

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

POLICY ON THE THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL COMMON CURRICULUM

Vision Statement

*We, the staff and governors, aspire
to ensure that all our students,
irrespective of ability
and regardless of anyone's doubts,
achieve their potential in full;
and we aspire in this way to make Thomas Mills High School
the best in the country.*

1. General Principles of the Thomas Mills High School Common Curriculum

In the fulfilment of its aims, the School seeks to provide for all pupils a common curriculum which:

- 1.1 provides an experience of high quality;
- 1.2 is broad and balanced and includes English, Mathematics and Science, in accordance with Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and paragraph 23 of the Funding Agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State;
- 1.3 emphasises the importance of Mathematics, Science, Design Technology, English, Music and Modern Foreign Languages in accordance with paragraph 22 of the Funding Agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State;
- 1.4 provides the means for children to develop morally, spiritually, culturally, artistically and physically as well as intellectually;
- 1.5 provides increasing degrees of choice as pupils progress through the School;
- 1.6 is accessible to all pupils, relevant and well-delivered;
- 1.7 meets the requirements of paragraphs 24, 26 and 27 of the Funding Agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State regarding religious education and collective worship;
- 1.8 prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their future lives, in accordance with Section 78 of the Education Act 2002;
- 1.9 embraces new approaches and opportunities for curriculum development;

- 1.10 is influenced by and, in turn, contributes to a culture of achievement for pupils of all abilities;
- 1.11 is outward-looking and seeks to broaden pupils' horizons;
- 1.12 is understood and broadly supported by staff, pupils and parents;
- 1.13 provides opportunities for pupils to gain a wide range of recognised qualifications;
- 1.14 is complemented by an extensive programme of extra-curricular opportunities.

2. The Thomas Mills High School Common Curriculum in Key Stage 3.

- 2.1 In accordance with these General Principles, all pupils follow a course consisting of English, Mathematics and Science and:
 - Design and Technology;
 - Information & Communication Technology (cross-curricular) and Computing;
 - Physical Education;
 - French;
 - German;
 - History;
 - Geography;
 - Religious Studies;
 - Art;
 - Music;
 - Drama;
 - Citizenship (cross-curricular);
 - Personal, Social and Health Education;
- 2.2 The Headteacher, at his discretion, may vary this programme:
 - 2.2.1 to allow pupils with special educational needs to be withdrawn from some lessons temporarily for one-to-one or small group tuition where it is judged that in-class support would not be the most effective way of meeting their individual needs;
 - 2.2.2 to make special arrangements in respect of any pupil who joins the School in the second half of the Key Stage and who has not previously studied one of the modern foreign languages offered in this Common Curriculum.
- 2.3 Departments are normally expected to follow the programmes of study of the National Curriculum in KS3. However, the Headteacher (with the consent of the Governing Body) may authorise any department to vary or replace the national curriculum programme if the Head of Department convinces him that doing so provides a better way to meet the real needs of our pupils. Any such variation or change shall be made known to parents.

3. The Thomas Mills High School Common Curriculum in Key Stage 4.

- 3.1 In accordance with the General Principles, all pupils follow a course consisting of English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Science, and:
- One modern foreign language and either history or geography so as to fulfil the requirements of the English Bacculaureate;
 - Physical Education (non-examination);
 - Religious Studies (non-examination);
 - Information and Communication Technology (cross-curricular);
 - Careers Education (cross-curricular and tutorial programme);
 - Work Related Learning and Work Experience;
 - Citizenship (cross-curricular);
 - Personal, Social and Health Education.
- 3.2 In addition, pupils choose from a range of optional subjects, which are provided in such a way as to guarantee every pupil:
- 3.2.1 as free a choice of subjects as the available resources allow;
 - 3.2.2 the entitlement to choose at least one Arts course;
 - 3.2.3 the entitlement to choose a second Modern Foreign Language.
 - 3.2.4 An entitlement to choose at least one Technology course.
- 3.3 Individual programmes will be designed when necessary by Heads of Year for pupils who join the school late in Years 10 and 11.

4. The Thomas Mills High School Common Curriculum in the Sixth Form.

- 4.1 The School provides a common tutorial programme, including careers education, religious education, cultural education and citizenship.
- 4.2 Otherwise, the School guarantees to every student as free a choice of examination subjects as the available resources allow.
5. Within the limits of the resources available, the Headteacher and teaching staff shall ensure that the Common Curriculum in each Key Stage is delivered in ways best suited to meet the needs of pupils across the ability range including those with 'protected characteristics' (see *Equality of Opportunity Policy*). Due regard is given (where applicable) to provisions in EHC Plans.
6. In order to ensure that the School is providing high quality education within a culture of achievement, all pupils participate in appropriate formal School Assessments. These assessments are in addition to regular class-based assessment and external examinations.
7. This policy will be reviewed annually in accordance with the Handbook of Governance.