

Curriculum Handbook

2020-2021

Vision

Ambition and high aspirations underpin the academic, broad and balanced curriculum because we want every student to gain the skills to lead successful and fulfilling lives whatever their starting points. We are determined to give our students the very best education possible to enable them to realise their potential and take their place in a rapidly changing society. Preparation for global citizenship, independent thinking, high self-esteem and confidence are all hallmarks of the St John's student. We want our students to make a difference to the future of the planet and our educational programmes seek to bring this goal to fruition. You will see that this is an Academy that believes in the principles of ethical responsibility towards the world we live in – a set of principles we believe sit alongside our educational purpose.

Ethos

At St John's everyone is valued for who they are and for what they may become, and every student is treated as an individual. The ethos that we strive for unwaveringly is one whereby the students are nurtured in a kind, happy and supported environment. This ethos allows our values of Independence, Challenge and Resilience to be at the heart of everything we do. Our reputation as a caring academy which sets very high academic standards in a disciplined environment is well known. We believe that the quality of our teaching and learning is exceptional but know that our values and ethos are vital if our children are to be successful in an ever changing and demanding world. As an Outstanding Academy, the progress that our students make is consistently better than the national average.



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Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent

Ambition and high aspirations underpin the academic, broad and balanced curriculum at St John's because we want every student to gain the skills to lead successful and fulfilling lives whatever their starting points. We are determined to give our students the very best education possible to enable them to realise their potential and take their place in a rapidly changing society. Preparation for global citizenship, independent thinking, high self-esteem and confidence are all hallmarks of the St John's student. We focus on nurturing independent students equipping them with the life skills necessary to succeed. Literacy, oracy, numeracy, resilience and organisational skills are vital in preparing students for the wider world of work and further study. We want our students to make a difference to the future of the planet and our educational programmes seek to bring this goal to fruition.

Implementation

Throughout KS3 students follow a full, varied curriculum. We aim to provide an enriching and stimulating curriculum that gives every student the opportunity to succeed.

In Year 7 students study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Philosophy & Religion, French, Art, Drama, Music, PE, Wellbeing and Design Technology. In Maths, English and French, students are grouped into upper and middle groups based on their prior attainment in KS2. In all other subjects, students study in their mixed attainment tutor groups.

In Year 8, all students study a second foreign language (either Spanish or German.) Students study English and Languages in upper and middle groups, but Maths uses a more rigorous setting structure. Once again, in all other subjects, students are assigned to mixed prior attainment groups. These groups are designed to promote the best possible learning for all and are organised at the end of year 7.

In Year 9 we introduce Latin for upper English groups and Classics for middle English groups. Maths keeps its rigorous setting structure and in all other subjects, students are assigned to mixed prior attainment groups. These groups change from those in Year 8.

GCSE students will study five Core GCSEs: English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, & Combined Science (this is a double GCSE) and a further 4 other subjects. Students will also continue doing PE, Games & Wellbeing within the curriculum.

There are 3 main pathways, students will be allocated to one:

| <u>Pathway</u> | <u>Typical current grade</u> | <u>Typical percentage of students</u> |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Martinsell | Secured to Exceeding + | 63% |
| Avon | Developing + to Secured | 32% |
| Silbury | Raise to Developing | 5% |

Martinsell

- Must choose either French, German, Spanish or Latin
- Must choose either History or Geography
- 2 more choices from Art, Classics, Computer Science, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, Graphics, History, Hospitality & Catering, IT, Latin, Media, MFL, Music, Performing Arts: Acting, Performing Arts: Drama, Philosophy, Religion & Ethics, Photography, Product Design, Separate Sciences, Sport and Textiles.

Avon

- Must choose 1: French, German, Spanish, Latin, History, Geography or Computer Science
- 3 more choices from Art, Classics, Computer Science, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, Graphics, History, Hospitality & Catering, IT, Latin, Media, MFL, Music, Performing Arts: Acting, Performing Arts: Drama, Philosophy, Religion & Ethics, Photography, Product Design, Separate Sciences, Sport and Textiles.

Silbury

- Must choose additional support for Maths and English
- Must choose ASDAN Life Skills
- 2 more choices from a selection of recommended courses

Impact

The keys to success in life include a positive attitude and a good character. Mastering this requires adopting a growth mindset. At St Johns' we encourage students to have the ambition to be successful; through opportunities in sport, creativity, performance, experiencing the world of work, assemblies and through subject lessons. In everything we offer, we encourage students to value and demonstrate positive behaviour traits.

We measure impact *through*:

- Student outcomes
- Learning walks and observations
- Work scrutiny
- Termly data analysis through Alps connect and Sistra
- Department/HOF meeting minutes
- KS 4/5 uptake
- Extra-curricular attendance
- SEN/PP tracking data
- Summative/Formative assessment

And *Strong Impact* is shown by:

- Excellent outcomes at KS4/5 (results)
- Post 16 pathways are successful
- Excellent behaviour in lessons and attitude to learning
- Students take pride in their work, presenting it to a high standard

Cultural Capital

We recognise that at St John's being able to demonstrate a cultural awareness and competence is key to being successful in later life. Cultural Capital is an accumulation of knowledge, behaviour and skill. We believe that the three main attributes are: Physical (being and doing), Personal (having ambition and aspirations) and social (working well with others and interactions). Examples of how we help contribute to the St Johns' students' Cultural Capital:



Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body

The governing body monitors the effectiveness of the curriculum and hold the Principal to account for its implementation. They also ensure that St John's is teaching a "broad and balanced curriculum" and that proper provision is made for all students with different abilities and needs, including children with special educational needs (SEND).

Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that all required elements of the curriculum, including those subjects which the school chooses to offer, have aims and objectives which reflect the aims of the academy and indicate how the needs of individual pupils will be met. The amount of time provided for teaching the required elements of the curriculum is adequate and is reviewed by the Governing Body. The Academy's procedures for assessment meet all legal requirements. Proper provision is in place for pupils with different abilities and needs, including children with SEND.

Head of Faculty

The Head of Faculty is responsible for the quality assurance of their subject areas. They can do this documenting evidence using the QA system on a termly basis and reporting to line managers. QA evidence:

- Regularly looking at the class work in books
- Monitoring and supporting planning
- Analysing assessment data
- Monitoring targets
- Lesson observations/learning walks
- Work scrutiny
- Student voice
- Staff meetings
- CPD
- Appraisal

They must ensure long term planning is in place for all key stages, sequencing learning and that there is consistency in curriculum delivery. Schemes of work should be in place and be used by all staff, including non subject specialists. Assessment and feedback is according to The Feedback Handbook.

Further information can be found in our Teaching and Learning Policy and Feedback Handbook.

Wellbeing and Careers Education

Overall Wellbeing is very important, and students will continue to pursue their studies in Wellbeing through a carefully planned programme of lessons delivered once a fortnight by specialist teachers.

St John's is a safe environment where we celebrate equality and diversity. We are a Stonewall Champion Academy. The ethos that we strive for is one where all students are nurtured in a kind, happy and supported environment, and where you can develop the personal qualities and skills you need for a successful life.

Wellbeing covers three main themes: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World (careers advice). The keys to success in life include independence and the resilience to meet life's challenges, as well as a positive attitude and good character, and a growth mindset. Wellbeing contributes to all of these through this comprehensive programme. There is no examination in this subject.

Games

Students will continue to have games three times over the fortnight. They will begin developing independence within activities and learn how to officiate activities, improve their own fitness and evaluate and improve their own performance across a range of different activities.

Students will take part in Gymnastics and dance. Team sports such as basketball, football, rugby, netball, hockey and flag football. Attacking and defending skills and tactics. Passing, shooting, dribbling, defending, intercepting, control. Fitness training, introduction to fitness equipment, learning how to improve fitness – muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility. Striking the ball with control, accuracy and consistency and Athletics.

Extra-curricular and Enrichment programme

Students develop a passion for learning through our aspirational, differentiated curriculum and through a wide range of enrichment opportunities. There are many lunch time and after school clubs offered in a variety of activities from rock climbing to cartoon drawing.

Inclusion

Teachers set high expectations for all pupils and will use appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all. Teachers will plan and deliver high quality lessons which ensure students with SEND, disadvantaged and students with low prior attainment can study every subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every student achieving. Teachers will also take account of the needs of pupils whose first language is not English.

Further information can be found in our SEND Policy.

Legislation and Guidance

This handbook reflects the requirements for academies to provide a broad and balanced curriculum as per the Academies Act 2010, and the National Curriculum programmes of study which the school has chosen to follow.

It also reflects requirements for inclusion and equality as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2014 and Equality Act 2010, and refers to curriculum-related expectations of governing boards set out in the Department for Education's Governance Handbook.

Subject Curriculum Intents

Art and Design

The aim of Art and Design education at St Johns is for all students to realise their potential in creating, presenting and appreciating Art through the curriculum. All students have access to a wide range of experiences and will be encouraged to become independent, confident learners with a sound knowledge of how materials can be used, how artists can inspire us and how art can lead to a variety of further careers.

Business Studies (A Level)

The aim of Business studies is to enable students to appreciate the challenges facing Businesses in National and Global markets and to provide them with the knowledge and skills to participate in a dynamic and rapidly changing environment.

Classics

The aim of Classics is to equip students with the knowledge of the ancient Classical world, focussing on the ancient Greek and Roman literature and culture. Students will be able to analyse and evaluate primary source material, using this to form their own opinions on key Classical topics. We aim to foster a love of the ancient world, allowing the students to fully access the curriculum and encourage uptake for KS4, KS5 and beyond.

Computing

The aim of the computing department is to help students become competent & confident users of technology, to help them develop an interest in computing, and to demonstrate to them the potential of computer systems, and their impact on the modern world.

Dance

The aim of Dance is to develop students who are sensitive and articulate physical and verbal communicators of dance; who are proficient in the analysis of dance in its cultural manifestations, leading them beyond knowledge of a culture to an understanding and celebration of difference. The purpose of dance is to celebrate creative thinkers who are able to perceive, examine and evaluate different points of view, enabling them to choreograph and create their own visions in lieu of their understandings of others.

Design Technology (Product Design, KS 3/4 Textiles, KS 3/4 Graphics)

The aim of Design Technology is to explore the world of creative and original design. To prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. To enable students to design and make products themselves. To explore a wide range of design materials and to use them creatively. To experience a range of new technologies, to facilitate progression through GCSE, A level and onto University. Design and Technology is where Art and Science meet.

Drama

The aim of the Drama department is to develop confidence, communication and creativity skills. We aim to build a comprehensive knowledge in a range of theatrical styles and the abilities to interpret, implement and apply practitioner's techniques and methods. We aim to nurture students choice to enter the profession as a performer, director and/or designer or transfer these skills in the wider world of work.

Economics (A Level)

The aim of Economics is to enable students to appreciate the challenges facing the National and Global markets and to provide them with the knowledge and skills to participate in a dynamic and rapidly changing economic environment.

English

The aim of the St John's English Curriculum is to empower our students in their ability to use, understand and explore language in order to express themselves and make sense of the world around them. We aim to equip our students with a solid foundation of knowledge and lifelong skills in reading, writing and oracy. In doing so we hope to foster a love of reading and inspire students to adopt a critical eye towards any texts they may experience.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

The aim of Food Preparation and Nutrition is for all students to gain an understanding of the importance of nutrition and the part it plays in our diets and general health. We intend to equip all students with a range of food preparation skills to enable them to be independent and confident cooks. Students will develop an understanding of food science and the functional and chemical properties of ingredients and how they work in food preparation.

Forensics (A Level)

The aim of Science is to inspire and foster a lifelong love of Science and a desire to make a positive difference to the world. Students will apply a natural curiosity to develop evidence based understanding of the world around us and embrace the challenges that learning Science brings through mistakes and determination.

Geography

The aim of Geography is to teach students about the world. Students will learn about the physical forces that shape our planet; the ever-increasing human impact; the challenges facing the environment; the potential for sustainable development. Geography will broaden students' horizons: we aim to create empathetic students who can appreciate diversity and others views

Government and Politics (A Level)

The aim of Politics at Key Stages 5 is to ensure that students are prepared for the complex world of information today and how to evaluate it most effectively. Students are encouraged to synthesise this information and construct and present effective arguments, which are balanced. We also aim to enrich students' learning through immersion in the political world, for example through a trip to Parliament. To foster a love for the subject and debate.

Health and Social Care

The Health and Social Care Department at St. John's aims to make lessons engaging and challenging but, above all, that are memorable and enjoyable. We hope to use our lessons to encourage our students to look at the world with an informed and enquiring mind. We believe that the most important part of our work is to equip all of our young people with the ability to live a full life where they can become confident and questioning individuals and provide them with the future to which they aspire. The vision of the Health and Social Care Department at St. John's is that it can become the means by which our pupils can become resilient individuals who are prepared and equipped for an ever-changing world to which they feel certain they can contribute in a meaningful way.

History

The aim of History across all key stages is to ensure that students are prepared for the complex world of information today and how to evaluate it most effectively. Students are encouraged to synthesise this knowledge and to construct and present effective arguments. Students will be exposed to a variety of different cultures, societies and times in order to develop their sense of empathy to prepare people for a multicultural world. We also aim to enrich students' learning through immersion in the historical environment, by an analysis of evidence and trips. To foster a love for the subject.

Hospitality and Catering

The aim of Hospitality and Catering is to learn about the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation that needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all of those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. Students will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. Students will also develop their practical skills through a range of high skilled practicals, students will be able to justify a chosen menu to meet the nutritional needs of specific consumers.

Latin

The aim of Latin is to allow students to develop their understanding of the Latin language and the related ancient literature, values and society. Students will be able to look at Latin passages and be able to analyse the vocabulary and syntax throughout, whilst also making links to English and other modern foreign languages. We aim to foster a love of the ancient world, allowing the students to fully access the curriculum and encourage uptake for KS4, KS5 and beyond.

Maths

The aim of Maths education at St Johns is for all students to develop and retain key mathematical skills to facilitate confident participation within and beyond their educational setting.

Media

The aim of Tec Award and BTEC Media is to equip our students with vital skills that they need to navigate the modern world. We aim to encourage critical thought so that they can question the role of the media within a rapidly changing digital landscape, but also to encourage an understanding of how media is created, so that they can understand intention and interpretation, so that they can re-create it using the same principles. The courses focus on the practical skills that any student will be able to take into further study or the workplace.

MFL (French/German/Spanish)

The aim of the MFL department is to enable all students to develop their language skills so that they can become confident and resilient learners who will have an appreciation of other cultures and are able to take their place in a global community.

Music

The aim of Music education at St Johns is to provide a varied musical experience that is accessible for all whilst challenging for those with prior musical knowledge. To provide a life long passion and interest in music within a variety of genres. Students will develop knowledge and skills in performing, composing and appraising.

Philosophy & Religion

The aim of Philosophy & Religion education at St Johns is to provide our students with an intellectually challenging and personally enriching course of study. It helps our students consider beliefs and values, both their own and others, and promotes the virtues of respect and empathy, important in our diverse society. P&R fosters civilised debate and reasoned argument, helping students to understand the place of religion and belief in the modern world. It also helps them develop their skills as philosophers and gives them the opportunity to explore some of the most important ethical issues of our times. It develops them as critical thinkers, opens their minds and develops their ability to dialogue with those who have very different opinions to their own.

PE

The aim of Physical Education is to use physical activity to develop personal attributes and a desire to lead a healthy active lifestyle with the motivation to push physical and mental boundaries.

Photography

The aim of Photography is to appreciate and understand the world around us. For students to observe, question and respond to their environments and surroundings. We want students to be exposed to and learn to appreciate and understand photography, retaining knowledge through experimentation and resilience. Students will be equipped to be strong visual communicators, prepared for the workplace with a skill set based on organisational, time management, problem solving and lateral thinking skills.

Politics (A Level)

The aim of Politics at Key Stages 5 is to ensure that students are prepared for the complex world of information today and how to evaluate it most effectively. Students are encouraged to synthesise this information and construct and present effective arguments, which are balanced. We also aim to enrich students' learning through immersion in the political world, for example through a trip to Parliament. To foster a love for the subject and debate.

Psychology (A Level)

The aim of Psychology is to provide a broad but precise awareness of key psychological concepts to apply to real world examples enabling an appreciation of the behaviours in the diverse population around us.

Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)

The aim of Science is to inspire and foster a lifelong love of Science and a desire to make a positive difference to the world. Students will apply a natural curiosity to develop evidence based understanding of the world around us and embrace the challenges that learning Science brings through determination.

Sociology (A Level)

The aim of Sociology at Key Stages 5 is to ensure that students are aware of the various life chances of different social groups in the UK and beyond. Students are encouraged to synthesise this information and construct and present effective arguments, which are balanced. Students also have to analyse various theories, case studies and data. To foster a love for the subject and debate.

Travel and Tourism

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism is designed for post-16 learners with an interest in travel and tourism who want to continue their education through applied learning. The qualification is equivalent to one A level and is for those aiming to progress to higher education. Students will learn about key themes and issues in travel and tourism, from the shape and organisation of the industry to managing the customer experience. Issues are put into context to relate theory to actual practice in the travel industry.