

BEACON HILL ACADEMY

Curriculum offer 2018-2019



We want our learners to become successful learners and are committed to ensuring that the rich curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom is designed to expand learner's intellectual capacity and develop their cultural horizons.

Each year we review and change our curriculum to ensure that it is broad, balanced and relevant to the needs of all our learners. It offers a range of personalised progression pathways and enables our learners to make rapid progress in both core and foundation subjects, whilst giving our learners the opportunity to experience a wealth of other enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities. At Beacon Hill Academy we offer over 30 subjects and are very proud of the range of STEM courses that we have available at KS4. Please see our curriculum offer for more information.



Aims:

- ✓ Promote a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ✓ **Accelerate progress** in core skills such as literacy, numeracy and scientific enquiry.
- ✓ Create **Personalised Pathways** to meet the needs of all learners.
- ✓ Reflect the needs and skills of the local community and raise aspirations of all learners.
- ✓ Promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 our curriculum places a strong emphasis on 'the basics', ensuring that learners make good progress in English, mathematics and science in order for them to be successful at GCSE and beyond. However, learners also get the opportunity to learn 2 foreign languages, 3 humanities subjects, 2 technology subjects, 3 expressive arts and have 2 PE lessons a week. The curriculum offers stretch and challenge to all learners and additional support is timetabled for those that may require a boost in their literacy or numeracy or have specific learning difficulties. The Learning Support faculty supports learners and offers a range of personalised intervention programmes.



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Number of lessons in Key Stage 3

LESSONS	YEAR 7	YEAR 8
4	English	English
4	Mathematics	Mathematics
3	Science	Science
1	History	History
1	Geography	Geography
1	RS	RS
2	PE	PE
1	Art	Art
1	Music/ Drama	Music/Drama
2	Technology	Technology
3	Language	Language
1	ICT	ICT
1	EDGE Programme / PSHEE	PSHEE

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Key Stage 4 learners specialise in their option subjects ready for their GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11. Here learners get the opportunity to take a range and variety of subjects based on their individual needs, interests and skills.

All learners and their parents are invited to a meeting with a senior member of staff to jointly decide the most appropriate personalised pathway and subjects to choose at KS4.

Our curriculum not only develops learner's knowledge and understanding in a range of subjects, it enables them to develop the skills required to become independent, articulate and confident learners.



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School Curriculum

In recent years there have been national reforms in all Key stages and GCSEs are now more challenging than ever. The new specifications and syllabuses have more content and have little or no controlled assessments. This means that learners need additional time to cover the breadth of the new GCSE specifications.

The academy will continue to deliver the National Curriculum programmes of study in: English, mathematics, science, art, design & technology, ICT, history, geography, Philosophy Ethics & Religious studies (PEARS), Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), music, drama and Physical Education (PE).

The KS3 curriculum removes repetition, adds pace and challenge and guarantees a stimulating experience for all learners. Learners are able to make option choices during Year 8, ready to commence GCSE or equivalent study from the start of Year 9.

The three-year approach to KS4 will increase the flexibility and range of options available, personalising the curriculum pathways for learners, enabling stretch and challenge for all abilities. The additional time will also ensure that all learners can secure the range, number and quality of qualifications and experiences that suit their ability, needs, interests and aspirations.



Year 8 Options Process

The key stage 4 curriculum is designed to give learners every opportunity to make the highest level of achievement and to maximise the choices available to them at post-16. All learners in years 9, 10 and 11 study English language, English literature, mathematics, double Science, core ICT and physical education. Learners have a considerable amount of curriculum choice available and can choose from a mixture of GCSE, BTEC and vocational qualifications.

All learners must select at least one Ebbac subject (History, Geography, Computer Science, Separate Sciences or a Modern Foreign Language). Learners can then select a further two Level 2 qualifications. These can be a mixture of GCSEs, BTECs or other Level 2 Technical Awards.



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The Enrichment Programme (PSHEE)

The Enrichment programme can be described as ‘learning to live life well.’ It deals with real life social and economic issues affecting children & young people, their families and communities. The Enrichment programme at Beacon Hill Academy will help develop the knowledge, understanding and skills young people need to manage their lives, now and in the future.

- All learners will be off timetable for a whole day each term.
- Learners will be in year/tutor groups
- Learners will take part in a rotation of workshop style sessions throughout the collapsed timetable day.

While PSHE education is a non-statutory subject, section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework document states that:

‘All schools should make provision for PSHE, drawing on good practice.’

The Enrichment programme at Beacon Hill Academy is an important and necessary part of all learners’ education and that builds, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the national curriculum, the basic school curriculum and takes into account the statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.

The Enrichment programme:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of learners at the school within wider society.
- Prepares learners at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of ‘later life.’
- Promotes learners’ wellbeing and safeguarding (Children Act 2004) and community cohesion (Education Act 2006).
- Reduces prejudice-based bullying and in doing so keeps protected characteristic groups safe (The Equality Act 2010).

The dates for the new Enrichment days for this academic year are as follows:

- 11th October 2018
- 16th November 2018
- 5th February 2019
- 5th July 2019
- 8th July 2019

Termly Enrichment days give additional time for learners to cover aspects that are not covered in the traditional curriculum. Topics include online safety, safe sex, drugs and alcohol, finance workshops, careers advice, industry interviews, CV workshops, relationships with others, leadership and college visits.



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Extension Learning

Learners follow a weekly home learning timetable to reinforce, stretch and challenge in the curriculum. In addition, learners have opportunities to extend their learning in specific subject areas, such as participating in the mathematics challenge days, school concerts and productions, sporting activities, public speaking and writing competitions.

An example of a **Year 9** home learning timetable is below:

- Science - 3 x per week
- English– 3 x per week
- Mathematics – 3 x per week
- Option A – 1 x per week
- Option B – 1 x per week
- Option C – 1 x per week

Each learning task set in these subjects is intended to take between 30-60 minutes to complete.

Trips and Visits

The school is very proud of the opportunities and the structured programme of trips and visits it offers to all of its learners. These local, national and international visits and trips both extends the curriculum and promote learners Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC).

Each year the school takes part in a number of trips and visits that extends learners' learning. Please see below a list of some of these opportunities which range from year 7 to year 11:

- Year 7 Places of Worship Trip (Humanities Integrated Curriculum —'Who do you think you are?')
- Over 120 learners perform at Beacon Hill Annual Dance Festival at Dudley College
- Study trip to China for Engineering and Business Studies learners.
- Year 10 & 11 learners trip to Poland; this includes visiting Auschwitz.
- Year 10 Work Experience learners travel to Germany to practice their language and leadership skills whilst taking part in a weeks work experience in their chosen industry.
- Year 9 learners stay in a chateau in Normandy, France, visit battle sites of World War 2 and the D Day landing beaches and see the Bayeux tapestry.
- Learners with an interest in STEM subjects visit Iceland, the home of geothermal and hydro-electrical power, thermal springs and geysers.
- Year 7—9 research visits to Dudley Archives as part of the WWI commemorations project, which the school is working on with the local residents association.
- The learners who participate in these trips, visits and performances will be posting their reports on school website.

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Extra-Curricular opportunities

There are extensive wider curricular options on offer to learners throughout the Academy. During 2014-15 the below activities will be offered as part of the curriculum offer.

- Brass band
- Concert Band
- Guitar/ rock band
- Samba group
- Dance – classical/ tap/ ballet/ contemporary
- Enterprise Club
- Eco Warriors
- Robotics
- Computer Programming
- Creative club
- Languages club
- Art Club
- Chess club
- Homework club
- Science club
- ICT club

