

GOSFORTH GROUP



AIMS OF THE CURRICULUM

- To meet statutory requirements for students' entitlement to learning
- To ensure that students develop essential functional skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT
- To provide students with an appropriate curriculum which enables them to reach their potential and gain the best opportunities for progression
- To ensure that students develop their personal, learning and thinking skills
- To promote students' spiritual and moral development
- To develop students' capacity for independent and lifelong learning

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

In Jesmond Park Academy there are 30 periods per week, each lasting 50 minutes, with an additional 20 minutes at the start of each day for tutorial time and assemblies. Students in Years 7-11 are timetabled for 30 periods, and have the option of participating in the programme of extra-curricular activities in Period 7 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The number of lessons for which students in Years 12 and 13 are timetabled depends on their study programme (the number and type of courses they take); all have some periods of free time for private study during the school day, some of which may be designated as study periods to be spent in the Library or other learning facility.

KEY STAGE 3

In Jesmond Park Academy, we believe that all students are unique. We know that different students have different strengths and, for this reason, all students study the full range of the National Curriculum with specialist teaching in all subjects with a focus on embedding knowledge and development of skills in preparation for students' next stage of learning.

As our students make the transition into Key Stage 3 they continue to take the full range of National Curriculum subjects taught in our feeder schools; for some they begin the study of a foreign language. The subjects studied are English, Mathematics, Science, PSHCE, History, Geography, Music, French, Mandarin, Spanish Technology, PE, Computing, and RE. Some students also have the opportunity to study a second language in Year Nine from French, Mandarin or Spanish; a small number of students in Year Seven to Nine, including EAL, have additional literacy support. Some students follow a reading programme.

In the second term of Year 9, students are made a curriculum offer for Key Stage 4 with a core comprising English, Mathematics, Science, PE and PD (Personal Development); they are also able to choose their options at this point.

In deciding which pathway is the best for each individual student, we look at assessment data from our feeder schools, our own teachers' assessments, and core subject predictions from Fischer Family Trust. We also take into account individual students' particular needs, such as whether they need extra help with skills such as literacy or numeracy.

The courses offered as options differ according to the pathway that we recommend for each student. Some students will be offered GCSEs, some will choose from vocational courses, and others will be offered a mix of the two. The guiding principle behind our pathways curriculum is to enable students to gain the best set of qualifications possible in order to maximise their progression opportunities at 16 and beyond.

Within Key Stage Three students are placed into curriculum blocks and groups to best support their learning and progress. Students' grouping is varied; below is a diagram to show the organisation of the blocks and groups.

Year	Eng Band (En/Fr/Gg/Hi)	Maths band (Co/Ma/Sci)	Arts Band (Cz/Mu/Pa/Rd/Re)	Technology	PE
7	Mixed Ability	Ability Banding	Mixed Ability	Mixed Ability	Mixed Ability
8	Mixed Ability	Ability Banding	Mixed Ability	Mixed Ability	Mixed Ability
9	Mixed Ability	Ability Banding	Mixed Ability	Mixed Ability	Mixed Ability

We aim to keep group sizes as close to 30 students as possible, especially in practical subjects like Science, Computing and PE. In Technology we try to keep the group size as close to 25 as we are able.

Student progress is assessed using KS3 grades which range from WT → 7 (NB - WT stands for Working Towards a KS3 grade).

KS3 grades :

- are NOT the same as GCSE grades because students follow a KS3 programme of study not a KS4 Curriculum.
- show that pupils have reached a GCSE standard in terms of skills, not what they would be likely get in terms of a grade were they to sit the exam, as they would not have been taught the content.

- are NOT the equivalent of the 'old' KS3 SAT level.
- indicate the eventual KS4 grade the student will be expected to achieve if they continue to make the same rate of progress through each year and work to their full potential.
- e.g a student attaining a KS3 grade 2 in Year 8 will be expected to attain a grade 5 at GCSE or better.

The KS3 grades can be:

- a 'full grade' (e.g 5) where most of the assessment criteria has been met
- a 'grade +' (e.g. 5+) where all the assessment criteria are met
- a 'grade –' (e.g 5-) where some of the assessment criteria are met

KEY STAGE 4

At Jesmond Park Academy all students begin their GCSE/Vocational courses when they enter Year Ten in the September of the new academic year. Students follow a core of compulsory subjects: English, Mathematics, Science (either dual/combined or triple), PE, and PD (Personal Development).

The additional options available to students depend on their individual pathway. As mentioned above, in deciding which pathway is the best for each individual student, we look at assessment data from our feeder schools, our own teachers' assessments, and core subject predictions from Fischer Family Trust. We also take into account individual students' particular needs, such as whether they need extra help with skills such as literacy or numeracy.

The courses offered as options differ according to the pathway that we recommend for each student. Some will be offered GCSEs, some will choose from vocational courses, and others will be offered a mix of the two. The guiding principle behind our pathways curriculum is to enable students to gain the best set of qualifications possible in order to maximise their progression opportunities at 16 and beyond. Students and parents who are unhappy with the offer are guaranteed an interview with a Director to discuss and find a solution which is acceptable to them.

We assist students to gain an extra GCSE qualification (if available) in their mother tongue

KEY STAGE 5

At Jesmond Park Academy we are an inclusive sixth form, our aim is to provide a pathway into the Sixth Form for all our students. We offer a wide range of A Level courses, enabling students to compose a Programme of Study that meets their individual needs, supporting progression onto the next step beyond the Sixth Form. In addition to, or as an alternative to A Level courses, students can select from a range of vocational subjects that are either academically or vocationally focused, also supporting progression onto the next step beyond the Sixth Form.

Our aim is to allow all students who have the potential to pass a course the opportunity to take it. Student support is one of our biggest priorities and the strength of our student support system is a contributing factor for the high level of student success.

We take a great deal of time to ensure that we’re developing real, individual students, and we are proud of our enrichment programme which covers a huge range of activities, in and out of school and also internationally. We encourage all of our students to participate in our enrichment programme that can include building up hours from a combination of sport, charity projects, contributions to school life, mentoring and volunteering. We offer great opportunities to travel overseas with World Challenge and students have recently enjoyed amazing experiences on visits to Thailand, Ecuador and Swaziland. All of these fantastic opportunities aim to develop skills in leadership, communication, teamwork and decision making. Our students have the opportunity to complete the Gold Level Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, which includes completing a personal programme of activities in five sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and a Residential. World Challenge is also an annual expedition at the end of Year 12 and has become an established feature of Sixth Form life at Jesmond Park Academy.

The Extended Project Qualification is available for students to embark upon, helping students develop independence and learning skills.

As in Key Stage 4 we assist students to gain an extra qualification (if available) in their mother tongue. This may be either GCSE, AS or A level.

Our aim is to provide a wide range of A level and Vocational Level 3 subject options in a framework which allows post-16 students a high degree of personalisation in their curriculum.

	September 2021
Date approved:
Signed:
	September 2022
Date to be reviewed: