

Weatherhead High School

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

September 2024



Statement of Intent

At Weatherhead High School the curriculum encapsulates our school's core values of **resilience, respect, reach and reward**. We encourage our students to be the best that they can be: academically, socially and as citizens. This is achieved through the delivery of an enjoyable and stimulating curriculum that enables students to progressively learn skills, develop their understanding and knowledge needed to question the world around them and become confident, respectful and successful young adults. There is a strong emphasis on the development of resilience amongst all learners through ensuring high quality, thoughtful, adaptive and responsive curriculum planning and teaching, and the setting and completion of meaningful homework.

The curriculum is intended to cultivate a love of learning and bring out 'the best in everyone', whatever their background or starting point. Our carefully designed broad and balanced curriculum is truly comprehensive and accessible to all. The curriculum is designed to promote ambition and high standards of academic and vocational achievement. The curriculum pathways we offer allow students to reach their full potential, facilitating success in both academic and vocational courses. The outcomes students achieve should enable them to successfully progress into higher education, apprenticeships or employment, and we intend for them to leave Weatherhead as well-rounded citizens suitably prepared for further learning and the world of work.

Weatherhead is proud to promote a rich culture of creativity. Students are encouraged to develop their talents in the creative and performing arts. There is a strong tradition of excellence in the field of Art and Textiles, and in recent years, the introduction of Photography into the curriculum has further enriched the experience for students. At Key Stage Three, Dance, Drama and Music are taught as discrete subjects enabling students to develop their creative talents, and develop oracy, self-confidence and interpersonal skills needed to succeed in other curriculum areas and life beyond Weatherhead. In addition, the development of STEM is an integral part of the curriculum offered. Students with an aptitude for science are able to opt for Separate Science subjects at GCSE and STEM opportunities are embedded in our enrichment curriculum.

Respecting British Values is at the core of the curriculum and we expand students' perspectives through a range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to promote their sense of moral and social responsibility.

Through the delivery of the curriculum, high value is placed on the development of students' literacy and oracy skills. It is the responsibility of all teachers to promote reading and develop students' vocabulary and oracy in order to improve their writing and spoken language skills. In lessons, students are exposed to high quality texts and reading material, which are used to inspire students and model the very best examples of Standard English.

We are ambitious in our belief that our curriculum raises aspirations for all students and tackles the challenges of social mobility. This will happen through quality first teaching, effective sequencing of learning and purposeful assessment that enables teachers to adapt teaching and allows students to learn from their mistakes and make content stick. The impact of the curriculum at Weatherhead will be measured by how effectively it provides students with the skills, knowledge and qualifications needed to be prosperous members of society who positively

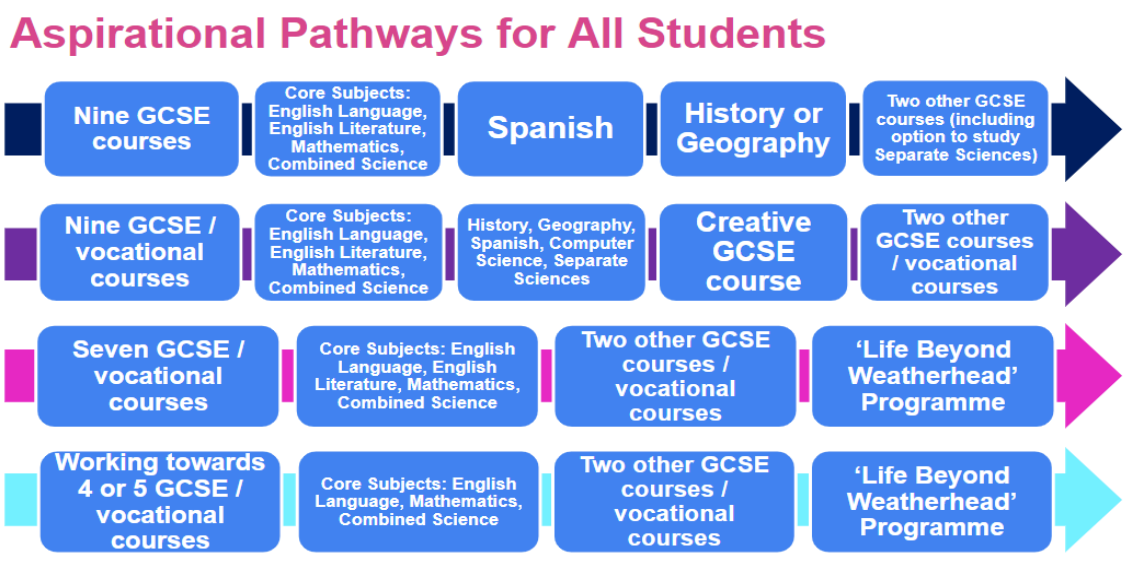
impact and influence those around them. Students' cultural capital, outcomes, interpersonal skills and progression towards higher education, training or employment provide evidence of the impact of the curriculum.

The purpose of the **Key Stage 3 curriculum** is to provide students with an enjoyable and enriching learning experience that develops robust knowledge, builds resilience and raises aspirations for all students through enrichment opportunities. The curriculum is challenging and is built on high expectations of all learners. There is a strong emphasis on nurturing confidence, self-direction and independent thinking.

Schemes of work and lessons are built around the core ideas of **'Knowing What'** and **'Knowing How'**. This means that across the curriculum there is a rich base of substantive knowledge that is shared with all students through high-quality, engaging and challenging lessons, with teachers actively supporting students to acquire the disciplinary knowledge needed to succeed. Assessment plays a vital role, with teachers using dynamic assessment throughout lessons. Teachers use assessment for learning to skilfully adapt instruction, leading students to develop a long-term understanding of content and the ability to apply skills in a range of contexts.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is intended as an inspiring progression from primary school. It stimulates students to build upon prior knowledge while refining essential skills and making interdisciplinary connections. Our aim is for students to develop their applied thinking abilities and problem-solving skills, all of which will prepare them well for the step up to Key Stage Four.

As students move into **Key Stage Four**, they are better informed and prepared to study their GCSE or vocational qualifications. Students will be inspired by their teachers and develop confidence as they acquire new skills and knowledge. As a fully inclusive school, the curriculum meets the needs of each individual and enables every student to succeed, irrespective of starting point and background. Year 10 students follow one of four curriculum pathways; each one has the school's values of resilience, respect, reach and reward at its core. The pathways are outlined below:



The curriculum provides a highly academic experience for the most able and gifted students,

framed around the EBACC suite of subjects and helping them progress to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. In addition, the majority of students study at least one creative subject, increasing their cultural capital and helping to narrow the disadvantaged gap and promote social equality, as well as developing students' self-confidence and communication skills.

The motivational pathway helps those who require more intensive support and adaption to secure positive outcomes and good attendance, and develop life-long learning that prepares them for life beyond Weatherhead. These students will benefit from work-based learning placements and access to vocational courses alongside the core curriculum. A small proportion of our students with more complex needs will follow a 'nurture' curriculum designed to ensure that they develop functional literacy, numeracy and digital IT skills. The students are provided with targeted support and guidance that will help them prepare for life after school.

The curriculum at Key Stages Four and Five is intended to prepare students for success in public examinations and is intended to prepare students for their education and employment beyond secondary school by imparting core knowledge, developing subject-specific language and promoting resilience by encouraging students to grapple with new concepts, develop their own ideas, and persist through academic challenges in order to reach their potential and the rewards this can bring.

The **enrichment curriculum** is an important part of the curriculum offered. The wide range of extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities are intended to encourage a strong sense of belonging for students as part of the Weatherhead community and enhance students' cultural capital. The transferable skills students develop by participating in the wider-school life are an important part of their character development. Students learn about teamwork, leadership, developing resilience, as well as, learning how to protect their mental health, reduce anxiety and promote positivity as they progress through school.

The infographic below demonstrates the core values that underpin the curriculum at Weatherhead:

Calm Classrooms, Calm Corridors

Resilience

Responsive and adaptive teaching addresses students' misconceptions. Teaching encourages thinking, promotes reflection, develops independence and enhances learning. Students are happy to take risks and learn from their mistakes.

Reach

High expectations regarding the quality of students' work, effort, behaviour for learning and homework help students to take pride in their learning and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Respect

Positive relationships create a supportive, rewarding learning environment. Students enjoy learning and are proactive in their own learning in and out of the classroom.

Reward

A culture of praise, celebration and reward motivates students. Students understand the importance of their learning and thoughtful well-sequenced lessons and task design leads to genuine student engagement and curiosity in lessons.