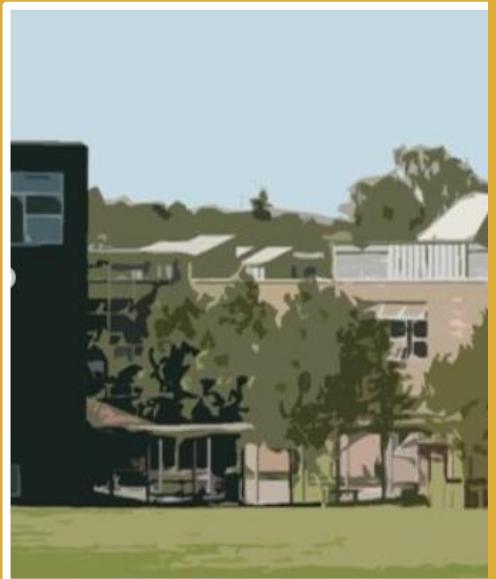


The Minster School Curriculum

Academic Curriculum





The Minster School Curriculum

The Minster School curriculum is based around the school ethos. Our curriculum is built around our school virtues of **Wisdom, Optimism, Resilience, Kindness and Service** and it designed to ensure that all students can **Succeed Together**. "Enabling all members of our school community to work together, care for each other and strive to realise their potential in their studies and all other aspects of life". This we believe can be achieved through hard work.

“

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord.”

Colossians 3:23.

Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive so that all students can access it no matter what their starting point. We maintain a strong focus on SEND; lessons and activities are designed around inclusion and adapted to meet the needs of individual learners where needed.

There are 4 strands to the school curriculum. These are interwoven across the school and within each key stage.

Academic curriculum –

This enables students to access a wide range of subjects, to develop their knowledge and learn how to use that knowledge to achieve great outcomes.

Extended curriculum –

This builds on learning in lessons to allow students to continue to develop knowledge and how to apply it, once they have left the classroom.

Immersive curriculum –

This provides opportunities for students to engage more deeply in school life, take on responsibility and demonstrate their wider skills.

Spiritual curriculum –

This gives students the opportunity to explore spiritual and moral aspects of learning and gives them opportunities to travel on their faith journey.

Academic Curriculum

* See our options process for more details on this.

We believe that all students should have the opportunity to excel in their studies and to develop wisdom, both in terms of their knowledge and the application of it across a broad and expansive curriculum.

Emphasis is placed on developing Maths and English across Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 whilst maintaining a full and balanced curriculum that embraces the Arts, Sciences, Humanities and Languages.

All students experience the full range of subjects at Key Stages 2 and 3 before specialising at Key Stage 4 through the options process. Those who progress to Key Stage 5 choose 3 subjects to take through to their A Level exams.

Alongside this the school has a strong focus on Literacy through Library reading lessons, Drop Everything and Read time which take place at Key Stage 3, Literacy support and a commitment to disciplinary literacy across all subject areas.



“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding”

Proverbs 3:13



Core Offer

All student study follow the core offer throughout their time at the Minster School.

At Key Stages 2 & 3 schemes of learning are mapped against the National Curriculum to ensure full coverage.

At Key Stage 4 schemes of learning are mapped against GCSE exam criteria or Key Stage 4 National Curriculum requirements as appropriate.

- Core subjects are:
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Religious Studies
- PSHE
- Relationships and Sex Education

As a Church of England School, Religious Studies plays a central role in our core offer. Our curriculum reflects our status as a Church school but is also in keeping with the Locally agreed syllabus for Nottinghamshire.

At Key Stage 5 students opt for their chosen subjects. However, alongside this students follow a programme of Faith, Culture and Life – which explores religious, moral and cultural issues. They also study PSHE which is delivered through the tutor programme and additional days.



“Never regard study as a duty, but as the enviable opportunity to learn.”

Albert Einstein

Foundation Offer

All students study foundation subjects throughout Key stages 2 and 3. Even after students have chosen their options they continue to study the full foundation offer to ensure that they get a broad and balanced learning experience.



“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardour and diligence.”

Abigail Adams

Foundation subjects that are taught in Key stages 2 & 3 are:

- Art
- Design Technology (Food, Textiles, Resistant materials, CAD/CAM and Electronics)
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- IT & Computing
- Music
- Modern Foreign Language (French, German, Spanish)

Foundation offer for Key stage 4. Foundation subjects taught at Key Stage 3 are all available for students to choose at Key Stage 4 alongside the following additional subjects:

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Music Technology
- PE
- Sports studies





Options

In Years 9 and 11, students opt for subjects that they are going to study at Key Stage 4 and 5. Students are offered advice through the options process, through tutors and the schools careers advisor to ensure that they opt for the best subjects for them.

At GCSE all students study core subjects and 4 additional options.

The majority of students follow our core offer which consists of a Modern Foreign Language and 3 additional options subjects. These are made up of our foundation offer as well as new subjects such as Business studies, Economics, Music Technology and Sports studies. Students are encouraged to take EBacc subjects.

A minority of students are guided in their choice of subjects. These students are not required to take a Language but instead must take either History or Geography. Guidance is given to their remaining 3 choices but students' own preferences are always taken into account. Some of these students are also encouraged to take Supported study which replaces an option and gives extra support with English, Maths and general study skills.

“

“Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.”

John C Maxwell

At A Level all students choose 3 subjects alongside, Faith, Culture & Life as well as either Core Maths, Further Maths or EPQ.

Students are given a free choice as long as they gain the entry requirements for the individual courses they have chosen. Advice and support is given from subject teachers, tutors, the Post 16 team and the school's careers advisor via the Post 16 options process. Subjects include those offered at GCSE as well as new subjects such as Psychology, Photography, Politics, Theatre studies and Media studies.

Literacy

Literacy has a central importance to the school from Key Stage 2 all the way through to Key Stage 5. This encompasses whole school strategies and intervention work. Faculties have subject specific Literacy protocols covering how it is developed in their areas, linked to reading, writing and oracy.



“If you know how to read then the whole world opens up to you.”

Barrack Obama

Key Stage 2

- Students have daily opportunity for independent reading. There is also an expectation for students to read at home, this is tracked using reading diaries which parents have to sign.
- Student read to a teacher and are supported by school library reading lessons. They also take part in whole class reading usually linked to Topic work.
- Students have regular opportunities to develop their writing in guided writing sessions.
- Dedicated time is given to developing spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Literacy is mapped against Key Stage 2 levels and age-related expectations.

Key Stage 3

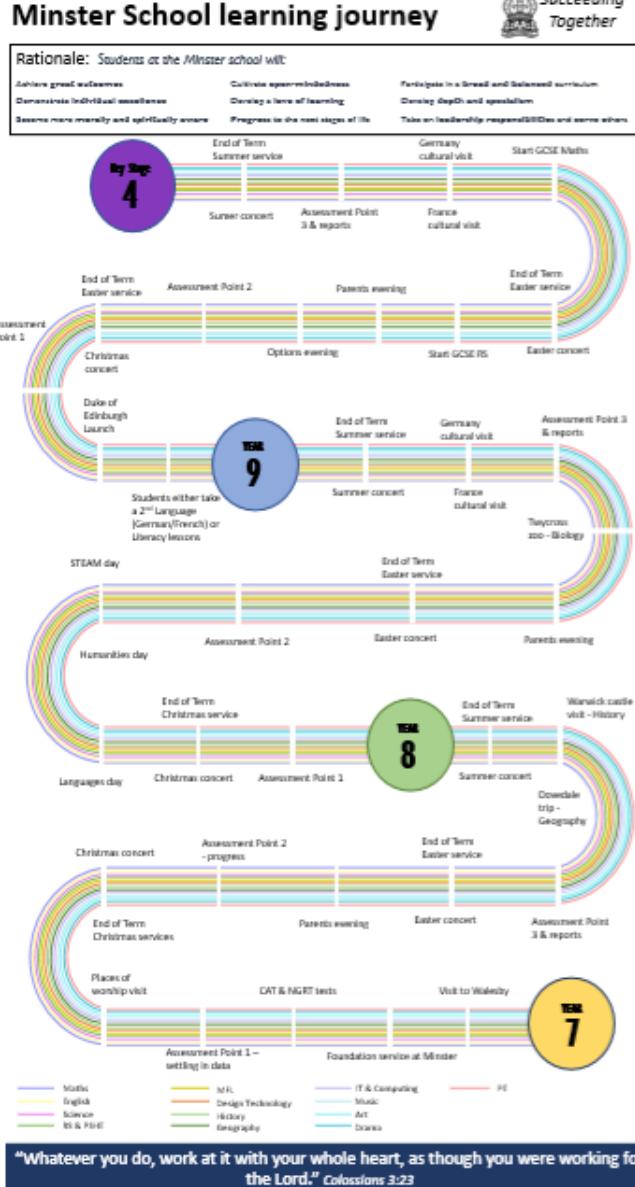
- All students have reading lessons in English and have timetabled lessons in the school library. For Year 7 these are fortnightly.
- All students participate in a 20 min weekly Drop Everything and Read session.
- Catch up reading lessons take place during tutor time for Year 7 students who need additional support.
- Year 8 and 9 Literacy classes are timetabled to support with written literacy as well as reading. These are for students who take a single MFL.

Key stages 4 and 5

- Subjects ensure that students develop their academic literacy, linked to their chosen subjects.
- All students study English Language and Literature as well as Religious Studies, a focus of each of these subjects is developing extended writing techniques. In English students use SQUID paragraphs to attain this.
- Year 10 & 11 supported study sessions aim to give academic support with a particular focus on Literacy and Numeracy.



More information



To view students learning journeys or for more detailed information about our school curriculum please go to our Website.

