

Aspire, Grow, Succeed

The Curriculum

www.allertongrange.com

Welcome

At Allerton Grange, we provide an enjoyable learning experience with literacy and numeracy at its core. A wide variety of subjects are studied with specialist teachers; the vast majority of our students follow a traditional EBacc curriculum, as this maximises options beyond GCSE.

We provide our students with a comprehensive and balanced curriculum to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and personal qualities so that they become:

- competent and independent learners
- confident and articulate individuals
- responsible citizens of the twenty-first century

As a parent, you can be safe in the knowledge that we monitor, support and intervene, ensuring each individual's potential is rapidly developed so they achieve their very best. Full details of curriculum content in each year group can be found on our website.

English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

Almost 80% of our students follow the EBacc route through KS4, providing them with a broad and balanced curriculum; these core academic subjects (English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and a language) give a sound academic foundation for a variety of pathways through Key Stage 5 and beyond.



The KLAS Curriculum

At Allerton Grange School, we believe that a successful curriculum empowers students and ensures they are able to understand the changing world around them.

Our rigorous knowledge-rich curriculum provides students with cultural literacy and allows them to understand the context of their learning, meaning that they do not just learn a list of facts. Through this focus on powerful knowledge, students also read widely and learn a range of crucial subject specific terminology.

Lessons at Allerton Grange are characterised by continuously high expectations and levels of challenge for all students. We believe that teaching of broad knowledge to all children is the single most effective way to narrow the achievement gap.

We believe in developing the whole child. Our curriculum, therefore, encompasses the wide range of enrichment opportunities available at Allerton Grange - from the performing arts and sports clubs to trips abroad. Ultimately, the Allerton Grange student aspires, grows and succeeds, going out into the world as a confident and intellectually curious member of society. This curriculum vision forms the basis of the Allerton Grange cornerstones.



English

All students study English Language and Literature for four hours each week. Progress is rapid and students of all abilities consistently achieve better than national average.

From Year 7 to Year 13, the English curriculum is designed to engage and challenge. Students are taught in frequently reviewed ability sets. They become insightful readers, aware of inference and bias; they learn to write with impact for a variety of purposes; they develop strong discussion skills and deliver confident presentations.

A wide variety of poetry, prose and drama is studied, with literary heritage authors balanced alongside contemporary writers.

Both English Language and Literature are popular and successful A' Levels.

Mathematics

As a core subject, Mathematics is fundamental to the success of pupils at Allerton Grange. Students are initially placed into sets based on Key Stage 2 data and taught for four hours per week. The sets are then reviewed termly in order to ensure our students are at the correct level in order to maximise their progress.

We aim to inspire an understanding of Mathematics that incorporates 'mastery' of the subject and offer all students an enriched content that will benefit each and every one of them. Students make good progress in Maths, attaining better progress than national average at GCSE.

As often as possible, Mathematics is applied to the real world in order to enhance Mathematical reasoning and to enable students to see where their learning applies outside of the classroom.

We provide all pupils with a sound knowledge of the subject which they can explore further in our sixth form and then at university.



Science

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are taught science for three hours per week in ability sets. The comprehensive academic and engaging practical curriculum allows students to satisfy their curiosity about how the world around them works.

At GCSE, we offer a choice of pathways to study all 3 Sciences. The majority study triple sciences, where we achieve better than national exam results.

In Biology, hands on experience of dissection and field work are pivotal in giving pupils an understanding of how science works.

In Chemistry, we start with an understanding of the model of the atom and the periodic table of elements in order to appreciate the importance of chemical reactions.

In Physics, building circuits and firing off rockets complement an understanding of Newton's Laws of motion and the fundamental building blocks of matter.

Science at Allerton Grange provides our pupils with a sound knowledge of the subject which they can further explore in our sixth form and then at university. We make no secret of our ambition to inspire the next generation of young doctors, scientists and engineers.



History

History allows pupils to learn more about local, national and international events and discover more about their features and causes.

Our students are taught how to carry out enquiries, from establishing a study focus to researching balanced and credible information which they then use to analyse and reach reasoned judgements.

History focuses on a stimulating range of topics designed to develop well-informed, curious and independent minds. Results are improving rapidly in History, where the national picture for the subject shows a decline.

Geography

In Geography, questions about our world are encouraged, discussed and challenged. Students learn more about their local area and discover more about other places in the world.

Students carry out enquiries; they establish a research question, design the methods to collect their data, use strategies to present their results and develop techniques to manipulate their findings, enabling them to find answers to complicated geographical issues. GCSE results are strong, with the percentage of students making better than expected progress being above national average.

Languages

In the age of globalisation, it is increasingly important that we can communicate in the major languages used across the world. Students taking Languages at Allerton Grange School gain GCSE and

Languages are thriving and the vast majority of students take them at GCSE, opting for French, German, or Spanish. Learning occurs through a range of activities, including songs, video clips and ICT. Grammar and translation are taught as fundamental skills. We are also fortunate enough to have three language assistants, who are native speakers, to enable students to practise their conversational skills.

Languages also include a wide variety of enjoyable cultural experiences, such as making pretzels and a tour of the Christkindl Market in Leeds.



Non-EBacc Subjects

Art

Our talented Art Department encourage students to produce outstanding pieces of Art and Photography through their teaching of different artists' styles and closely structured feedback to assist with exploring and developing skills. This is reflected by their excellent GCSE results each year.

Art in Allerton Grange has close links with local artists and Leeds College of Art; we frequently work on collaborative projects to enrich the experiences of our students.

Computing and ICT

Students are taught computing, focusing on programming, robotics, computer hardware and software. Both Python and Scratch are used in Key Stage 3. This develops student understanding so that they are prepared for the option of taking this subject at GCSE.

ICT and digital literacy are embedded throughout the curriculum and students' skills are developed through regular work with ICT.



Design and Technology

Design and Technology is taught in a state of the art technology suite by dedicated and enthusiastic staff. We hope to encourage the next generation of Engineers, Fashion Designers, Caterers, Architects and Product Designers through our own love of making.

In Years 7 and 8, all students rotate across Food, Textiles and Product Design and then choose a specialism.

All three areas teach the principles of design, supporting students to develop skills, knowledge and the understanding of equipment. Collaborative work is important in this area and we encourage problem solving skills when looking at the needs of the consumer and how to adapt each product.

Students are enthusiastic and are supported by a variety of clubs after school. Industrial equipment, such as CAD/CAM design programmes are used regularly.



Drama

The KS3 Drama curriculum is sequenced and follows a basic historical timeline of Theatre.

In Year 7 students develop an understanding of how theatre has changed and evolved over time through the magic of theatre, beginning with the Ancient Greeks. Students draw together their understanding of how storytelling on the stage has been shaped by history and society itself.

In Year 8, students follow the development of theatre into the modern world. They consider the purpose of theatre, through the impact that theatre can have on its audience; educating, engaging and enthusing as well as for entertainment.

The Drama Department provides opportunities for Year 7 students to be involved outside of class, including attending Drama club, taking part in workshops, going on theatre trips, becoming a Drama Ambassador and auditioning to be in school shows.



Music

In KS3, students learn about where music came from and how the musical elements have developed and ranged over a musical timeline from Ancient times in 8000 BC to create the music we know today.

In Year 7, students have the opportunity to develop and master skills through solo and group performance and composition tasks. These opportunities allow students to gain confidence, develop skills and learn how to appreciate music through listening and performing.

Students are required to play keyboards, to use tuned and un-tuned percussion, to sing and are also given opportunities to perform on their own instruments. In addition, students work in groups to compose music and perform pieces in front of the class.

Students will continue to develop their performance and music appreciation skills in Year 8, which in turn helps to increase their confidence. Students continue to play keyboards, tuned and un-tuned percussion, sing and are also given opportunities to perform on their own instruments.



Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a popular and very successful subject at Allerton Grange. As a diverse school, we see our role as essential in supporting students to understand and appreciate other faiths and cultures. We also support students in understanding how different moral codes influence society; we help our students to develop an understanding of their own opinions and influences and then to evaluate different opinions.

Religious Studies is taught in dedicated classrooms which house specialist resources and artefacts. It is a very popular subject at GCSE.

Personal, Social and Health Education

The dynamic PSHE curriculum at Allerton Grange has been developed to provide a deepening awareness as students move up through the school. It covers topics from bullying and road safety, through to financial management, enterprise and becoming good citizens of our local and global communities.

PSHE is delivered in tutor times and assemblies, but it is complimented and mapped throughout the curriculum from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 5.



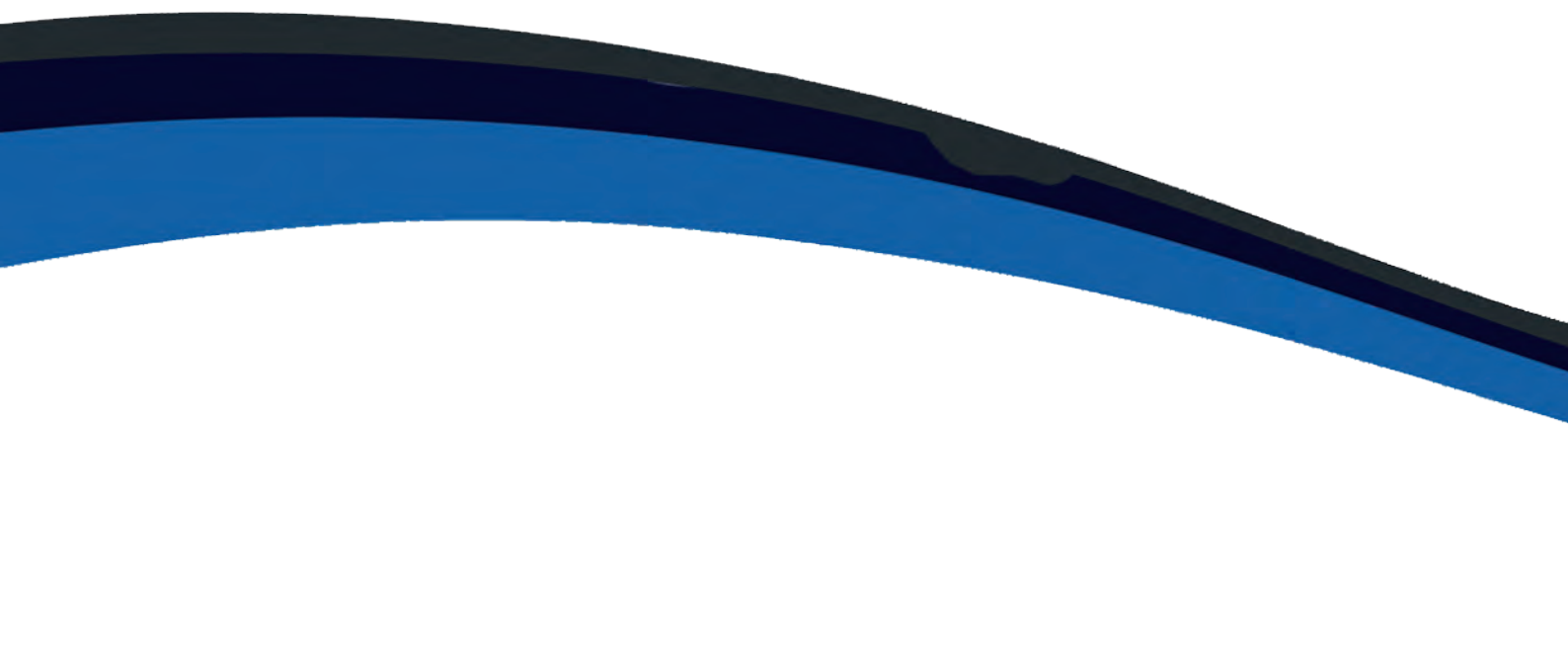
Sports and Physical Education

The first two weeks of the Year 7 programme involve a baseline assessment of all students. The format for this is a carousel of activities, each with a different skill focus. After this, all students are set into single gender ability groups.

During Year 7 and 8, students then take part in a range of activities on rotation including: outdoor team games; indoor individual sports including badminton and table tennis; trampolining, dance and health and fitness using the fitness suite. In the summer term students are taught athletics and also participate in striking and fielding games, such as cricket and rounders.

Within the Year 9 curriculum, schemes of learning are more varied to accommodate the interests and ability of each group. Most groups will still follow a programme that includes outdoor team games, indoor individual sports and health and fitness, but they may also opt to do trampolining, dance or orienteering.

The schemes of learning aim to develop skills other than just performance-focused ones, for example focusing on coaching and leadership skills. In the summer term, students will continue with athletics and striking and fielding games.



Enrichment

A key part of our KLAS curriculum is a timetabled session of enrichment for all students in KS3. These are often delivered in conjunction with external providers, charities or community groups such as dance schools, community football groups and music schools. Students choose a range of activities from three different strands: commitment, community and creativity.

The community strand enables students to learn about the world around them. Activities include learning British Sign Language, designing gardens with the Royal Horticultural Society and St Gemma's Hospice Raising and Giving group.

The commitment strand enables students to develop skills across a number of weeks and encourages perseverance. Activities include Couch to 5k, Orienteering and First Aid.

The creative strand gives students opportunities to explore their creative skills in different mediums. Activities include Contemporary Dance, Crochet 101 and Origami.

All of the strands together help students to confidently develop a range of transferable skills such as resilience, teamwork, organisation and project management.





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