



Codsall Community High School

Curriculum Policy

Introduction

This policy outlines the aims of the curriculum and the approach used to ensure it meets these aims.

Aims

At Codsall Community High School we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to enable all our young people to become:

- Successful learners, who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve well.
- Confident individuals who are able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Approach for Key Stage 4

The school offers a wide range of courses and continues to develop its curriculum in a way that is relevant to our modern and fast changing world.

In our partner middle schools (Bilbrook, Codsall and Perton Middle) students complete the full Programme of Study for Key Stage 3 in all Core and Foundation subjects in Years 7 and 8.

In Years 9, when they join Codsall High School, students begin to study the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study that comprises Core and Option subjects, which they continue with in Years 10 and 11.

The curriculum is being constructed to be even more ambitious with a focus for each year group:

- Year 9. Building Strong Foundations (2022/23) – Students acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they will need for future study.

- Year 10. Enhancing, Enriching and Enjoying (2023/24) – Students study big ideas in depth, make connections with the real world and enjoy learning inside and outside the classroom.
- Year 11. Getting Ready for Next Steps (2024/25) – Students secure the key knowledge they will need for sixth form, college and life and to secure high grades.

During Key Stage 4, all students study Core GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and either Combined Science or Triple Science, which is one of the option subjects.

Students also take Core PE and in Years 9 and 10 they have a Tutor Lesson.

Within Core PE students are given choices each term within the area of health, fitness and wellbeing to ensure all students participate fully and enjoy their Core PE lessons.

Tutor Lessons cover different topics each half term including Careers, Citizenship, Online and Offline Safety, Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHEE), Religious Education (RE) and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Wellbeing.

Students also choose from a wide range of options. These change each year, in response to student interest, but usually include:

BTEC Acting	GCSE Geography
GCSE Art and Design	GCSE German
GCSE Business	Health and Social Care
BTEC Creative Media	GCSE History
BTEC Dance	BTEC Music
GCSE Design Technology	GCSE PE
BTEC Enterprise	BTEC Sport
GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Statistics
GCSE French	GCSE Triple Science

Students choose four options that they enjoy, will make progress and achieve well in and that will help them to achieve their future career goals so they can make a positive contribution to society.

Full details of the Key Stage 4 Options are shown in the “Key Stage 4 Options Booklet” and the “List of Examination Boards”, which are on the school website.

Year 8 students attend Codsall High for two full days to try out different option courses before they make their choices and they are guided through the options process, using information from partner middle schools. They can also change their options during the first half of the autumn term of Year 9 to ensure

they choose subjects they are interested in, likely to be successful at and support their career goals. Students are unable to change options once the deadline has passed.

One of the four options is taken over two years – Year 9 and 10 – called the accelerated option. This frees up time in Year 11 for students to have an extra lesson of Maths and Science and intervention options, which are courses where a student has gaps in knowledge and need to catch-up or where they would like to excel so they can study a subject at a higher level in Key Stage 5.

Within the options, all students choose at least one Bacc subject, which can be GCSE French, GCSE Geography, GCSE German, GCSE History or GCSE Triple Science. Most students chose two or more Bacc options as these courses provide a strong academic core, are useful for higher level study and are well regarded by many employers.

Students with an interest and ability in Languages are encouraged to take French or German with Geography or History to meet the requirements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), but they are also free to choose other course combinations that match their interests and support their educational and career goals.

As well as the taught curriculum the school also offers an extensive range of visits and enrichment activities, which take place at lunchtime and after school. Educational visits are shown on the school calendar and the programme for enrichment activities is shown on the school website.

Notes

- The Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum is able to alter options or option groups to ensure all teaching groups are free from disruption.
- A small number of students in Year 11 who would benefit from learning through work are offered the option of applying to spend a day each week undertaking extended work experience. Students are selected by their Head of Year. Students on this programme select intervention options to make up for any core lessons they will miss.
- Students joining after the start of Year 9 are interviewed by the Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum to agree their courses. Students who join during Year 10 will not normally be timetabled into the accelerated option and instead use this time to catch up with work missed from Year 9.
- Sets for English, Maths and Science for the start of Year 9 are determined using Key Stage 2 data and information from teachers from partner middle schools. Sets are adjusted by Lead Teachers each term based on student performance.

Approach for Key Stage 5

The sixth form offers a wide range of level 3 courses including A Levels and BTEC Nationals and some level 2 courses.

During Key Stage 5, all students choose the equivalent of 3 or 3½ A Levels. This could be through studying 3 A Level courses, a double and a single BTEC or other course combinations.

Students also have non-qualification activity which includes Tutor Time, Wider Learning, Work Experience, Volunteering and PE.

Tutor Time covers all three core themes in the PSHE Association Programme of Study for Key Stage 5. They are Health and wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the wider world.

In Wider Learning students experience collapsed timetable sessions delivered by professionals and guest speakers. These include Driving Safety delivered by the Police, First Aid from St John Ambulance, Cooking for the Future, Student Finance and Time to Talk.

Sixth Form students have a week of Work Experience in July of Year 12 and are also given the opportunity to take part in virtual work experience sessions during the year through Speakers for School. Students can also access Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) courses through the Unifrog platform.

Students also complete 50 hours of unpaid service giving back to their community. This may be in variety of forms such as through the Ambassador Scheme, mentoring lower school students, helping in lessons, the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Gold Award, charity work, helping to run enrichment clubs, connecting with the wider community or raising money for charity.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in physical education outside of school and log their weekly activity. Alternatively, students are timetabled for a PE session in school. Students can also complete physical challenges as part of the DofE.

Students also choose from a wide range of options. These change each year, in response to student interest, but usually include:

BTEC Acting

BTEC Art and Design

A Level Biology

A Level Business

CACHE Health and Social Care

A Level History

BTEC ICT

A Level Mathematics

BTEC Business	GCSE Maths Resit
A Level Chemistry	Functional Skills Maths
CACHE Early Years Practitioners	BTEC Music Technology
A Level English Literature	A Level Physics
GCSE English Resit	A Level Product Design
Functional Skills English	A Level Psychology
Extended Project Qualification	BTEC Science
Football Academy	BTEC Sport
A Level Further Maths	Work Experience
A Level Geography	

Full details of the Sixth Form Options are shown in the “Sixth Form Prospectus” and on the Sixth Form section of the website.

Within the A Level courses offered the majority are ‘facilitating subjects’. These are Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Further Maths, Geography, History, Languages, Mathematics and Physics. The Russell Group, of the most prestigious UK universities, say “Our consistent advice is that taking two facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of degree courses and career options open to you. This is because these are the subjects most commonly required by our universities and hundreds of courses require one or more facilitating subjects.”

The general entry requirements for all courses in the sixth form are:

- Attendance of at least 98% for A levels and 95% for BTECs.
- Effort and homework that are good or better.
- Good behaviour.

For A Level courses students need at least a Grade 6 in the GCSE subject that links to their A level choice and 5 or above in Best English and Mathematics.

For Level 3 vocational courses students need at least a Grade 4 in the GCSE subject or a Merit in the BTEC First that links to their chosen BTEC National courses, or average grades of 4 or above across their GCSE and BTEC subjects if they have not studied the relevant BTEC.

For Level 2 vocational courses students will be considered on an individual basis with input from teachers, parents and the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) with a final decision made by the Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum.

Students who miss an entry requirement by a grade in a A Level or BTEC course, for example if they get a Grade 5 rather than a 6 in the subject that links to their chosen A Level course, they can join the

course on a trial if they were on track to meet the entry requirements as shown by their Year 11 Spring Review.

Students who attain below Grade 4 in English or Maths in Key Stage 4 must study these subjects in Key Stage 5.

As well as the taught curriculum the sixth form offers visits and enrichment activities, which take place at lunchtime and after school. Educational visits are shown on the school calendar and the programme for enrichment activities is shown on the school website.