Penketh High School

CURRICULUM INTENT AT PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL

At Penketh the curriculum supports our vision that we want a school that has a culture of high standards and expectations; a culture that promotes collaboration between pupils and staff to support the academic progress of the young people who attend the school. We want a school where pupils understand their role and their responsibilities in developing as learners and securing their own success as they operate in an environment of challenge and academic rigour.

At Penketh High School we recognise the importance of curriculum in setting out the principles, aims and content of the subject's students will encounter during their time as a student here.

Additionally, this core academic learning experience will be supplemented with curricula for personal development, social and health education, engagement with current affairs and the wider world as well as bespoke careers guidance. We believe in providing our students with intellectual, artistic and physical nourishment in order for them to leave with a rounded set of knowledge and skills that will enable them to thrive while in school and beyond. Our curriculum is designed to reflect our high expectations that all students at Penketh High School are capable of accessing a suite of subjects that prepares them for the next stage in their education and/or career. This is supplemented by high quality personal development, underpinned by our Learning for Life curriculum that helps students develop core skills and deep subject knowledge about faith, diversity, equality, British values and their role within communities.

CURRICULUM COHERENCE AND SEQUENCING

The curriculum at Penketh High School will to provide all students with a learning experience that builds skills that are vital for success at school and beyond. However, Cognitive science also shows us the critical importance of students acquiring knowledge is also crucial to the acquisition of skills. This is summed up clearly by Daniel Willingham

"Data from the last 30 years lead to a conclusion that is not scientifically challengeable...the very processes that teachers care about most – critical thinking processes such as reasoning and problem solving – are intimately intertwined with factual knowledge that is in long-term memory." Daniel Willingham.

At Penketh High School each curriculum area has ensured its curriculum structure and narrative ensures that students encounter the content necessary to develop the deep knowledge and broad range of skills crucial to develop within their own subjects as well as encounter a broad range of challenging texts that develop their reading and vocabulary as they move through school.

DEVELOPING STUDENT VOCABULARY

"Closing the vocabulary gap between our 'word poor' and 'word rich' students could prove the vital difference between school failure and success" Alex Quigley - closing the vocabulary gap

The school recognises that vocabulary is a good proxy for school success. At PHS we are committed to ensuring that curricular provision helps develop student's vocabulary so that they are able to develop a greater awareness of words that support academic and cultural development. We also recognise that. As such, at whole school level and within individual subjects a range of strategies are used to ensure that students improve the breadth and sophistication of their vocabulary. Furthermore, the school is committed to ensuring that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are given an opportunity to improve their vocabulary in order to close the gap on disadvantaged peers.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum is organised into 25 periods per week comprising 5 x one-hour sessions each day. Years 7, 8 & 9 form part of a foundation GCSE study and Year 10 and 11 are when students are fully beginning GCSEs across the full suite of subjects. The curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of individual students and maximise their achievement. The school believes in equality of opportunity for all students and that all students are capable of success.

CURRICULUM PLAN

The Curriculum Overview outlines the frequency of subjects taught over each year group.

KEY STAGE 3

SUBJECT	HOURS
Art & Design	2
Computing	3
Drama	1
English	8
Geography	4
History	4
Languages	3
Learning for Life	3
Mathematics	8
Music	1
Physical Education	4
Science	8
Technology	1

KEY STAGE 4 – E BAND

SUBJECT	HOURS
Computer Science	8
English	4
Learning for Life (RE & PSHE)	3
Mathematics	9
Physical Education	2
Science	8
Option: Humanities	6
Option: Languages	6
Option: Open	4

KEY STAGE 4 – P BAND

SUBJECT	HOURS
English	8
ICT	4
Learning for Life (RE & PSHE)	3
Mathematics	9
Physical Education	2
Science	8
Option: Humanities	6
Option: Languages	6
Option: Open	4

KEY STAGE 4 – S BAND

SUBJECT	HOURS
English	10
Humanities	6
ICT	4
Learning for Life (RE & PSHE)	4
Mathematics	10
Physical Education	2
Science	10
Option: Open	4

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

In order to help support our vision for students at PHS and to further help develop student's skills and confidence the school offers a comprehensive enrichment programme. This is run at lunchtimes and after school. Over 85% of students in the school have attended at least one enrichment session while 62% of students have attended more than one of these sessions. Further to these non-academic enrichments are our after school academic sessions.

Over 75% of our Year 11 cohort have attended academic enrichment tailored to meet their priority subjects.

Art Club	Film Club
Band Workshop	Foodie Club
Year 7 Basketball Club	Year 9 GCSE Drama
Year 8 Basketball Club	Geography Club
Year 9 Basketball Club	General Knowledge Quiz
Beginner's Latin	Girls Design & Engineering Club
Board Games	Golf Club (PE)
Orchard Board Games	Harmonix
Boys Choir	History Homework Club
Card Games	Lego Club
Chess Club	Mandarin Chinese
Chamber Choir	Mindfulness
Colouring Club	Music Tech Club
Countdown Club	Percussion Workshop
Craft Club	Photosynthesis Club
Dance Work Space	Puzzle Club
Dan's Army	Running Club
Dead Poets Club	Y7 & Y8 Science Club
Debating & Politics Club	Taskmaster
Design Drawing & Model Making	Wool Craft
Digital Art Club	Writer's Club
DoE Skills – Knitting Club	Year Graduation
DoE Skills – Model Making Club	Faith Club
E-Portfolio Club	Football