

Curriculum Digest

Welcome to Wilmslow High School.

All young people only get 950 days of secondary education; therefore, at Wilmslow High School we are committed to the **pursuit of excellence** for every student, every day. We see this as each and every one of our students **participating fully and performing highly throughout a powerful 'whole' curriculum.**

What do we mean by a powerful curriculum?

At Wilmslow High School we believe in offering our students a powerful curriculum. By this we mean that all our students are entitled to develop the powerful knowledge, skills and qualities that will allow them to flourish in life, learning and work. Each of our subjects focuses on teaching the powerful knowledge and **'Big Ideas'** that will allow students to understand this subject deeply.

What do we mean by a whole curriculum?

At Wilmslow High School we believe in offering our students a deep, broad and balanced 'whole' curriculum that will allow them to have a wide range of academic, creative, practical, sporting and character-building experiences.

We do this through our **formal curriculum** of subjects that are taught in the Year 7 timetable. More details on each of these subjects can be found on pages 10 - 34 of this booklet:

Year 7 subjects

Art	Design Technology Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing	Design Technology Product Design	Drama
English	French	Geography	German
History	IT Computing	Mathematics	Music
Physical Education	Religious Studies	Science	

We also do this through the **wider curriculum** that we offer. More information on our wider curriculum can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this booklet.

Expedition	Leadership and service	Community	Xtra
Wellbeing	Communication	Respect	Aspirations

What skills do we want our students to develop?

We have designed our whole curriculum to help our students to develop as:

Effective Communicators	Safe and healthy decision makers	Ambitious and independent learners	Confident leaders
Empathetic thinkers	Knowledgeable and responsible citizens	Active participants	Resilient and courageous team players

What will success look like for our students:

We want all our students to:

- make excellence academic progress
- develop excellent interpersonal skills and qualities
- participate in a wide range of competitions, projects and tasks.

How does this booklet help me as a parent?

- It outlines how students will learn at WHS
- It outlines how we assess your son/daughter's progress
- It outlines the '**Big Ideas**' that underpin each of the subjects that we teach
- It outlines what content your son or daughter will be taught in each subject
- It explains how each subject groups students
- It outlines our expectations of your son or daughter in terms of homework and independent study
- It gives details of extra resources available to support and challenge your son or daughter in each subject
- It gives details of our wider curriculum offer

What if I have further questions?

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact one of the following staff using their initial and surname followed by the school website address e.g. djones@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

Questions about your child's progress

Mr D Jones, Head of Bollin House
Mr M Bebbington, Head of Harefield House
Mr J Maw, Head of Norcliffe House
Mr J Duffy, Head of Thorngrove House

Questions about our formal curriculum

Mr T Munro, Senior Leader, Formal Curriculum Development

Questions about our wider curriculum

Mr H Williams, Senior Leader, Wider Curriculum Development



Headteacher

How do we talk to students about their learning of the formal curriculum?

At Wilmslow High School we talk about 'Complete Learning', by which we mean the process through which students move from taking on a set of facts and vocabulary to putting it together into a full and fluent understanding of an area knowledge.

In all of the subjects that make up our powerful curriculum, Curriculum Teams have established the key areas of knowledge or skills that a student must know by the end of a unit of work. Often Curriculum Teams will share this information in the form of a 'Knowledge Organiser' which breaks down what a student needs to know into smaller elements.

When a student begins learning a new unit of work, he or she will usually know very little of the content within it. We describe this level of learning, in which the student is looking at information for the first time, as initial understanding.

As the student begins to make sense of the material and to practise it, his or her knowledge becomes more substantial. We expect much of this practice to take place at home as part of homework, and teachers will help students develop the subject specific and more general skills they need to practice.

When a student has made sense of what he or she has been taught and remembered it, then we describe that knowledge as complete. We expect every student to have complete knowledge of what he or she is learning at the end of a unit and we believe that the student is responsible for this.

The final stage of learning occurs when the knowledge is so familiar to the student that it can be applied automatically. It takes time, and plenty of practice, for a student to gain this level of understanding. An outline of this process is in the table below:

Level of mastery	Description
Fluent	When you have understood it really thoroughly and are able to apply it in new situations and solve problems. At this stage much of your knowledge is so good that you are often not even aware of using it – it becomes automatic and unconscious.
Complete	When you have made sense of the ideas and remembered almost all of the important information . You can apply your learning but you probably still need to think quite carefully about parts of it in order to ensure you are doing it correctly.
Substantial	When you have understood the general idea and started to remember the key facts. With careful thought and a bit of help you can apply your knowledge and solve problems.
Establishing	When you are starting to make sense of what it all means and starting to learn the key facts.
Initial	How well you understand something when you have first been shown it.

We believe that regular low-stakes testing and quizzing are the best ways to ensure that a student can develop complete learning. Such tests will form part of lessons and we will work with all students to help them develop the skills of how to quiz themselves at home and how best to manage their own learning and revision.

How do we assess your child's progress?

At Wilmslow High School our approach to assessment is to separate:

- **Formative assessment** – understanding what a student can do and what they can't yet do at any particular time
- from **summative assessment** – which describes how well a student has learnt the material being taught at the end of a particular unit.

Our **formative assessment** uses the language of fluency and completeness, explained on the previous page. As we expect all students to achieve complete knowledge of the material they are learning, teachers are constantly assessing their progress toward this. Such assessments may include:

- Questioning in lessons
- Live marking of students' work
- Quizzes and tests in lessons
- Quizzes and tests set as homework
- Practice examination style questions or essays in class or set as homework

Teachers will use this assessment to help them plan lessons and to help them feedback to students about what they need to do next. Such feedback will concentrate on students' learning gaps and how to close these.

In Key Stage 3, our **summative assessment** takes the form of two sets of examinations per year for every year group. Every subject will set an examination and these will focus not only on the material taught recently, but also that from previous years. To enable students, parents and teachers to understand the progress that a student is making in a subject over time, we report examination scores using a Standardised Age Score system (which we refer to as S-Scores). On this scoring scale, an average student in the whole of the country will have a score of 100, any score greater than 100 is above average and any score less than 100 is below average. Typically, the average for Wilmslow High School is approximately 105.

When a student joins us in Year 7, we take a combination of their Key Stage 2 SATS scores, their Cognitive Ability Test scores (CATS) and a series of transition test scores for English, mathematics and science and we create a 'personal best' baseline. We then expect every student to aim to beat their personal bests in all subsequent examinations. We would expect a student with a baseline of 95 to aim to score higher than this as this will show they are working hard and growing as a learner. We share an examination certificate with parents and carers after each summative assessment window which shows students' attainment compared to their baseline.

To support us in understanding our students' progress in Key Stage 3, the students all sit nationally benchmarked progress tests, provided by GL assessments in the summer of Years 7, 8 and 9. They also sit a similar science paper in Year 9.

If you have any questions about the use of standardised scores in reporting, you may find this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjJXQ8VGqz0> of use.

The Wider Curriculum at Wilmslow High School

To ensure that each and every one of our students gets a complete educational experience, the Wider Curriculum is a substantial and vital part of the **Whole Education** of our students at Wilmslow High School.

The Wider Curriculum involves activities and learning experiences that take place beyond the formal curriculum of subjects that are taught, and in many cases it takes place outside the classroom, and sometimes beyond the school. We see this area of the Whole Curriculum as being an essential part of every student's learning entitlement, offering to all our young people the opportunity to learn about life in its broadest context: its challenges and opportunities, and how to respond to its successes and occasional disappointments.

Our emphasis on the Wider Curriculum indicates the importance that we place on extra-curricular and personal development activities within the ethos of our school, and the importance of achieving the right balance between academic focus and the development of wider knowledge, skills and qualities.

The Wider Curriculum model on page 6 is made up of 8 components. Each component represents a variety of wider learning opportunities that can be accessed during and outside the school day. These opportunities will be advertised and promoted by form tutors and teachers. We expect each and every one of our students to take an active role and to develop their skills, knowledge and qualities in every component.

Wider Curriculum lessons

In 2017-18, in line with the DfE recommendations outlined in the 'Life Lessons' document:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446038/50742_Cm_9121_Web.pdf

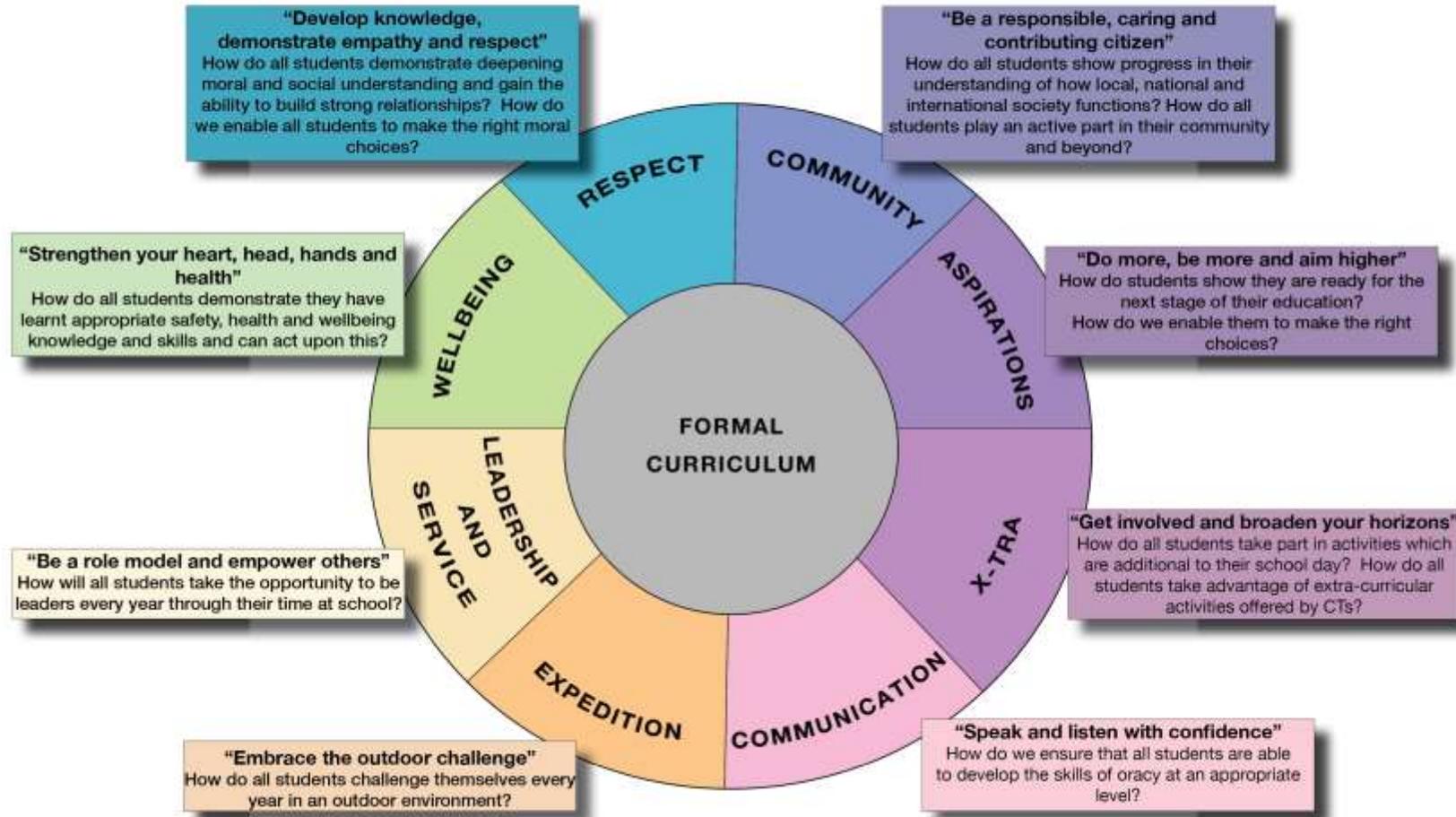
We will deliver a series of Wider Curriculum talks and lessons through the year that will enable all our students to effectively gain knowledge and skills planned by specialist staff, professionals and outside speakers in the 4 key Wider Curriculum components:

- Respect
- Wellbeing
- Community
- Aspirations

The dates of these Wider Curriculum talks and lessons can be found in the school calendar for 2017-18.

We are committed to the pursuit of excellence for every student, every day

A Whole Education at Wilmslow High School The Wider Curriculum Model



Wilmslow High School: A reading school

At Wilmslow High School our aim is to develop a reading culture that is fully embedded within our school, a culture that will become part of the foundations of the school and involve everyone in the process. Developing a love of reading in our students is one of our key responsibilities as educators, and as we develop further our Reading School project, we are keen to ensure that our students are supported with their reading both in school and at home.

Reading for Pleasure

Above all else, students should enjoy reading. If we can successfully foster a love of reading in our students whilst they are with us, they will reap the benefits far into the future.

In order to celebrate reading we provide our students with opportunities to access a range of experiences that we hope will develop a positive reading culture:

- We value greatly our links with Wilmslow Library, taking all Year 7 students for an introductory visit during the autumn term. Our local library also hosts our annual creative writing competition; a wonderful opportunity to emphasise the value of literacy.
- Making the most of our proximity to Manchester, we have strong links with the historic Portico Library.
- Our students have recently enjoyed success in the prestigious Sadie Massey Awards for Young Readers.
- National celebrations of reading, such as our 2015 record-breaking book quiz and Poetry by Heart, present valuable moments to promote and enjoy reading.

Daily Reading Practice: a priority

We aim to ensure that our students are reading regularly, with access to high quality books that they both enjoy and that present an appropriate level of challenge.

A key priority is to ensure that our students are engaging in daily reading practice. A minimum of thirty minutes every day should be spent reading in order to develop essential reading skills.

One registration period a week is devoted to reading. Furthermore, many lessons begin with reading time with students encouraged to seize moments to enjoy their current reader.

During break and lunchtime, 'Reading Rooms' have been created in order to provide spaces around school where students can relax with a book.

Quality Reading

We have compiled 'Top 50 Reads' lists to highlight good quality titles. These have been organised loosely according to the level of challenge that they present.

All our Year 7 and 8 students are enrolled on Accelerated Reader (AR). AR is a computer programme that helps teachers and librarians manage and monitor students' independent reading practice. Students pick a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When finished, they take a short quiz on the computer. (Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read.) AR gives students, teachers, and librarians feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher uses to help your child set goals and to direct on going reading practice. Students using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are interesting to them.

We would urge all our parents to support us by encouraging your sons and daughters to read at home.

If you would like advice or guidance on reading at Wilmslow High School please contact:

kbaldwin@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

Top 50 reads KS3 1-10 = most accessible, 40-50 = most challenging (number = Book level)

1. 'Boy' by James Mayhew	p. 32	(1.6)
2. 'Angel House' by Anne Curtis	p. 24	(1.7)
3. '20,000 leagues under the Sea' by Carl Bowen	p. 63	(3.0)
4. 'The Tell-Tale Heart' by Benjamin Harper	p. 63	(2.4)
5. 'Pale' by Chris Woodling	p. 69	(2.9)
6. 'Shine' by Candy Gourlay	p. 304	(3.5)
7. 'The Secret Garden' by Pauline Francis	p. 56	(3.6)
8. 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' by Carl Bowen	p. 63	(3.6)
9. 'Apple and Rain' by Sarah Crossan	p. 232	(3.8)
10. 'Oliver Twist' by Pauline Francis	p. 48	(4.1)
11. 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd	p. 322	(4.1)
12. 'Treasure Island' by Pauline Francis	p. 48	(4.1)
13. 'Pig-heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman	p. 208	(4.3)
14. 'Charlotte's Web' by E.B White	p. 175	(4.4)
15. 'Holes' by Louis Sachar	p. 232	(4.6)
16. 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl	p. 208	(4.7)
17. 'The Weight of Water' by Sarah Crossan	p. 240	(4.7)
18. 'Girl Online' by Zoella	p. 345	(4.7)
19. 'The 13 Secrets' by Michelle Harrison	p. 392	(4.8)
20. 'The art of being Normal' by Lisa Williamson	p. 353	(4.8)
21. 'Wonder' by R.J Palacio	p. 316	(4.8)
22. 'Above World' by Jen Reece	p. 356	(5.0)
23. 'Matilda' by Roald Dahl	p. 240	(5.0)
24. 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian	p. 386	(5.1)
25. 'The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13-3/4' by Sue Townsend	p. 268	(5.1)
26. 'Call of the Wild' by Pauline Francis	p. 56	(5.3)
27. 'The Giver' by Lois Lowry	p. 224	(5.7)
28. 'Angels in Training' by Karen McCombie	p. 192	(5.7)
29. 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr	p. 277	(5.7)
30. 'The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe' by C.S Lewis	p. 171	(5.7)
31. 'I Capture the Castle' by Dodie Smith	p. 408	(5.9)
32. 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo	p.142	(5.9)
33. 'Tom's Midnight Garden' by Philippa Pearce	p. 229	(6.1)
34. 'Northern Lights/ The Golden Compass' by Philip Pullman	p. 399	(6.2)
35. 'The boy at the Top of the Mountain' by John Boyne	p. 215	(6.2)
36. 'The Colour of Magic' by Terry Prachett	p. 285	(6.4)
37. 'The Hobbit' by JRR Tolkien	p. 280	(6.6)
38. 'Anne of Green Gables' by LM Montgomery	p. 253	(7.3)
39. 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll	p. 207	(7.4)
40. 'Peter Pan' by Barrie James	p. 200	(7.7)
41. 'Black Beauty' by Anna Sewell	p. 346	(7.7)
42. 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' by Mark Twain	p. 342	(8.1)
43. 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson	p. 346	(8.3)
44. 'The War of the Worlds' by H.G Wells	p. 172	(9.1)
45. 'Around the World in Eighty Days' by Jules Verne	p. 245	(9.6)
46. 'The Mill on the Floss' by George Elliot	p. 472	(9.9)
47. 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens	p. 511	(11.3)
48. 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' by Victor Hugo	p. 501	(11.8)
49. 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen	p. 238	(12)
50. 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley	p. 282	(12.2)

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Art

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

In Art there are four Big Ideas:

- **TECHNIQUE** – Solidifying core skills in art and design, and practicing in order to improve confidence and proficiency
- **REFINEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT** – Demonstrating the process of re-drafting and experimentation to produce increasingly creative art work
- **RESEARCH AND CONTEXTUAL STUDY** – Using other artists and artworks as sources of inspiration, and understanding art in context
- **ANALYSING AND EVALUATING** – Using the process of analysis to develop deeper understanding and reflecting on student’s own work to aid personal development and communication skills

At the heart of the art curriculum is perfecting skills and experimentation. We want all students to reach a competent level of skill and application and have the ability to lead develop their work in an experimental direction.

Year 7 Art	
Unit 1	Formal Elements: Students undertake rigorous explorations in key media, reinforcing fundamental skills, and understanding of the formal elements in art and design
Unit 2	Contextual Studies: In depth analysis of artist’s work and practice. Students engage with concepts and techniques to inform and develop their own work further
Unit 3	Personal Interpretations: Students demonstrate the skills and knowledge gained, working more autonomously on personalised projects

In art lessons, students explore and experiment with a variety of processes and techniques, developing their practical and technical skills. The programme of study across Key Stage 3 enables students to develop their critical and contextual knowledge and understanding of the world of art history and practice, and to develop as confident, enthusiastic and independent artists themselves.

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

Art homework in Year 7 enables students to continue their development outside of lesson time, a crucial habit for students to adopt early on. Homework is tailored in order to allow for prior learning about an artist, movement or technique, as well as to consolidate skills and knowledge taught in lesson. Homework tasks are structured in order to allow students to gradually become more independent as the year progresses, nurturing the creativity and autonomy. Students require access to basic art media for homework activities. Firefly is the online tool used at Wilmslow High in order to help students organise their homework tasks and refer to detailed information easily.

Students are required to bring their folder/sketch book to every lesson and to meet all homework deadlines. Students do need to be properly equipped with a basic set of water colour paints, rubber, sharpener, ruler and drawing and colouring pencils.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- Pop-Up workshops run through the year allowing students to try new and exciting art techniques
- Firefly is the recently launched Virtual Learning Environment in which students can access information from their lessons, knowledge organisers, as well as additional resources and tutorials.
- The art area is available after school if students wish to complete extension work
- Students are encouraged to make the most of online resources including www.pinterest.com, art2day.co.uk in order to inspire and motivate.
- Students are also advised to use resources and tutorials from the BBC bitesize – art and design pages, and YouTube.

We would encourage our students to consolidate, enrich and expand their knowledge and understanding of the world of art. We would advise www.artcyclopedia.com as a starting point for this. Also valuable is the BBC website which aims to publish online the entire UK national collection of oil paintings:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings>

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- As student's progress through Key Stage 3 they are encouraged to take a more independent approach and take creative risks in their work
- Extension tasks are used to further challenge ambitious and aspiring students
- Further reading and enquiry in to artists is recommended. Students can visit sites including www.studentartguide.com which provides an excellent range of student examples, ideas, artist's work, and technical advice in order to support independent study.
- Students work is displayed throughout the school to encourage the best outcomes students are capable of

Students are taught art in mixed ability groups.

Design & Technology - Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

In Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing there are six Big Ideas:

- Health
- Science
- Safety
- Choice
- Provenance
- Preparation

At the heart of Food, Nutrition and Wellbeing is knowledge and application. Our curriculum prepares students to:

- develop sound working practices to aid organisational skills
- practice particular skills
- evaluate familiar products
- become proficient with an increasing range of ingredients
- become competent at matching their choice of ingredients with processes and equipment
- develop accurate measuring techniques
- consider the effects of the foods they eat
- Make critical judgements of their own work and those of others

In Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing, our curriculum draws on the *License to Cook* initiative and aims to provide students with the opportunity to learn how to cook, as well as make informed decisions about their diet and health with the aim of establishing lifelong healthy habits. The students learn the basics regarding nutrition, digestion and dietary requirements. They will also reflect on their own diets and gain an understanding of what the daily recommendations are regarding salts, sugar and fats. They will also explore what constitutes a healthy lifestyle with the aim of establishing lifelong healthy practises. Focused tasks such as a high energy cereal bar, low fat muffins and a high fibre crumble are used to develop the above.

Year 7 - Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing	
Unit 1	Hygiene and safety
Unit 2	Weighing, measuring and equipment
Unit 3	Health and nutrition
Unit 4	Social, moral and ethical food issues

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

Homework in Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing may involve:

- Research
- The practicing of skills
- Preparation of ingredients
- Completion of testing panels with parents
- Extended writing on current food issues
- Evaluation

Students are required to bring their A4 folder to every lesson and to meet all homework deadlines. Providing ingredients for the food technology element of the course is the students' responsibility and they are given one week's notice. Any problems concerning ingredients must be discussed with the class teacher prior to the lesson. Students do need to be properly equipped with basic drawing and colouring equipment brought to every technology lesson.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

Students looking to consolidate, enrich or extend their knowledge and understanding might start at:

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/> or <https://www.food.gov.uk>

Students should develop their ideas by exploring websites such as <http://thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk/> or

<http://www.jamieoliver.com>

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- Creative Cuisine Club focuses on multicultural foods and Christmas cake making.
- Students and parents can follow the work of the food department by following us on twitter @whigh_designtec to see the work of our GCSE and A Level students, and to follow the work of professional designers and product developers within the food, fashion and product design industries.
- We encourage students who are interested in food and nutrition to read around the subject and keep up to date with current affairs in this area.
- The Food, Nutrition & Wellbeing team are happy to review independent projects that students wish to undertake.

Students are taught in mixed ability groups.

Design & Technology: Product Design

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

In design and technology there are six Big Ideas:

- Designing
- Explore
- Materials
- Manufacture
- Functionality
- Critique

At the heart of design and technology is creativity and problem solving. Design and technology prepares students to participate in tomorrow's practices, develop their creative thinking and practical application.

Our curriculum prepares students to,

- Design and make products that solve relevant problems
- Make critical judgements of their own designs and those of others
- Understand the core principals of any good design
- Build awareness of global issues and contemporary design
- Take creative risks
- Develop practical application
- Appreciate the work of world class designers in a wide range of fields

Also, students learn the importance of safe working practices and good organisation. The aims are to,

- Ensure students are competent when in a workshop
- recognise the need for rules to establish safe working practices
- emphasise the importance of good organisation

As students' progress through **Key Stage 3** they use a wider range of materials and processes and specialise in the following design fields, which are textile technology, product design and electronics. In **Year 7** they do a range of product design related projects working in wood, metal and plastics with an introduction to electronics also included. Within each unit we also cover the core principals of sustainability, environment, culture and industrial practice.

Year 7 - PRODUCT DESIGN	
Unit 1	Key Fob (metal)
Unit 2	Utility Box (wood)
Unit 3	Jar Light (electronics)
Unit 4	Vacuumed Formed Puzzle (plastics)

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

Homework in design and technology may involve:

- Research
- Designing
- Modelling
- Extended written work on current issues
- Presentations on influential designers
- Evaluation

Students are required to bring their A4 folder to every lesson and to meet all homework deadlines. Students do need to be properly equipped with basic drawing and colouring equipment brought to every product design lesson.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- Students looking to consolidate, enrich or extend their knowledge and understanding might start at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/site/design_and_technology.shtml

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- Textiles Xtra group allows students to develop their creative thinking and making skills – students attending these classes are encouraged to coach each other and lead sessions for other students.
- Product design club allows students to create a range of products using modern materials and electronic kits.
- The 4x4 competition enables students to combine skills of product design, systems and control and construction in preparing entries for this national competition: <http://www.4x4inschools.co.uk/>
- Students and parents can follow the design and technology department on twitter @whigh_designtec to see the work of our GCSE and A Level students, and to follow the work of professional designers and product developers within the food, fashion and product design industries.
- We encourage students who are interested in design and technology to read around the subject and keep up to date with current affairs in this area.
- The design and technology team are happy to review independent projects that students wish to undertake.

Students are taught in design and technology in mixed ability groups.

Drama

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

The Key Stage 3 drama curriculum is designed to allow students to develop the skills and qualities required for:

- Creating
- Performing
- Responding

YEAR 7		
	<i>Curriculum Focus</i>	
Half Term 1	<i>Key Skills & Techniques</i>	Introduction to Drama
Half Term 2	<i>Theatrical Genres</i>	Physical Theatre
Half Term 3	<i>Approaches to Text</i>	Darkwood Manor
Half Term 4	<i>Theatrical Style & Convention</i>	Greek Theatre: Pandora's Box
Half Term 5	<i>Devising From Stimulus</i>	Theatre In A Box
Half Term 6	<i>Performance Project</i>	Introduction to Shakespeare

In order to place their learning into context beyond the classroom, drama students will:

- Engage in practical study to learn about the live performance process
- Develop their knowledge of dramatic conventions and theatrical genres
- Study and explore a range of play texts by influential playwrights and theatre practitioners
- Take part in public performances
- Attend live theatre events

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

- Homework in drama is designed to develop students' independent enquiry and intellectual curiosity. Many homework tasks will involve preparation for subsequent lessons or consolidating learning from previous lessons, and we expect students to take responsibility for their learning.
- Homework tasks will consist of set questions, plot sheets, characterisation cards, research projects, learning lines, learning key vocabulary, evaluation forms and script writing.
- Parents can support their son or daughter by encouraging them to take advantage of this additional learning time to produce high quality homework.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them for explore?

- Extra-curricular activities such as drama clubs, school productions and theatre trips provide students with opportunities to experience the subject outside of the classroom – which can inspire their learning in lessons.
- Students are encouraged to research around the topics and themes being explored in lessons so that they can fully engage in class discussion and explorative work.
- The Key Stage 3 drama pages on Firefly contain a number of resources and tasks designed to support students in their learning.
- A range of play texts and reading material is available from the drama department and learning resource centre so that students can take ownership of their learning.
- Websites such as 'bitesize,' digital theatre' and 'drama works' are useful resources for helping students revise and consolidate prior learning.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

In drama, students are expected to work with pace and rigour to reach the high expectations that are set for them. We encourage students to take risks during the creative and performance process so that they challenge themselves as theatre makers, leaders and decision makers by directing and shaping practical drama. Students are challenged by the demanding nature of live performance work which encourages them to step outside their 'comfort zone' and challenge their own boundaries – striving for excellence and personal best in all they do.

Students are taught drama in mixed ability groups.

English

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Analysing Texts:

- Understanding and comprehension of texts
- Analysis of language and structure
- Inference
- Relating texts to their social and historical contexts

Writing:

- Composition/Writer's Craft
- Organising a text
- Vocabulary
- Sentence construction

Speaking and Listening:

- Register
- Interacting and responding
- Creating and performing

This year, our English teachers are focusing particularly on '**Artful and Accurate Writing.**' This is the idea that every word that a student writes counts. Over the course of Key Stage 3, our students will get the opportunity to learn and practise 50 'Artful and Accurate' sentence constructions that will help them to write more powerfully across a range of different subjects and writing styles.

	Year 7
Autumn Term	The Art of Rhetoric (A range of texts)
Spring Term	Family (<i>Private Peaceful</i> plus a range of texts)
Summer Term	Power (<i>Macbeth</i> plus a range of texts)
	Self (A range of autobiographical writing including poetry)

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

- We expect our students to use the BAC (Building Academic Challenge) packs that we provide. These are independent homework packs that will prepare your son or daughter for forthcoming units of work or that will re-visit previous units. Every pack will include extension activities to challenge students and encourage them to read around the subject. Students must complete one task every week.
- In English we set a weekly homework using the online teaching and learning resource, Doddle (www.doddlelearn.co.uk), that has a focus on literacy or SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- We expect our students to re-quiz themselves if they do not beat their previous 'personal best' score on Doodle. Your son or daughter's teacher can see how many times a quiz has been taken and students will be rewarded for persevering and improving their marks.
- Doodle is also a valuable resource for students if they need to revise a particular concept or practise a skill. They are able to use it to search for resources, or complete extra quizzes and revision activities.
- Our recommended Key Stage 3 'Top 50 Reads' can be found on page 6 of this booklet.
- We recommend that your son or daughter or, indeed, you yourself follow the WHS English twitter page @whigh_eng where we post useful resources and interesting wider reading.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- BAC packs
- Extension activities on Doodle
- Accelerated Reader Challenge – encouraging students to read as many words as they can over the year
- Key Stage 3 'Top 50 Reads'
- Creative Writing competitions
- Public speaking competitions
- Over KS3 our students will read a wide range of challenging 19th century texts in preparation for GCSE

In English, we teach our students in broadly banded groups and extension groups that stretch our most able students. All students will follow the same syllabus and will study the same texts. We also offer smaller support groups through our Learning Support department for those students who need additional assistance with English. We assess our students regularly to ensure that they are in the most appropriate group for their learning.

Geography

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Big Idea 1: Knowledge of key concepts

Big Idea 2: Description of processes and patterns

Big Idea 3: Explanation, application and evaluation

Big Idea 4: Analysis and interpretation of geographic data

Big Idea 5: Enquiry and map skills

	Year 7
Autumn Term	So where we are Africa
Spring Term	Future Floods
Summer Term	Cool geography

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

In geography, most homeworks are based around extended projects which enable students to research and explore big issues independently. Students also have plenty of choice within each homework. In addition to this, students are also tested on each topic and are expected to revise for these tests as part of their homework.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- We ensure that the school Learning Resource Centre is well stocked with geographical resources, which include the *geography* magazine.
- We use firefly to share extra reading and resources.
- We are developing our twitter page as a way of sharing relevant links and extra reading

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- We use A-level and GCSE resources and activities regularly in lessons.
- We ensure that we continue to push and develop students' high order thinking skills. These skills are particularly important in Big Idea 3.

Students are taught in geography in mixed ability groups.

History

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Chronology

The study of dates and events.

Causation

The relationship between causes and effects in history.

Change

The impact of change on history.

Significance

The importance of key events in history.

Interpretation

How events in history have been interpreted.

We also ask the following thematic questions across the periods studied in Key Stage 3:

- How do rulers control their people?
- How do people protest?
- What causes war?
- How can people's beliefs and ideas change the course of history?
- How has everyday life changed over time?

	Year 7
Autumn Term	How do we measure time and use sources in history? How and why did the Romans invade Britain? What was life like in Roman Britain?
Spring Term	How did William conquer England? Why was the Medieval Church so powerful?
Summer Term	Why did England go to war in the Middle Ages? What was everyday life like in the Middle Ages?

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

It is important that students are using Key Stage 3 to train themselves in effective learning habits so that they are prepared for the rigour of GCSE study. Homework is therefore important in history and may take one of the following formats:

- Consolidating learning from the lesson
- Preparing for a future lesson
- Learning information
- Preparing for or completing an assessment
- Undertaking an independent research task

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- We undertake enquiry projects that encourage our students to work independently
- We have a range of historical fiction that we lend to our students
- We would encourage our students to find out more about history through their own reading and visits to historical sites

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

In history we stretch and challenge our students in a variety of ways:

- We encourage our students to read historical fiction – our Learning Resource Centre has a stock of this
- Use of extension questions
- Focus on extended writing
- Enquiry projects that develop students' research skills
- Debates
- Use of drama and role play
- Group work allowing students to adopt leadership roles
- Our stock of books to lend to students, including Horrible Histories and the BBC History Magazine archive
- Historical Association competitions
- Model United Nations competitions
- Recommended websites: www.schoolhistory.co.uk, www.bbc.co.uk/history, www.historylearningsite.co.uk and www.historyonthenet.com

Students are taught in history in mixed ability tutor groups in Year 7.

IT & Computing

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

In computing there are five Big Ideas:

- **Computational abstractions**
To be able to design, use and evaluate computer models that replicate real world systems and problems
- **Coding**
To learn to write computer programs to solve a variety of problems
- **Components**
To understand how hardware and software are used to create computer systems
- **Create**
To learn to use multiple computer applications and create effective solutions which meet the needs of users
- **Communicate**
To be able to use a range of applications to share information safely, respectfully, responsibly and securely

Year 7 - Computing	
Unit 1	Information Technology: office-based skills such as spreadsheets and databases
Unit 2	Computational Thinking
Unit 3	Developing a website
Unit 4	Computer programming techniques using Scratch and Python

How do we develop students as independent learners?

In computing we believe that students should be able to use a range of online learning tools that will support and develop their learning. Students will therefore receive regular weekly homework to consolidate and extend their understanding using a number of online tools such as Yacapaca and Codecademy.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

Students will be encouraged to work independently and to apply the skills they have learned to a variety of practical activities both within and beyond the classroom. Students will be provided with access to a range of supporting tutorials through the school VLE, as well as a number of independent study websites.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

Students will be encouraged to get hands-on experience with a range of hardware devices and components, as well as learning about the fundamentals of software. Students will be introduced to hardware devices such as BBC Micro:bits and Raspberry Pies, and programming languages such as Scratch and Python.

Mathematics

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Number

- Working with different types of numbers
- Investigating patterns in numbers
- Fractions, decimals and percentages

Algebra

- Using letters instead of numbers
- Solving equations
- Using formulae
- Graphs

Ratio, proportion and rates of change

- Calculating and solving problems with ratios
- Using proportion

Geometry and measure

- Studying 2D and 3D shapes, their properties, areas and volumes
- Working with angles
- Using standard units for mass, length, time and other measures

Probability

- Understanding the language of probability
- Calculating the likelihood of events happening

Statistics

- Working with data
- Using different types of averages and measures of spread
- Analysing and producing charts and diagrams

	Year 7
Autumn Term	Number
Spring Term	Algebra
Summer Term	Ratio, proportion and rate of change Geometry and measure Probability Statistics

In mathematics we work on the basis of a spiral curriculum. Every year we build on previous knowledge, continually developing each topic, which allows us to deepen students' understanding and extend their reasoning and analytical skills.

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

In mathematics, homework is vital to give students the opportunities that they need to practise and permanently learn their mathematics knowledge. We have therefore designed a series of homeworks to:

- Reinforce the skills learned in lesson. Students should practise a skill until they are fluent in it
- Allow students to apply their skills to different problems independently and without any support from the teacher
- Encourage students to develop their reasoning skills through answering complex contextual questions

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- We expect students to use MyMaths to revise and practise particular topics they need extra help on.
- We recommend your son or daughter (or you) follow the WHS Mathematics twitter page @whigh_maths where we post useful resources and interesting problems.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

We encourage our students to stretch and challenge themselves. Any student who wishes to stretch and challenge themselves further should ask for more difficult problems to solve, or work on improving their speed in solving problems. In addition to this, some of our students take part in the UKMT Junior and Intermediate maths challenges within school and we also compete in the UKMT Junior Team maths challenge against other schools.

In mathematics, we teach our students in three types of group: extension groups that stretch our most able mathematicians, support groups for students who need more support with mathematics, and broadly mixed ability groups for all other students. We assess our students regularly to ensure that they are in the most appropriate group for their learning and to maximise their progress.

Modern Foreign Languages

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

- Writing in a different language
- Reading in a different language
- Speaking in a different language
- Listening to a different language
- Grammar of a different language
- Cultural awareness of a different country

	Year 7
Autumn Term	Writing Reading Speaking Listening Grammar Cultural Awareness
Spring Term	
Summer Term	

In modern foreign languages, most students study French and German. There is also an opportunity for students to study Spanish in Year 8.

The modern foreign languages curriculum is a spiral curriculum. The 6 big ideas are covered through a range of topics, which are revisited through Key Stage 3 to build students' fluency. Examples of topics covered include:

School and School routine	House and home town	Celebrities	Hobbies
Food and Health	Holidays	Favourite things	Music, TV and Film

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

In modern foreign languages we set homeworks that help students to build fluency in their language skills by encouraging them to go and practise. These might include:

- Learning homeworks
- Grammar exercises
- Translations
- Free writing
- Preparation for tests
- Preparation for speaking tests
- Independent study
- Open ended key tasks to review content

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

Our students will find the following resources useful:

Support tasks on firefly for independent study

Linguascope.com

languages online.org

quizlet.com

We also expect our students to use the language guide that we provide as an important learning resource.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- We encourage our students to take as many opportunities as possible to practise their speaking skills and to participate in extended speaking opportunities
- We encourage students to complete open-ended activities that will develop their skills through our key tasks

Students are taught in modern foreign languages in mixed ability groups.

Music

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Performing

Developing the technical skills of playing an instrument, both individually and as part of a group. Students will develop skills on the keyboard, ukulele and percussion, whilst learning about musical notation and improvisation.

Composing

Creating music: both 'live', through singing, on keyboards and ukuleles, and through using music technology software (Garageband).

Listening

Listening to a variety of music as part of each topic, and learning how to identify musical devices and features of particular genres.

In Year 7, all music lessons take place in the practical music classroom, while in Years 8 and 9, students alternate each half term between music technology projects in the mac suite and projects in the practical music classroom.

	Year 7
Autumn Term	The Elements of Music
	African Drumming
Spring Term	Top Ten
	Pictures and music
Summer Term	Rock bands, orchestras etc.
	Mickey Mouse Music

How do we develop students as independent learners?

In music, students learn through project-based tasks. Independent learning is vital as students are responsible for their own progress in a particular skill and in working through a given task. In music technology lessons students often work through task instructions at their own pace. Students must manage their own time and think creatively in all tasks.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

There are a wide range of extra-curricular groups for students to take part in beyond lessons. These include:

- Voices
- Close Harmony Group
- Concert Band
- Chamber Orchestra
- String Ensemble
- Saxophone Group
- Ukulele Group
- Flute Ensemble
- Steel Pans

We are committed to the pursuit of excellence for every student, every day

In addition, the department's peripatetic tuition programme offers the opportunity for students to take vocal lessons and/ or instrumental lessons on a wide range of instruments. Students in receipt of free school meals are currently eligible to receive free lessons through this programme. Many students also use our facilities to develop their performance, and some go further to form ensembles of their own.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- We use extension tasks in lessons.
- We encourage students to organise and lead their own musical ensembles. Currently our Chamber Orchestra and Ukulele Group are student-led, with students leading rehearsal organisation, music arrangement and conducting.

Physical Education

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Doing	Thinking	Behavioural Change
The student's physical competency in a range of sports, focusing on skill and technique development.	This will focus on the student's knowledge and understanding, how well they make and apply decisions, their ability to evaluate performance and the accurate use of technical language.	The student's involvement and engagement in lessons, their character and values, and social and emotional factors, as well as the ability to lead a healthy active lifestyle.
<p>Students will be assessed in a range of sport specific skills in each activity covered during the year. Examples of some of the skills they may be assessed in are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Passing in Football • Dodging in Netball • Tackling in Rugby • Dribbling in Hockey • Lay Up Shot in Basketball • Fielding in Rounders • Forehand Groundstroke in Tennis • Bowling in Cricket • Shooting in Handball 	<p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactics and Strategies: The ability to select and use a range of tactics and strategies and apply them in open situations. • Terminology The ability to describe what you see or do, using appropriate terminology. • Strengths and Weaknesses The ability to analyse performance, to describe strengths to others and identify areas to improve. • Leadership The ability to plan, organise and lead appropriate warm ups, cool downs or short skill sessions. 	<p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience: The student's mental toughness, self-belief, determination, tenacity, grit and applied Effort. • Self Motivation Their desire to achieve and to fulfil ambitions. • Responsibility Their self-control, self-reflection and awareness of their own behaviour. • Sports Xtra/Club Involvement Their commitment to the School Sports Xtra programme, involvement with sporting clubs or activities in the local community.

	Year 7
Autumn Term	Induction Block: fitness testing and performance in a range of games activities. A range of activities including: football, rugby, hockey, netball, gymnastics, OAA, HRF, handball, basketball, badminton, physical literacy.
Spring Term	A range of activities including: football, rugby, hockey, netball, gymnastics, OAA, HRF, handball, basketball, badminton, physical literacy.
Summer Term	Traditional summer activities including: athletics, rounders, cricket, tennis and softball.

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

Homework is not formally set in core PE lessons, but we do encourage our students to develop independently by attending extra-curricular activities and participating in community clubs.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

Our Sports Xtra programme provides opportunities for all students, regardless of ability, to take part in a range of sports and activities. Activities range from the traditional football, rugby, hockey and netball, to cheerleading, dance and trampolining. Activities are season specific and our Sports Xtra offer will change each term.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

Students can take part in our Sports Xtra programme at a recreational level or represent one of the many school teams in local, regional and national competitions. Competitive fixtures run throughout the year and take place after school or on Saturday mornings. We have strong links with local clubs and organisations and encourage our students to take part in sport outside school. High-level performers are nominated for county and representative trials. Our PE department works closely with sports governing bodies to ensure that talented individuals can progress through the appropriate performance pathways, and a large number of our students will go on to compete at district, county and national level.

In Physical Education, students are taught in single sex groups that they are placed into according to the results of ability tests completed in the induction unit. We are very aware that students develop physically at different stages and therefore groups are very flexible.

Students are taught in physical education in mixed ability groups.

Religious Studies

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

Knowledge and Understanding

- The six major world religions
- Core religious teachings and beliefs
- Key practices

Application & Meaning

- Studying the real world application of religious teachings to social, moral, ethical and philosophical issues.

Evaluation & Moral analysis

- Exploring how religions may view ethical, moral and social issues in different ways
- Students evaluating their own beliefs in comparison to other perspectives
- Evaluating the impact of beliefs on the lives of believers

Independent Enquiry

- The ability to work independently and proactively
- The development of research skills through Project Based Learning
- Participation in supporting the work of the local and global community

	Year 7
Autumn Term	What are the six main religions? How can we recognise them? What are the key beliefs and teachings of each?
Spring Term	Who are the key figures of the Old Testament and why are they important to Christians? Who was Jesus and what did he teach? What stories did Jesus tell and what can Christians learn from these?
Summer Term	Project Based Learning – based on Jesus' parables and stories from other faiths. Students to complete a project creating their own parable/moral tale incorporating ICT/literacy/art

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

It is important that students use Key Stage 3 to develop effective learning habits in preparation for the rigour of GCSE study. Homework is therefore essential in religious studies and includes:

- Consolidation of learning
- Preparation for future topics
- Learning information
- Preparation for or completion of an assessment
- Undertaking an independent research task

We also expect students to learn through Project Based Learning tasks. These encourage students to:

- Manage their time appropriately
- Prioritise tasks and workload
- Think creatively
- Focus on the presentation of their work

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

- We undertake project based learning tasks that encourage our students to work independently
- We encourage our students to find out more about the world religions through their own reading and visits to religious sites and places of worship.
- We have lessons in the school Learning Resource Centre to enable students to locate and explore additional reading resources
- We encourage students to make use of excellent online learning resources such as: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zh3rkqt>
- We are developing resources on Firefly, a virtual learning platform where additional education resources can be accessed.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- We use extension tasks to challenge students
- We set higher order thinking questions
- Enquiry projects that develop students' research skills
- Focus on extended writing
- Debates on a variety of ethical issues
- Use of drama and role play
- Group work allowing students to adopt leadership roles
- We set optional extra homeworks for students who wish to challenge themselves further

- We offer the following courses to our Year 9 students who want to stretch themselves further
 - Higher Project Qualification Level 2

- Students are taught in religious studies in mixed ability groups.

Science

What are the Big Ideas of this subject?

The Big Ideas in science are the fundamental principles that hold science together:

Biology

The study of life and living organisms

Chemistry

The study of matter

Physics

The study of matter and its motion through time and space

Practical Science

Skills based learning

Year 7	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Skills
Autumn Term	Cells, Digestion	States of Matter Pure & Impure	Forces & Motion	Risk Assessment Method & Variables,
Spring Term	Skeleton Respiration	Atoms, Elements & Compounds, Physical Changes	Physical Changes, Sound Light	Results, Evaluation, Conclusion
Summer Term	Reproduction Ecosystems	Chemical Reactions	Pressure, Electricity	Whole Investigations

In science, the curriculum builds steadily on key areas within the Big Ideas through Year 7 and 8, with new topics taught building on previous knowledge in order to regularly re-visit students' learning and deepen their understanding.

How do we develop students as independent learners through homework?

- Homework is usually set once a week with the expectation that students spend between 30 and 40 minutes per piece. More homework will be set at key times however, for example when students are preparing for summative assessments.
- Homework is varied and may include: writing up experiments, research, answering questions and making models. Learning homework will also be set.
- To develop our students as independent learners, some of these homeworks may be contained in booklets issued to students and take the form of mini projects set over a specific period of time.

How do we develop students as independent learners through the extra resources available for them to explore?

In addition to the resources that we supply, we would expect our students to use the knowledge organisers provided by their subject teachers along with the AQA website <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse> and the Key Stage 3 and 4 bitesize website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>
Additional support materials can be found on You Tube but students need to be specific about what they search for.

How do we stretch and challenge our students?

- We ensure that the concepts being covered are demanding by ensuring that the material studied is just beyond the point students have already reached. This should be at the edge of their capabilities.
- We avoid complacency in our students by challenging them to try to link concepts together, a difficult activity that takes time to establish. We also expect them to think creatively.
- We teach science lessons with pace.
- We encourage our students to explore their learning as independent enquirers who are able to reflect on the work that they complete.

In science, we teach our students in three types of group: extension groups that stretch our most able scientists, support groups for students who need more support with science, and broadly mixed ability groups for all other students. We assess our students regularly to ensure that they are in the most appropriate group for their learning.