



Brakenhale School Curriculum Statement 2023-24

Academic Curriculum KS3-5

At Brakenhale School we aim to deliver a high quality curriculum with a range of pathways that provide a stimulating and demanding education for students of all abilities.

Our curriculum is planned with the intent to:

Key Principles

- Provide all students with a broad and balanced curriculum throughout their learning journey at Brakenhale School including following the English Baccalaureate pathway where appropriate.
- Adhere to, or go beyond, the National Curriculum in most subjects to ensure greater depth and breadth in learning.
- Enable all students to build and learn new knowledge and skills on their prior knowledge; thus allowing students to develop deep learning of knowledge and skills.
- Provide students with engaging lessons taught by highly skilled expert teachers with opportunities for experiences beyond the classroom.
- Allow students to learn from mistakes, using assessment at the most appropriate time to identify and address gaps in knowledge.
- Achieve the highest possible results in national tests.
- Prepare students for the next phase of their education or employment and life in modern Britain, taking account of students' aspirations, the local, national and global job markets.
- Develop students' characters and add to their cultural capital through Brakenhale's character education programme.
- Ensure diversity is celebrated to ensure all students feel welcomed, supported and valued in the school community.
- Develop an array of reading strategies to advance literacy skills and access texts at all levels.

Key Stage 3

All students follow a common curriculum which has literacy and numeracy at its core. All students study English, Maths, Science, Geography and History and are also given access to learn either French or Spanish weekly. Students also study Religious Studies and take part in Physical Education lessons weekly.

All students are embedded into an immersive curriculum ensuring all students have the chance to learn all of the key knowledge and principles of the statutory Citizenship and Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) and Health education so important for later life. Specifically lessons on some of these topics are incorporated into the tutor programme, assemblies and a fortnightly Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) lesson.

We are confident that our Key Stage 3 curriculum provides students with opportunities across all areas with Years 7-9 having the opportunity to study the following areas through the courses below:

Creative Arts - Art and Design, Textiles, Food, Photography

Performing Arts - Drama, Dance, Music, PE

Computing - ICT

The curriculum in Key Stage 3 has been specifically developed by departments looking backwards and forwards at the learning journey students are on. Departments have looked at the prescribed curriculum at Key Stage 2 to ensure knowledge and skills are improved, not repeated. Key Stage 4 has also been looked at to ensure that Key Stage 3 learning is rigorous enough to equip students for their next stage of schooling and beyond.



Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

The curriculum after Year 9 is designed to provide continuity, balance and breadth, but at the same time enable students to specialise in courses which meet their needs, aptitudes and career intentions. All students starting Year 10 take a core of compulsory examination subjects: English Language and Literature, Mathematics, and Science.

Other compulsory subjects are Physical Education and Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) which is delivered to students once a fortnight ensuring that all statutory guidance from the RSE and Citizenship programmes is adhered to and built upon. It is also delivered in assemblies.

We encourage students who are capable of doing so to complete the English Baccalaureate and all other students will be expected to choose at least between History and Geography. In addition we deliver a pathway for students who need extra literacy and numeracy intervention to give them the best possible chance of success.

There are different pathways, each offering a selection of the wide range of subjects available including GCSE and vocational courses.

Optional Subjects:

GCSE Art & Design	GCSE Geography	BTEC Tech Award Health & Social Care
GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Media Studies	BTEC Tech Award Creative Media
GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Physical Education	BTEC Music
GCSE 3D Design	GCSE Photography	BTEC Sports Studies
GCSE Economics	GCSE Religious Studies	AQA Tech Award Performing Arts – Dance
GCSE French	GCSE Spanish	AQA Tech Award Performing Arts – Drama
GCSE History	OCR National in ICT	WJEC Hospitality & Catering

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

Subjects

GCE Core Maths	GCE French	BTEC L3 ICT
GCE Mathematics	GCE Religious Studies	BTEC Media
GCE Further Mathematics	GCE Art	BTEC L3 Criminology
GCE English Literature	GCE Psychology	BTEC L3 Health & Social Care
GCE Physics	GCE Computer Science	BTEC L3 Photography
GCE Biology	GCE History	
GCE Chemistry	GCE Geography	
GCE Business Studies		



Curriculum

Our curriculum is organic: it is reviewed annually to respond to the needs of different cohorts. In this way we can offer a stimulating range of options for all abilities and interests. This in turn has a significant impact on the progress, engagement, behaviour and enjoyment of students of all abilities and in all key stages.

It is our aim that all students are able to follow either their first or second choice options (either at KS4 or KS5).

The increase in L3 BTEC courses has meant that our sixth form is more inclusive than ever before.

Our improved employability programme has resulted in improved parent and especially student recognition in surveys. We also run career events for all year groups where the feedback from previous careers events is overwhelmingly positive (both from students and those presenting).

Our curriculum goes hand in hand with a high quality options and transition process between Year 9 and Year 10 which is valued by students and parents. Similarly procedures for preparing students for university are valued by parents and students and the intervention by university admissions tutors is particularly appreciated.

Covid-19

Covid-19 has meant that schools have put in extra measures to keep students safe, whilst at the same time ensuring students continue to study a broad and balanced curriculum on offer. At Brakenhale, we've ensured all students continue with all of their option choices and have had access to a full curriculum offer from year 7 onwards throughout any prior lockdowns.

Continuing the work done during prior lockdown periods, students self-isolating are able to access the lessons and curriculum delivery on offer. All KS3 students are instructed to follow the Greenshaw Learning Trust shared curriculum, which provides students with a diet of English, Maths and Science weekly. In addition, subject teachers at Brakenhale provide all students with necessary work should they be off via Google Classrooms. In Key Stages 4 and 5, all students are able to access "live" lessons, logging in via Google Meet to join in the lesson with the rest of the class at school. Work is then submitted via Google Classroom or emailed through to teachers. This has meant that no student has missed out on any learning opportunity.



This academic year, the fortnightly teaching load per subject is as follows:

KS3

YEAR 7

English	8
Maths	8
Science	6
Geography	3
History	4
Religious Studies	2
MFL	4
PE	4
Dance	1
Drama	1
Music	2
Art	4
DT	
Textiles	
Food	
ICT	2
PSHE	1

YEAR 8

English	8
Maths	8
Science	6
Geography	3
History	4
Religious Studies	2
MFL	4
PE	3
Dance	2
Drama	1
Music	2
Art	4
DT	
Textiles	
Food	
ICT	2
PSHE	1

YEAR 9

English	8
Maths	8
Science	7
Geography	3
History	4
Religious Studies	2
MFL	4
PE (inc 2h Dance)	4
Dance	0
Drama	1
Music	2
Art	4
DT	
Textiles	
Food	
ICT	2
PSHE	1

KS4

YEAR 10

English	9
Maths	9
Science	8
Option A	5
Option B	5
Option C	5
Option D	5
PE	3
PSHE	1

YEAR 11

English	9
Maths	8
Science	9
Option A	5
Option B	5
Option C	5
Option D	5
PE	3
PSHE	1

KS5

YEAR 12

Option A	10
Option B	10
Option C	10
Option D	10
Option E	10
Enrichment	2
PSHE	1

YEAR 13

Option A	10
Option B	10
Option C	10
Option D	10
Option E	10
Enrichment	2
PSHE	1