



# Westbourne School

Educating girls and boys for life

## Westbourne School Senior School Curriculum Policy

### Aims

The curriculum aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve their potential. We are keen to ensure that girls and boys receive a broad and balanced education, and that they undertake a wide range of educational experiences aimed at enriching and extending their abilities and understanding. There is a strong emphasis on enrichment generally: explicitly and through cross-curricular links, educational visits (both day and residential), foreign exchanges and cultural visits and links with industry and the community.

There are opportunities to pursue personal learning and thinking skills (PLTS) beyond the academic curriculum. Forensic day (Year 8) and architecture day (Year 9) are annual year group events which allow students think creatively, problem solve, and work as a team. We continue to explore opportunities to expand this provision (Aspiration Day, Arthur Wharton Project). Our shared goal is to ensure students are self-motivated and independent learners.

We seek to educate the whole child and SMSC is part of all SS departmental policies. It is delivered via lessons, PHSE and Assemblies. Students are also active stakeholders in the school with the Student Council, Charity and Eco Committees all led by students. Year 11 students also volunteer to undertake duties across the school.

The curriculum has been planned to ensure that it is:

**Broad** - so that it provides each pupil with a wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills, fostering educational development and encouraging independent learning

**Balanced** - so that each area of the curriculum is allowed sufficient time for its contribution to be **effective, flexible and differentiated** - so that what is taught and how it is taught is matched to the learning needs of the individual and fully develops their abilities and aptitudes. The curriculum aims to foster the development of the qualities and skills which will enable all pupils to achieve success and fulfilment, particularly:

- To encourage and stimulate the best possible progress and highest attainment for all pupils
- To develop pupils' enjoyment of, appetite for and commitment to learning and achieving
- To equip pupils with the essential learning skills of literacy, numeracy and information technology and the skills to enquire and make connections across areas of learning
- To build on pupils' strengths and interests and develop their confidence in their capacity to learn and work independently and collaboratively
- To enable pupils to think creatively and critically and to solve problems

- To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To develop pupils' physical skills and encourage them to recognise the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves and others safe.

There is a SMC framework of lessons which incorporates ASDAN in Year 7 and Year 8 and PSHE in Year 9-11.

### **Key Stage 3**

The curriculum in Years 7 - 9 takes account of the National Curriculum and extends beyond it. Two Languages are offered from Year 7; Spanish and French. There are MAPS streams in Year 8-10 and the core subjects (Maths English and Science) are placed into sets within each subject area. The various strands of Technology and Art are taught as part of a carousel with emphasis on designing, making and evaluating. Sport is a key feature of educating the whole child and students have two afternoons of games per week.

Specialist support is also available for dyslexic and dyscalculic pupils.

### **Key Stage 4**

All pupils follow a core curriculum of; English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, three separate sciences and a foreign language is optional at KS4. Options are then taken from a range of subjects which include history, geography, drama, business communications, domestic science, media studies, GCSE PE, and ICT. Sport is a key feature of educating the whole child and students have one afternoon of games per week.

Support is given to help students to choose the appropriate courses for their needs post 16 with external advisers coming into school to support students, and present to parents. In addition students have a coherent application process for post 16 provision including PHSE support, online application (Apply Online) and form teachers.