In addition, students study

- physical education, either full GCSE course, or Sports' Leader course
- citizenship

- Philosophy of Religion (PoR). All students begin this course in Year 9 and have an early entry for either the full course GCSE or the short course GCSE in Year 10

Students then choose 5 further subject options

b. Setting

Students in KS4 are set by ability in maths, science and English. There is setting in modern languages where the timetable allows.

c. Pathways

Students choose courses from one of five pathways

- *GCSE EBacc pathway* – students select three subjects including history and/or geography from a wide range of options set out over three blocks, as well as a Modern Foreign Language.
Whilst we strongly recommend most students follow the EBacc pathway, we recognise that for some students this is not the right choice and as such we do not direct this.
- *GCSE non- EBacc pathway* - students select three subjects from the option blocks but not history or geography as well as a Modern Foreign Language
- *A mixed GCSE/non- GCSE pathway*- students mix and match GCSE courses along with a choice of up to two Cambridge First/Btec certificates. These are offered in child development and health and social care.
- *English plus pathway*- students select the English plus route and two other subjects from the blocks. This could include history and/or geography in order to achieve the EBacc.
- *An Alternative Provision pathway (ICA)*- this provides an opportunity for students to receive additional help and support instead of taking a GCSE in MFL and/or up to two GCSE subjects

The Learning Link extends its ICA curriculum to students in Key Stage 4, who require extra help. Students may be offered a health and social care level 1 course and/or an ASDAN COPE award (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) as an alternative to up to two GCSE options. This qualification comprises work experience and work readiness units through a continually assessed ASDAN log. In addition, students do not study a modern foreign language but instead work with Learning Link on their core subjects.

3. Key Stage 5- Years 12 and 13

A range of different A level subjects are offered along with a level 3 Btec Health and Social Care at Diploma level and Extended Diploma level.

4. Tutor programme

a. Key Stage 3 and 4

The school operates a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) for all students with one lesson every two weeks which is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHE for Year 7-11. The programme includes education on living in the wider world, relationships and health and wellbeing.

b. Key Stage 5

The co-heads of 6th form lead a seminar programme with one lesson every two weeks for each of Year 12 and Year 13. The programme includes education on study skills, post 18 options, personal finance, driving and relationships.

5. More able students

More able students (those with CAT scores of 129+) are provided with the opportunities for high level performance through a variety of extension and enrichment activities, which challenge and stretch them to achieve their very best. I. These occur within the curriculum as well as extra-curricular activities. The *More able* co-ordinator leads staff in ensuring the identification and appropriate support for individual students, with a whole-school focus on providing experiences that enhance and extend learning for *all* students.