



ST. EDWARD'S COLLEGE

Key Stage Three Curriculum

2008 – 2010

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Introduction

Welcome to St Edward's College and to life in Lower School which you will find both demanding and enjoyable. The environment is very different from primary school – more teachers, more subjects, different classrooms and plenty of new faces. Yet you will be guided through your Lower School years by your form teacher and subject teachers.

St Edward's has high expectations of all pupils and, for those who work hard, the rewards are great. It is an environment in which you will be challenged and encouraged to achieve, yet you will also receive the support and care that is appropriate to your needs. Your progress over the next three years will be carefully monitored and your subject teachers, form teacher and Head of Year will always be on hand to help you resolve any difficulties and give you guidance and encouragement.

A true Edwardian is one who rises to the challenge and who is prepared to make the most of every opportunity. Enjoy Lower School, work hard and achieve in everything you do.

Good luck.

J. F. Wauzel

Key Stage Three Curriculum

Key Stage Three comprises Years Seven, Eight and Nine and pupils will follow the National Curriculum in all subjects. The Key Stage Three curriculum will form the foundations on which to build at GCSE and A Level. For long term success, it is important that the foundations are strong and that will require hard work and commitment throughout.

St. Edward's places much emphasis on the development of personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS). In lessons, not only can pupils expect to learn about different subjects but they will also develop the skills to help them prepare for later life. Broadly speaking, these skills can be broken down into six key areas. By the end of Key Stage Three, we expect that all of our pupils will develop the skills to become independent enquirers, reflective learners, self-managers, team workers, creative thinkers and effective participants.

The curriculum is made up of **core** subjects (which are compulsory for all pupils to study) and foundation subjects (with which there is a greater degree of flexibility for schools). The subjects that St. Edward's pupils study are outlined below:

Core Subjects:

English, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Mathematics and Science.

Foundation Subjects:

Art and Design, Design Technology, French, Geography, German (Year Nine only), History, Music, Physical Education (PE), Religious Education (RE) and Spanish.

The Key Stage Three timetable is outlined below. In total, pupils have 30 lessons per week, all of which are 50 minutes in length (except periods 4A and 4B which are 45 minutes).

Subject	Number of lessons per week		
	Year Seven	Year Eight	Year Nine
Core Subjects			
English	3	4	4
ICT	1	1	N/A
Mathematics	3	4	4
Science	4	4	5
Foundation Subjects			
Art and Design	2	2	1.5
Design Technology	2	2	1.5
French	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
German	N/A	N/A	2 (optional)
History	2	2	2
Music	2	1	1
PE / Games	3	2	2
RE	2	2	3
Spanish	2	2	2
Total	30	30	30 (32)

Religious Education

At the start of Year Nine, pupils will begin the GCSE Religious Education course. It is a two year course and they will sit their examinations at the end of Year 10. Pupils will take on an increasing workload in RE and this is reflected in the amount of homework they will be expected to complete (one hour per week during Year Nine). Whilst this places greater demands on pupils, its beneficial impact is considerable in terms of pupils having an early experience of taking a GCSE examination before they sit the majority of examinations in the Summer of Year 11. It also allows pupils to enter Year 11 with one GCSE 'in the bank' and may act as a valuable experience in terms of indicating to pupils the level of hard work and commitment that is required to succeed at GCSE.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is currently taught as a condensed curriculum in which pupils complete the Key Stage Three course during Years Seven and Eight. Pupils do not have an ICT lesson in Year Nine and their end of Key Stage Three Teacher Assessment is based on the National Curriculum Level they have reached by the end of Year Eight.

Reduced Curriculum

It may be necessary, under some circumstances, to provide a reduced or alternative curriculum for a pupil at Key Stage Three and this would ordinarily result in them being disapplied from one or more subjects. This occurs very occasionally and the decision would only be taken in consultation with the pupil concerned, his/her parents and teachers and would be made in the best interests of the individual.

Non-Examination Courses

In addition to the curriculum outlined above pupils also have lessons in Education for Personal Relationships and Citizenship.

Education for Personal Relationships (EPR)

EPR is delivered to pupils during the morning form period by their form teacher and in half day sessions where the normal timetable is suspended (once a term for each term). At Key Stage Three, pupils will cover the following topics:

- Exploring me
- Keeping safe from strangers
- Personal development
- Healthy eating and active living
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Race and immigration
- Prejudice
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Drugs
- Sex education
- First aid

Citizenship

The Citizenship curriculum is also delivered during morning form periods by form teachers and gives pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective role in society at local, national and international levels. It helps them to become informed, thoughtful citizens who are aware of their duties and rights. The topics pupils cover at Key Stage Three are:

- Rights and responsibilities
- Multi-culturalism
- Law making and enforcement
- The UK political process
- Diversity
- Consumer rights and responsibilities
- The media
- The workplace
- Resolving conflict
- The global community
- Democracy

Through Citizenship, pupils are encouraged to think about political, spiritual, moral and cultural issues, to develop and justify opinions and to contribute to group discussions and whole class debates. Finally, they are encouraged to consider the experiences and views of others.

Other Important Information

Homework

Homework refers to tasks set by teachers requiring completion by pupils outside of school hours and forms an integral part of every pupil's work routine throughout Key Stage Three. For the pupil, it consolidates knowledge and confirms understanding. It also promotes independent learning and allows pupils, parents and teachers to monitor progress. In addition, it allows teachers to provide both written and oral feedback to pupils, allowing them to improve and make progress.

Not all homework is written. Some homework may require pupils to engage in thinking, revising, reading and discussing.

Pupils are expected to note down all homework in their homework diary. They must attempt all homework to the best of their ability and hand in the work as requested to their teacher by the given deadline. Pupils should not rush homework. They must use all the time allocated and ensure that written work meets the standards of presentation required by the College. If pupils require extra help, they should ask their teacher for assistance, if possible before the homework deadline, and must complete any corrections without delay. Homework that is not of an acceptable standard will be returned and a pupil will be expected to do it again.

It is sensible for parents to assist with homework, but in an indirect way. Parents should view their role in supporting homework as providing:

- a suitable learning environment; primarily, a quiet location and desk or table
- a homework routine, including uninterrupted working time
- appropriate support (for example encouragement, stressing the importance of homework and signing the homework diary)
- parents should not do homework for children but may offer any necessary guidance

Pupils are expected to have their homework diary signed by their parents and their form teacher on a weekly basis. This allows both home and school to monitor closely each child's homework routine. In addition, the homework diary can be used as an important means of communication between home and school.

The amount of homework received in each subject is determined by the number of lessons that a pupil receives of each subject per week. In Years Seven and Eight, pupils will be set 15 minutes worth of homework per lesson. This will remain at 15 minutes in Year Nine except for RE which increases to 20 minutes per lesson as pupils begin the GCSE RE course at the beginning of Year Nine.

Pupils have set nights on which they receive homework for each subject and it is expected that they will be set all of their weekly homework on the allocated night for each subject

The table below outlines the amount of homework that a pupil can expect to receive in Years Seven, Eight and Nine.

Subject	Year Seven		Year Eight		Year Nine	
	Number of lessons per week	Suggested homework time (mins)	Number of lessons per week	Suggested homework time (mins)	Number of lessons per week	Suggested homework time (mins)
Core Subjects						
English	3	45	4	60	4	60
ICT	1	15	1	15	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	3	45	4	60	4	60
Science	4	60	4	60	5	75
Foundation Subjects						
Art and Design	2	30	2	30	1.5	45
Design Tech.	2	30	2	30	1.5	
French	2	30	2	30	2	30
Geography	2	30	2	30	2	30
German	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 (optional)	30 (if opted)
History	2	30	2	30	2	30
Music	2	30	1	15	1	15
PE / Games	3	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A
RE	2	30	2	30	3	60
Spanish	2	30	2	30	2	30
Total	30	6 hr 45 min	30	7 hr	30 (32)	7 hr 15 min (7 hr 45 min)

Assessment

Assessment throughout Key Stage Three is continual. In all subjects, pupils will complete a half termly assessment as well as an end of year examination. For each assessment and for end of year examinations, pupils will be awarded a National Curriculum (NC) Level. In addition, each year parents will receive a progress report at the end of Advent Term and a more detailed annual report towards the end of the school year. In both of these instances, pupil attainment is recorded using NC Levels that are sub-divided into a, b or c. For instance, a pupil who receives a 5a in English is currently working at a high NC Level 5. Letter b indicates that a pupil is currently working in the middle of a NC Level whereas C suggests they are working at the low end of a particular NC Level. The purpose of reporting using NC Levels and sub-levels is to provide a more accurate picture of your son/daughter's attainment.

Pupils complete national Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in English, Mathematics and Science at the end of Key Stage Three. The results of these tests are reported to parents, using NC Levels, by the end of Year Nine.

The details of SATs examinations papers for English, Mathematics and Science are outlined in the table below:

Examination	English	Mathematics	Science
Paper 1	Reading paper (1 hour 15 minutes)	Non-Calculator paper (1 hour)	Science 1 (1 hour)
Paper 2	Writing paper (1 hour 15 minutes)	Calculator paper (1 hour)	Science 2 (1 hour)
Paper 3	Shakespeare paper (45 minutes)	Mental Arithmetic paper (20 minutes)	

In addition, pupils receive a Teacher Assessment in all subjects; again, at NC Level that is reported with SATs results that reflect their attainment in each subject throughout Lower School. NC Levels allow you to track your son/daughter's progress and enable you to make comparisons against national expectations. For example, nationally, pupils achieve an average of NC Level 5/6 in each subject studied during Key Stage Three.

Setting

From the beginning of Year Seven, pupils are taught all subjects in mixed ability classes – usually their form group. This will remain throughout Year Seven with the exception of Mathematics that will set all pupils at the beginning of Lent Term. Setting will then take place in English at the beginning of Year Eight and in Science at the beginning of Year Nine.

Setting is based upon external examination results (Key Stage Two), Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) scores, internal test results and the professional judgement of teaching staff. In addition, personal factors concerning each individual pupil are taken into consideration – for example, one individual may work more effectively at the bottom end of a higher set whereas another may be more confident operating at the top end of a lower set.

The purpose of delaying setting is to allow pupils to settle into school and to ensure teachers are able to get to know the pupils so they can make a more accurate judgement as to the sets in which they should be placed.

In both English and Mathematics, sets will generally be organised sequentially from one (highest) to six (lowest). In Science, the year group is divided in half and, within each half, there will be a higher, middle and lower set.

The purpose of setting pupils is to allow them to work at a pace with which they are challenged yet confident they are able to cope. Each pupil's progress will be closely monitored throughout the year with changes being made if necessary. In addition, all sets will be reviewed at the end of the school year and if any changes are made that affect your son/daughter you will be informed in writing.

Rewards

Pupil effort is recognized and rewarded. A pupil who demonstrates much effort in class or on an individual piece of work may be awarded a merit. Once a pupil has accumulated 15 merits they will receive a gift token during Year Assembly. For pupils who demonstrate outstanding effort over a long period of time or on a big piece of work (for example, a project or presentation), they may be awarded a distinction by their subject teacher. All distinctions must be shown to the Principal and when a pupil receives five distinctions they are awarded a gift token during Formal Assembly. These rewards provide a great incentive to work hard and it should be every pupil's wish to be awarded a gift token in front of their year group.

Subject Clubs

For pupils who require extra help they can attend subject clubs which take place during lunchtime. These clubs provide an opportunity to discuss school work and seek advice from a teacher within that department. They are particularly useful for pupils who need help with homework, have missed a lesson due to absence and need to catch up or who do not understand something and need it explaining again. The times and venues of all subject clubs are advertised in classrooms and around the College.

English Language and English Literature

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

You will learn a range of skills which will improve your ability to write clearly and accurately for a range of purposes. You will learn how to read and analyse increasingly sophisticated plays, poems and novels. You will also learn to write creatively and capture the imagination of the reader. In addition, you will take part in one Drama lesson every two weeks which will help your confidence and your ability to work independently.

What will my English lessons be like?

Lessons will be varied. Sometimes you will be using writing skills, sometimes reading. In other lessons you will use drama to explore the texts you study. From time to time you will be given tasks which will challenge your ability to work on your own or with others in small groups.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning English?

You will enjoy the variety of activities in which you will take part. In every year in Key Stage Three you will have the opportunity to take part in a large scale creative writing project. You will also enjoy getting to grips with the range of texts, including novels, poems and plays such as Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Why is it important to learn English?

Everyone needs to be a skilled user of their own language. The ability to express yourself clearly in both written language and the spoken word will be important in whatever career you choose.

Pupil comments:

"I really enjoy English. I particularly like Drama which gives you a chance to understand the things you read by looking at them in a different way."

"I liked Shakespeare much more than I thought I would! The way we used Drama to study it brought it to life."

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

You will learn about the use of data capture and storage using Microsoft Access and Excel. In addition, you will also explore safe and effective use of the internet together with web page creation, including the use of video and video editing software. The concept of using control software, planning and presenting to an audience are also topics investigated.

What will my ICT lessons be like?

Your lessons will be interactive, interesting and innovative, using the latest and most up to date technology. You will have lots of opportunities to explore and experiment with different applications

What will I particularly enjoy about learning ICT?

You will certainly enjoy creating and hosting websites and the chance to create and edit your own videos.

Why is it important to learn ICT?

Simply because by learning ICT you are equipping yourself for the future and will better understand the world around you.

Pupil comments:

"I liked making a booklet on dancing because it was fun and exciting."

"I like ICT because it is quite different from all other subjects."

"I love ICT because I always learn something new every lesson."

"ICT is the lesson in which you enter into a land of technology."

Mathematics

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

The Key Stage Three course covers five strands of Mathematics. These are:

- Mathematical processes and application
- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Statistics

What will my Mathematics lessons be like?

You will have three lessons in Year Seven and four in Years Eight and Nine, and one piece of homework per week. During lessons you will experience a range of activities including using mini-whiteboards and the interactive whiteboard and will have the opportunity to work independently, in pairs and with your teacher. You will spend one week in every six in the Maths ICT room, using ICT facilities to enhance your learning of certain topics. You will be tested on work covered approximately once every half term and you will then be able to review your progress and set yourself targets.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Mathematics?

You will enjoy solving problems and the challenge that Mathematics presents. You will also enjoy the variety of activities and different learning styles in your lessons and you will really benefit from tracking your progress using your self-assessment booklet.

Why is it important to learn Mathematics?

Maths skills are important both at school and in everyday life. Understanding Mathematics also builds confidence and opens the door to a range of career opportunities.

Pupil comments:

“In KS3 Maths you learn loads of new things. Applying the Maths you’ve learnt also helps in other subjects. Maths is a fun, challenging and key subject – if you work hard you’ll obtain good results and this will help you in future life.”

“The use of the interactive whiteboard, allowing pupils to solve problems on the board, makes normal classroom lessons more interesting and enjoyable and improves understanding. We also have lunchtime Maths Club where you can get extra help.”

“KS3 Maths extends topics learnt at KS2 in a straightforward way. The Maths ICT room makes learning fun and helps improve our Maths skills. Regular assessments mean you always know what level you are at and you always have a target to work towards.”

Science

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

You will learn about the world around you and the science that explains why and how things happen. You will also see how scientists investigate and how we develop our scientific concepts. You will learn lots about Biology, Chemistry and Physics, including how the body digests food, the 'Rock Cycle' and all about the earth and other planets.

What will my Science lessons be like?

Your lessons will be interesting and stimulating, encouraging you to use your knowledge and understanding to explain observations you make.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Science?

You will enjoy learning Science and the new ideas it introduces to you. You will be fascinated by the explanations and you will be active in the many practicals that you will perform.

Why is it important to learn Science?

Science plays a huge role in everyday life from mobile phones to climate change. It is vital that you have an understanding of the issues that you face and feel able to make informed decisions.

Pupil comments

"I have really liked science especially when we do practicals and learn how our body works."

"I never realised how much there is to learn about planet earth and other planets in the solar system."

Art and Design

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

In Art and Design you will learn and develop the skills and techniques which will enable you to draw. You will learn how to develop your own creative instincts so that you can express yourself with confidence in both a written and visual way. You will learn how to respond to the work of a variety of Artists, recognising the similarities between their work and yours. You will also learn how to research and share your ideas, and to develop an informative and personal sketchbook.

What will my Art and Design lessons be like?

You must make sure that you have all your pencils and equipment with you so that you can build on your own independent research, ideas and images. You will be given advice as to how to improve your work and you will be shown how to handle different materials, including clay, and use the correct technical words related to your projects. You will experience 3–dimensional design, printmaking and drawing and painting.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Art and Design?

You will enjoy working in a vibrant department and you will be encouraged by all the work on display. You will enjoy, and may even be surprised by your success; as a result your confidence will grow and you will be able to produce a successful piece of artwork. Your sketchbook will be something to keep well beyond your school years.

Why is it important to learn Art and Design?

Because we work through a process, we are showing you an excellent way to work in any subject area. We call it working from conception to realisation. This involves which means working from beginning to end in a logical and independent way; building on your own understanding and experience and bringing your work to a successful on most occasions, this will be a unique piece of artwork which you have completed.

Pupil comments:

“I didn’t realise there were so many different artists and style of painting.”

“My sketchbook shows how much I have improved in Art since the beginning of Year Seven.”

Design and Technology (DT)

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

Design Technology is a subject that you will find challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. You will study Resistant Materials and Textiles Technology whilst also developing the creative skills necessary to be successful in both the designing and making elements of the project. You will also be taught the Design Process which will enable you to carry out independent research and to generate and explore ideas whilst responding to the challenges of your projects. By following the Design Process you will be rewarded with a successful outcome that you will be able to take home.

What will my Design Technology lessons be like?

In both areas you will undertake either one large project or a series of smaller focused practical tasks and your lessons will be both theoretical and practical. Ideas and experiences will be shared in inventive ways and these will allow you to respond independently to the task in hand. Success in lessons will be reinforced by homework tasks and you must also ensure that you are always fully prepared with your folder and all the equipment you need.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Design Technology?

Only you will be able to decide upon the quality of your finished portfolio and practical piece. The high quality exemplar work that is on display in all the rooms in the department will help motivate you into achieving the same high standard in your own projects. You will develop practical skills in manufacturing using the tools and equipment in both the workshops and the textiles room and you will enjoy using a variety of machines, including pillar drills, hegener saws, sewing machines and overlockers.

Why is it important to learn Design Technology?

Creativity, innovation, analysis and problem solving are all qualities required by any young person to succeed in any subject. Studying Design Technology ensures that you constantly improve upon these skills whilst working both independently and as part of a team.

Pupil comments

“DT gives you a chance to be an inventor and think up great new ideas and designs.”

“At first, using the machinery is a little scary but you are trained well and soon grow in confidence.”

French

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

You will learn how the French language works, how to manipulate it and how to form your own sentences and communicate in French. By the end of Key Stage Three you will be able to speak in the present, past and future tenses and communicate and write French on a variety of topics including self and family, leisure activities, food and drink and shopping.

What will my French lessons be like?

They will be lively and interactive. You will learn to listen, speak, read and write in French through individual work, paired work or in groups. You will take part in conversations and role plays which will help you to communicate in real situations.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning French?

We have a wide variety of resources to teach French and to help you understand and speak it well. You will take part in different activities using tapes, video clips, interactive computer activities, games, quizzes and mini whiteboards. You will also have an opportunity to visit France in Year Eight.

Why is it important to learn French?

Learning another language is very useful in today's world of international trade and commerce. It helps you to develop your memory and listening skills and will open up job opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to you. Having learnt one language it is much easier to learn another.

Pupil comments:

"I feel a lot more confident now and can say what I want to say. I like doing role plays."

"I've liked learning French through activities and games on the computer."

"When you go on holiday to France you'll be able to order drinks and snacks in a café and buy things in shops."

"I like speaking French with my partner and doing Powerpoint presentations."

"You get to do lots of different fun activities."

Geography

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

The emphasis in Key Stage Three will be on key geographical concepts taught through a variety of physical and human geography topics. In Year Seven there will be greater emphasis on geographical skills and environmental issues such as flooding. In Years Eight and Nine the study will focus on the links between physical geography and its impact on people everywhere through the study of topics such as earthquakes, volcanoes and coastal environments.

What will my Geography lessons be like?

There will be a varied approach in lessons including the use of the interactive whiteboard, problem solving exercises and group work. Some lessons will take place in the ICT rooms and involve the individual use of the Internet and school based exercises. You will be encouraged to frame geographical questions and look at the evidence to find answers.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Geography?

You'll enjoy describing the different environments across the UK and the wider world and seeking reasons for why the natural world in some countries and their people are very different from the UK. In Geography the world outside is your classroom as well and you will learn a great deal from your own experience.

Why is it important to learn Geography?

Geography is the only subject on the curriculum which attempts to make sense of the world in which you live. It deals with many important environmental issues today such as climate change and the impact that people have on their local area as well as the global environment. Geography is in the news and Geography matters.

Pupil comments:

"Geography has really helped me understand important things about the world such as the reasons for global warming and flooding."

"I found the coursework on my local environment fascinating. I had never really looked that closely before."

German

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

If you take up German in Year Nine you will develop your listening, reading and writing skills in the context of the following language topic areas: Myself and my Family, Home Life and School and Leisure time. As a triple linguist, you will quickly learn to cope with a less familiar language and become independent in learning as well as being able to express yourself with increasing confidence. Pupils will also improve their cultural understanding by using materials from countries where German is spoken.

What will my German lessons be like?

You will develop your language communication skills in a stimulating and challenging environment working individually, in pairs or in small groups. Your lessons will be delivered in German which is easy for you to understand and we will encourage you to use the language as much as possible. Interactive ICT activities play an integral role in Key Stage Three lessons.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning German?

If you already enjoy French and Spanish, you should take advantage of the opportunity to learn a third language and stretch your linguistic ability. There are a lot of similarities between English and German so although the pace of the lessons is fast, you will find that you will progress very quickly. Year Nine also have the opportunity to practise their German skills at the Cologne Christmas markets.

Why is it important to learn German?

Learning any language helps you to develop important communication skills which are vital for your day to day life or later on in your job. Speaking more than one language opens up opportunities and gives us greater understanding of cultures. German is widely spoken in Europe and the international business community needs competent linguists who can survive anywhere.

Pupil comments:

“It’s exciting to learn a new language and lots of the words are quite similar to English. We learn quickly to catch up with the other languages but it is achievable. I’m glad I took up this opportunity. I’m taking all three languages next year.”

History

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

You will learn exactly what the Romans did for us, why Henry VIII married six women and what life was like in the trenches in World War One.

What will my History lessons be like?

In History, your lessons will be filled with fun and fabulous fascinating facts about all sorts of heroes and villains.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning History?

You will particularly enjoy investigating different topics and presenting your ideas in a variety of ways using computers, drama and play-dough to name but three!

Why is it important to learn History?

It is very important to study history because studying the past will certainly brighten your future.

Pupil comment

*“Study heroes and villains from the past,
Study heroes and villains and have a blast,
Study heroes and villains and hear them scream,
Study history and live the dream!”*

Music

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

Performing, both singing and on the keyboard. You will also learn music theory, the history of music and special topics such as the Blues, Concerto and 'Pop' Song.

What will my Music lessons be like?

Fun. You will work individually and as part of a group on both written and practical topics, often using keyboards. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and to use the interactive whiteboard.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Music?

The variety. There is some written work, but most is practical. You will get to understand different types of music by performing them.

Why is it important to learn Music?

Music is one of the most popular leisure activities throughout life. So, if you do not continue music for GCSE or A Level, you will still have the basics. Almost everyone listens to it and it is a great way of making friends.

Pupil comments:

"In music we experience a large range of exciting lessons. The teachers are very supportive and encourage us to get involved. We have a great time and a lot of fun."

"I enjoy my music lessons because we do lots of different things. I particularly liked learning about Chinese music, Reggae and making up tunes on the keyboard. The teachers encourage us to perform and that helps to build our confidence."

Physical Education (PE)

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

During Key Stage Three, you will be introduced to new skills and techniques across a whole range of activities; these include hockey, rugby, netball, football and cricket. You will also participate in other activities, including gymnastics, dance, athletics, swimming, life saving, health related fitness and orienteering.

What will my PE lessons be like?

Year Seven pupils will have one single and one double lesson per week. In Years Eight and Nine, pupils will have two 50 minute lessons per week. Each lesson will consist of developing an understanding of warm ups and cool downs and the majority of lessons will involve practising new skills and performing them in a competitive situation.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning PE?

During Key Stage Three you will become more expert in your skills and techniques and how to apply them in different activities. You will start to understand what makes a performance effective and how to apply these principles to your own and others' work. You will learn to take the initiative and make decisions for yourself about what to do to improve performance.

You will have the opportunity to develop your skills through extra curricular clubs and intra and inter school sports competitions. You will start to identify the types of activity you prefer to be involved with, and will start to take on a variety of roles, including leader and referee.

Why is it important to learn PE?

Above and beyond anything else, the PE department believes in the importance of children being active during their school life and into adulthood.

Pupil comments:

"The best thing about PE is learning new sports and trying new activities."

"Playing team games has helped make me more confident to build friendships with other pupils in my year."

Religious Education (RE)

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

In RE you will be learning about what it means to be a Christian and how the teachings of Jesus have an impact on the behaviour of people today. You will explore the idea of prayer and think about the relationship that human beings have with God. You will also learn more about the Bible – who wrote it and why! You will be asked to think about your own beliefs about the world around you and explore how you feel about different questions and why you feel this way about them. In Year Nine you will begin your GCSE course by examining the Sacraments in the Catholic Church and thinking about the impact they have on our everyday lives. You will also be given an introduction to some major world religions, in particular, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

What will my RE lessons be like?

RE lessons will be both challenging and enjoyable. You will be asked to learn in lots of different ways including role plays, mediation, listening to music, interpreting art, creative writing, asking and hopefully answering questions!

What will I particularly enjoy about learning RE?

Challenging and thought-provoking questions, working with and for others and exploring your ideas about what you believe.

Why is it important to learn RE?

RE is about asking the most important questions you will ever ask yourself. For example: 'Why am I here?', 'What is important to me in my life?', 'What do I believe about God?', 'Do I believe there is a God?', 'What do I think is right and wrong?', 'Why do I think this is wrong?'. To be a human being is to ask these questions and how you answer these questions will be the foundation for all the other decisions you make in your life.

Pupil comments:

"Enjoyable work."

"We learn about things that have been part of our lives since we were young."

"It's interesting to learn about the real meaning of the books in the Bible."

"I have enjoyed learning about other religions and I think I now understand them better."

Spanish

What will I learn about during Key Stage Three?

You will learn to communicate in Spanish in useful, everyday situations and contexts – talking about yourself and your friends and family, discussing your likes and dislikes, your sports, hobbies and holidays. You will also get to know how the Spanish language works so you can speak and write accurately and confidently. You will learn about Spain and other Spanish speaking countries, their people and cultures.

What will my Spanish lessons be like?

You will be encouraged to practise and improve your Spanish across the four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Your teachers will guide you through a range of interesting materials, including interesting and colourful textbooks and lively ICT resources.

What will I particularly enjoy about learning Spanish?

You will especially enjoy the variety – no two Spanish lessons are the same. You will also gain satisfaction from the speed of progress you make. And of course, you will enjoy being able to practise your language with your friends and your teachers.

During Year Seven there is even the opportunity to visit Spain on a trip organised by the Spanish Department.

Why is it important to learn Spanish?

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world! Over 400 million people speak it across five continents. Being able to communicate with them will give you an edge in the employment market – and your holidays in Spanish speaking countries will be more fun too!

Pupil comments:

“I really enjoy Spanish.”

“It’s my favourite subject because I feel I’m really getting somewhere.”

“The trip to Barcelona was brilliant!”

Notes