

## THE CHERWELL SCHOOL

### THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum offered is a balanced, broad based and stimulating programme which supports each student's learning needs, providing extra help or extending and accelerating the curriculum as appropriate.

'The Cherwell Skills for Life' shown below, support our school aims and underpins our curriculum. They have been written to help students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of what the numerous learning opportunities within the school should allow students to experience and develop during their time with us.

| Skills For The Person  | Skills For The Community  | Skills For The Future  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Knowing how to Learn</b><br/><i>(Trying different ways to learn new things)</i></p>  | <p><b>Making a Positive Contribution</b><br/><i>(What you do will be appreciated by others)</i></p>   | <p><b>Commitment to Success</b><br/><i>(If at first you don't succeed you'll want to try again)</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Resilience</b><br/><i>(You will be able to cope when things go wrong)</i></p> <p><b>Resourcefulness</b><br/><i>(You will be able to adapt things to solve a problem and think 'outside the box')</i></p> <p><b>Organisational Skills</b><br/><i>(You will be able to manage your equipment and manage your time)</i></p> <p><b>Reflection</b><br/><i>(You will be able to think about how things are going)</i></p> <p><b>Initiative</b><br/><i>(You won't need someone else to tell you when to do the right thing)</i></p> <p><b>Creative Thinking</b><br/><i>(You will be able to find unique solutions to difficult problems)</i></p> <p><b>Self-control</b><br/><i>(You will be able to manage your own behaviour and resist being lead astray)</i></p> <p><b>Taking Risks</b><br/><i>(You will be brave enough to attempt something new even when you are unsure how things will turn out)</i></p> | <p><b>Collaborating and Teamwork</b><br/><i>(You will be able to work well with others)</i></p> <p><b>Learning from Others</b><br/><i>(You will be able to recognise what others get right and apply their strengths to your own life)</i></p> <p><b>Communication Skills</b><br/><i>(You will be able to express yourself clearly in speaking and writing)</i></p> <p><b>Supporting and Valuing Others</b><br/><i>(You will be happy to see others doing well and will want to help them when they are finding things hard)</i></p> <p><b>Empathising and Listening</b><br/><i>(You will be able to put yourself in someone else's shoes)</i></p> <p><b>Manners and Politeness</b><br/><i>(You will always remember to say please and thank-you and treat others thoughtfully)</i></p> <p><b>Involvement</b><br/><i>(You will want to be a part of things not be someone who leaves it to others)</i></p> <p><b>Humour</b><br/><i>(You will always try to look on the bright side of life and bring a smile to someone's face)</i></p> | <p><b>Independence</b><br/><i>(You will be able to do things for yourself without needing help all the time)</i></p> <p><b>Questioning</b><br/><i>(You will be able to ask questions in order to understand things better)</i></p> <p><b>Making Links</b><br/><i>(When you learn something in one area you will be able to connect it to another)</i></p> <p><b>Decision Making</b><br/><i>(You will be able to weigh up all the possible options and make an appropriate choice)</i></p> <p><b>Developing Life Skills</b><br/><i>(You will want to keep growing as a person)</i></p> <p><b>Trying New things</b><br/><i>(You will be brave enough to try things even when you are unsure how they will turn out)</i></p> <p><b>Commitment to Success</b><br/><i>(If at first you don't succeed you'll want to try again)</i></p> <p><b>Problem Solving</b><br/><i>(When you come across an obstacle you will know ways in which to find a solution)</i></p> <p><b>Aspiration</b><br/><i>(You will want to be the best you can be)</i></p> |



### Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

Our courses build on the foundation of the work completed in primary school and take into account recent revisions to the National Curriculum.

In Years 7-9 students study English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish or German, Drama, History, Geography, Music, Art, Technology, Physical Education, Computing, RE and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). In Year 7 they also have a fortnightly tutorial lesson with their form tutor which covers a range of issues such as personal organisation, making friends and study skills.

Throughout the school we are committed to developing a range of learning/social skills as well as offering a range of different opportunities as reflected by "The Cherwell Skills for Life" shown above.

Much of the teaching in Year 7 is in form groups, but Maths is set and Design Technology and PE are taught in mixed form groups. In Year 8 French is also taken alongside Spanish and German.

Towards the end of Year 9 students choose the subjects they wish to study in Years 10 and 11. Parents are involved closely with the selection of GCSE and other courses and the Year 9 PSHCE programme supports students in their decision making.

Full details of our curriculum during Years 7 – 9 can be found under the relevant year group tab for each year on the school website. For each year group we provide a subject overview which makes clear the topics students study each term across all of their subjects. We also provide for each year across KS3 a Home Study Guide which provides details of the independent study tasks students are set in each subject. For Year 9 we also have our KS4 Options Booklet which provides full details on all courses studied during Years 10 and 11 (including core and optional courses).

### Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Currently in years 10 and 11 students can follow GCSE, BTEC, vocational and some non-examination courses. All students study a core consisting of English, Mathematics, Science, PE, RE and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education (PSHCE). Up to four other subjects are also studied, chosen by students with careful guidance to ensure a broad and balanced programme. It is strongly recommended that one of the humanities, a foreign language and a technological or creative subject are included by most students. Our current optional courses are (GCSEs unless stated): - French (one set of 'Fast track' where the aim is to take the GCSE in Year 10 and start the AS course in Year 11), German, Spanish, Product Design, Food Technology, Textiles, 3D Fine Art, Graphics, BTEC Engineering, Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Geography, History, Philosophy and Ethics, Sport Studies, BTEC Sports, Business Studies, BTEC Business, Health & Social Care and Astronomy (extra-curricular). We are also offering a Level 2 Engineering Qualification in Engineering (Bike Maintenance) as part of our alternative provision and a Level 2 BTEC Construction qualification (with a focus on Carpentry).

During Key Stage 4 careers guidance is integrated into the programme and is supported by our own Career's Officer. There are a number of information and guidance events for students and parents/carers providing additional details about opportunities after Year 11 and about sixth form courses.

Full details of our curriculum for Years 10 and 11 can be found under the relevant year group tab for each year on the school website.

For each year group we provide a detailed course overview which provides a breakdown of the format of each course with particular emphasis on content, approaches to assessment and independent study.

### Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

As a large Sixth Form, we are able to offer an extremely wide range of A level courses. The current provision includes:

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Art                     | History               |
| Biology                 | Mathematics           |
| Business Studies        | Music                 |
| Chemistry               | Philosophy and Ethics |
| Computing               | Physical Education    |
| Economics               | Physics               |
| Engineering             | Photography           |
| English Literature      | Product Design        |
| Further Mathematics     | Psychology            |
| French                  | Sociology             |
| Geography               | Spanish               |
| German                  | Theatre Studies       |
| Government and Politics |                       |

Full details of our curriculum during Years 12 and 13 can be found under the Sixth Form tab on the school website.

Here we provide detailed subject information about all the courses we offer at KS5. For each course we specify exam board and unit code, approaches to study, methods of assessment, key content and entry requirements.