



# Curriculum Development at Bishop Justus

At Bishop Justus we have a broad and balanced curriculum across all year groups. In years 7 and 8 we pride ourselves in valuing academic and creative subjects as well as preparing the students for Level 2 qualifications with a strong foundation of Knowledge and Skills.

Each subject has developed a curriculum vision and used this to format their long term plans from years 7 – 13 or 9 – 13. Great consideration was given to the sequencing of subjects, texts used and exam boards to match the school's vision and bring equality and diversity into a knowledge rich curriculum.

We offer 15 subjects on average to the year 7 and 8 students. These subjects include two technologies, up to three languages and practical subjects such as Dance, Drama and Art; which are not taught on a carousel, but have dedicated time to ensure deeper coverage of knowledge. As the students start to become specialists in year 9 they have 4 compulsory academic subjects and a choice of 4 additional level 2 qualifications, which they choose from up to 20 subjects. Students are encouraged to choose English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects, regardless of their abilities and the most able students have a choice of opting for more creative subjects. Year 12 students opt for three Level 3 qualifications from up to 30 subjects.

Our school cohort is so comprehensive that we do not feel that a one size fits all model works, hence why we review our curriculum model annually and our subject leaders research the latest developments in their subject areas. Our Religious Education (RE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculums are compulsory from years 7 - 11 allowing students to develop desirable characteristics and world knowledge that is invaluable. We also offer a programme of PSHE in KS5 and are designing a provision for RE in KS5. The PSHE curriculum has also been re-designed to ensure that local and national issues and changed priorities are addressed including knife crime, mental health and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE).

We recognised there was a need to invest in the KS3 curriculum to ensure that we were enhancing the cultural capital of our students. This we felt would be addressed through courses on different strands of development: STEM, Creative and Personal development; including their appreciation of language and other culture's contributions to the world. We also wanted to ensure strong foundations in their literacy. This includes time dedicated to reading in years 7 and 8 and whole school events to promote reading for pleasure.

So all year 7 and 8 students are on a 3 year KS3 course that includes Computer Science and all Humanities from years 7 – 9. In addition, all students in year 7 study linguistics and have lessons developing a breadth of general knowledge, supported by links across the curriculum.

In our new Linguistics course, year 7 students will be encouraged to foster a love of language through a detailed examination of what a language is, how theirs has evolved, and how it defines them as people. They will explore the development of the English language and its influences, from Latin and Norman French to Wycliffe's Bible and the Windrush; they will explore their own identity and how they fit into society through idiolect, sociolect and a range of formality registers; they will study word origins and meanings, grammar and syntax, and how these have been adapted for different texts and purposes; and they will study how they can adapt and use their own language in a formal, journalistic style to express their views on all they have learned.

"The Knowledge" curriculum educates our students in years 7 and 8 on how to best attain and retain knowledge that is linked to various subjects. Common themes are around healthy lifestyles, budgeting, independence, democracy, the environment, philosophy, changes in society and human rights. This will extend to year 9 next year as our current year 8 students continue in KS3 for another year.