

THE GRYPHON SCHOOL

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW & EDUCATIONAL INTENT

OUR VISION

At the heart of The Gryphon School is our determination that our community experiences **"life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)**. Our curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced, and aspirational, enabling every student to build deep knowledge, develop essential skills, and apply their learning in diverse contexts.

We aim for our students to leave as independent, resilient, and confident learners who are fully prepared for the next stage of their lives.

Curriculum Principles

- **Broad & Balanced:** We maintain a wide range of subjects for as long as possible to keep future pathways open.
- **Knowledge-Rich:** Our schemes of work are sequenced to build on prior learning and ensure long-term retention.
- **Inclusive:** We provide tailored support and pathways to ensure every student can succeed, regardless of their starting point.
- **Personal Development:** Education extends beyond the classroom through PSHE, Core PE, and an extensive extra-curricular program.

Curriculum Design and Quality

Our curriculum is ambitious for every student, carefully sequenced from Years 7–13, and designed so that important knowledge is revisited and built upon over time. Departments identify the essential knowledge, vocabulary and disciplinary thinking within each subject, ensuring students develop both substantive knowledge and subject-specific ways of thinking. Assessment is used to identify misconceptions and inform teaching rather than drive the curriculum.

The curriculum is inclusive by design. Adaptive teaching, carefully planned scaffolding and appropriate challenge enable all students, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, to

access the same ambitious curriculum wherever appropriate. Leaders regularly review curriculum implementation, impact and progression to ensure that students are well prepared for further education, employment and life.

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7, 8 & 9)

In the first three years, students follow a comprehensive curriculum that provides a secure foundation across academic, creative, and physical disciplines. The curriculum is delivered over a 50-period fortnight (25 periods per week).

Subject Lesson Allocation (per two week cycle)

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	6	7	7
Mathematics	6	7	7
Science	6	6	6
Physical Education	4	4	4
History	4	3	3
Geography	4	3	3
Languages	6	5	5
Religious Studies	2	2	2
Computing	2	2	2
Music	2	2	2
Drama	2	2	2
Creative Design	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Art 3D	2	2	2
PSHE	–	1	1

Nurture Curriculum

The Gryphon School operates a specialist Nurture Curriculum for a small number of students in Years 7–9 whose needs require a bespoke pathway. This provision is designed for students entering secondary school with significantly weak literacy skills, identified speech and language needs, complex EHCP requirements, or significant social, emotional and behavioural needs.

Students are taught in two small classes of approximately 12 students, predominantly by experienced primary-trained specialist teachers. The smaller class sizes enable highly personalised teaching, stronger relationships and consistent routines which support confidence, engagement and readiness to learn. Students receive additional English teaching with an explicit focus on reading fluency, phonics, vocabulary development, comprehension and written communication. To create capacity for this enhanced literacy provision, students follow a reduced modern foreign languages allocation. Geography and History are also primarily taught by their nurture teachers, enabling literacy strategies to be embedded consistently across subjects while maintaining access to the knowledge and concepts of the mainstream curriculum.

The long-term aim is that students develop the literacy, communication, independence and emotional regulation needed to access an increasingly broad curriculum and, wherever appropriate, successfully transition into mainstream teaching. This reflects the school's commitment to ensuring that every student,

regardless of starting point, receives an ambitious education and achieves success.

Year 9 Transition

During Year 9, students begin the transition towards their GCSE choices. They receive extensive guidance to ensure their selections align with their interests and future career goals. This includes the "KS4 Options Evening" and 1-to-1 support from tutors and careers advisors. All disadvantaged students have an interview with a senior member of staff to discuss their option choices.

Grading

Student attainment at KS3 is graded with the following terminology:

- **Mastering:** Student can apply advanced skills in their work consistently without support. Student is able to understand complex topics and start linking their knowledge from different subject or topic areas to master difficult concepts and processes.
- **Secure:** Student can perform consistently well independently and can demonstrate a sound understanding and a variety of skills across the curriculum.
- **Developing:** Student is beginning to apply their understanding – this is usually with some support from a teacher or adult.
- **Emerging:** Student is starting to learn the key concepts and processes within a subject area with significant support from a teacher or adult.

KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 & 11)

Our KS4 curriculum blends a robust core of compulsory subjects with a wide range of academic and vocational options. This structure ensures students meet government requirements (Progress 8) while pursuing individual passions. Most students are encouraged to pick a language for their GCSEs and all students have to study a language or a creative subject. This is in addition to studying Geography or History.

Core Curriculum (Compulsory)

Subject	Qualification	Periods (per 2 weeks)
English Language & Literature	2 GCSEs	9
Mathematics	1 GCSE	7
Science (Combined or Separate)	2 or 3 GCSEs	10
Humanities (History or Geography)	1 GCSE	5
Modern Foreign Language (Guided)	1 GCSE	5
Core PE (Non-Examined)	N/A	4

Option Subjects (Choice of 3)

Students select additional subjects (5 periods each per fortnight) from a menu including:

- Art & Design (3D / Fine Art / Photography)
- Film Studies
- Drama
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Computer Science
- Music
- Hospitality and Catering
- Religious Studies
- Sport BTEC
- Statistics and Further Maths

Nurture Pathway – KS4

Students from the Nurture pathway can transition to mainstream lessons at any point within KS3, but also lots of students make that transition as they move to KS4. For some students to help that transition, go into mainstream lessons, pick the King's Trust PDE qualification as one of their options.

For students that remain in Nurture in KS4, all students will study:

Maths

English Language

English Literature

Combined Science – 2 GCSEs

Geography

King's Trust PDE qualification

One other option – their choice from the above list.

Core PE

Compared to other students they will have another lesson of Maths, English, Geography and Science, as well as 2 intervention slots with the SENCO to support their wider education.

THE GRYPHON SIXTH FORM (KS5)

- The Sixth Form pages have more detail on the courses and the provision in the Sixth Form

A-Level and BTEC Subjects Available

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Ancient History | • Further Mathematics |
| • Art (Fine/3D) | • Geography |
| • Biology | • History |
| • Business Studies | • Law |
| • Chemistry | • Mathematics |
| • Computer Science | • Music |
| • Criminology | • Photography |
| • Digital Media | • Physics |
| • Drama (Theatre Studies) | • Psychology |
| • Economics | • Sociology |
| • English Lang & Lit | • Sport BTEC |
| • French & Spanish | • Physical Education |

Enrichment & Leadership

Beyond exams, students engage in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Enrichment, Pathways, 10:10 Ethics, and leadership roles such as the Sixth Form Committee or peer mentoring.

IMPACT & SUCCESS

We measure the success of our curriculum not just through exam results, but through the destinations and character of our students.

Attendance & Achievement

There is a direct correlation between high attendance and academic success. We aim for all students to maintain 96%+ attendance to ensure they benefit from the full curriculum offer.

Ofsted & Standards

Our curriculum standards are reflected in our strong performance metrics:

- Progress 8 & Attainment 8: Consistently strong outcomes across the EBacc and broad option subjects.
- Destinations: Students successfully progress to top-tier universities, prestigious apprenticeships, and fulfilling employment.
- Student Wellbeing: A curriculum that supports mental health through dedicated PSHE and physical activity.

"Students are well prepared for their next steps. They receive high-quality careers advice and guidance."

— Ofsted

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