



## **Nether Stowe School**

### **Curriculum Policy – Sept 2018**

#### **Rationale**

At Nether Stowe we believe in the following guiding principles which have led us to develop our curriculum.

- Be broad and balanced.
- A blend of academic and vocational learning experiences
- Enable all students to achieve their full potential.
- Have clear routes of progression from KS3 to KS5 and beyond.
- Take account of the changing framework of qualifications.
- Ensure students enjoy, as well as achieve.
- Develop life, study & employability skills through a Creative Curriculum.

#### **PE & Citizenship/PSHE**

All students will have the equivalent of 2 hours of Physical Education each week. At KS4 students in year 10 will all study a qualification such as GCSE PE or BTEC Sport.

Students will study PSHE through discrete PSHE days. There will be 6 across the academic year.

#### **KS3 – years 7-9.**

At KS3 we believe that there should be a broad range of subjects so that students can experience a rich choice of subjects. In PE and Design Technology the school has an aim to keep maximum class sizes to 25.

Students experience a range of subjects that support their development including Drama, PE and Religious Education. We believe that this will help develop Personal Learning and Thinking Skills, particularly in increasing Communication skills, Social skills, Agility, Self esteem and Teamwork.

#### **Accelerator Reader**

At KS3 students will improve their reading skills by following the Accelerator Reader programme.

#### **Literacy – KS3**

Students who have reading and/or writing ages that are significantly below their chronological age will have additional Literacy lessons. These students will be withdrawn from a variety of Foundation subjects for this support. Once students demonstrate that they are working in line with their peers, they will return to normal lessons

#### **Numeracy- KS4**

Students who have a numeracy age that is significantly below their chronological age will have additional numeracy lessons. These students will be withdrawn from a variety of Foundation subjects for this support. Once students demonstrate that they are working in line with their peers, they will return to normal lessons.

The above two strategies are to ensure that all students are equipped with numeracy and literacy to succeed in KS4.

### **KS4 – Years 10-11**

As the school is a traditional comprehensive mixed ability school, we aim to offer variety and choice to students entering KS4 in terms of type and level of qualifications.

Students must study qualifications in English Language & Literature, Maths, Science (Single Science and Additional Science), IT and PE/Sport.

### **Core and Option Subjects**

In addition to the core subjects, we offer an option block structure. All students study at least one of; Geography, History, French or Triple Science. This is so that students are studying the right combination of subjects for the new performance measures (progress8). There is no requirement for all students to study French. However, those who the school feel it appropriate to are encouraged to study French.

### **Vocational Learning**

We believe that vocational learning plays an important part in the ensuring students are equipped for the world of work. Therefore students are required to study 2 or 3 vocational subjects. In year 10 all students who do not follow the Triple Science route will study a vocational qualification in option block C. Most students will study a vocational subject in core PE lessons and all students will study a vocational course in Digital Technologies.

### **Alternative Curriculum**

Some students follow an alternative curriculum as one of their options. This is to support them further with English and Maths as well as social skills.

### **Alternative Provision**

A small number of students who are risk of exclusion will be directed to qualifications led by the Bridge Centre. The majority of these qualifications are GCSEs.

### **KS5**

The school works in collaboration with four other centres which form the Lichfield District Partnership. There is an agreement since September 2010 that all timetables are aligned.

In KS5 we offer two lines of learning, Traditional A Level and Vocational Level 3 BTEC's. We offer these subjects through a five option block structure. In addition to this, all students have the opportunity to take part in sporting activities. Citizenship & RE are delivered through PSHE days. Most subject areas in the option blocks will teach nine contact lessons to students over two weeks.

The school also offers an enrichment programme where students can opt to do the Extended Project, Young Engineer or Young Enterprise.

**Date:**

**Approved by Governors:**