

## The Holt School Curriculum

Our vision for our students is that they leave us as self-confident individuals, who know how to build and sustain strong relationships, have high aspirations for themselves and achieve their very best. We want them to be prepared for responsible adulthood taking with them principled values that will impact positively on their lives and those of others. We do this through our broad and balanced curriculum.

The Holt School curriculum is designed to cover a broad range of subjects as well as develop independent learning, team working, effective participation, self-management, creative thinking and reflective learning. The curriculum is broad and balanced to enable every student to develop their academic strengths and personal talents.

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

As a fully comprehensive school, our curriculum caters for students of all abilities. In addition, we offer an extensive range of extra and super curricular opportunities across all subjects. As a school with a truly global outlook we pride ourselves on our various global and “drop down” days as well as welcoming in numerous visitors from overseas to join us in the classroom.

## **The Timetable**

The school operates a 50 period fortnight with 5 one hour lessons each day. However, in the 6<sup>th</sup> form, there are some lunch and period 6 lessons to enable fine setting, specialist teachers and specialist rooms.

## **Key Stage 3– Years 7, 8 and 9**

### **Subjects studied**

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Design and technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Art and Design
- Music
- Physical education
- Citizenship
- Computing
- Philosophy of Religion
- Drama

### **Setting**

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 nutrition and technology (design technology and textiles) are taught in ability groups.

## **Key Stage 4 – Years 10 and 11**

### **Subjects**

During Key Stage 4 most students work towards national qualifications, usually GCSE subjects, but also Cambridge First/Btec National qualifications

All students follow the core curriculum comprising

English, maths and science

In addition, students study

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

Almost all students study at least one modern foreign language as part of the compulsory element. Students then pick three further options at GCSE or alternative courses. Students are encouraged to take geography and/or history in order to complete the suite of Ebacc subjects, but it is not compulsory. Students pick the courses that are right for them.

### **Setting**

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

### **GCSE Grading**

From 2019 all GCSE subjects' grading will fall in line with the number system.

Grade 4 is set to be the new grade C, (standard pass)

The additional upper grade of 9 will provide greater discrimination at the top end.

Old	New
A**	9
A*	8
A	7
B	6
	5
C	4
D	3
E	2
G	U

### **Key Stage 5 – The Sixth Form**

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.

A level subjects on offer are:

English Literature

Maths

Further Maths

Biology

Chemistry  
Physics  
French  
Spanish  
History  
Government and Politics  
Geography  
Art  
Music  
PE  
Psychology  
Sociology  
Computing  
Product Design  
Business  
Economics

### **Tutor Programme**

The school operates a programme of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) for all students with one lesson every two weeks. This is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHE for Years 7-11. Each Year group's programme includes careers, citizenship, sex and relationship education, work related learning and other aspects appropriate to students' requirements. In the 6th Form, there is a seminar programme delivered by the Heads of Sixth form and their team and includes study skills, careers, citizenship and sex and relationship education and other aspects appropriate to students' requirements.

### **Additional Support**

#### **Key Stage 3**

The Inspire, Challenge and Achieve Curriculum (ICA) provides selected students in Years 7 8 and 9 additional help and support, 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.

#### **Key Stage 4**

The ICA curriculum extends 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.

### **Extending the more able**

Potential High Attainers (PHA) throughout the School 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 potential. These occur within the curriculum as well as extra-curricular and additionally scheduled activities. The PHA 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.