

The Curriculum

Students complete KS3 in the foundation subjects over a 2-year period and then have choices as to the subjects they study during KS4. The courses on offer during KS4 are either 2 or 3 years in duration. We term the two-year courses 'Mid-size' and the three-year courses 'long thin'. Students make their initial options choices in Y8. At this point they will choose two mid-size options; one subject to study Y9-Y10 and one subject to study Y10-Y11. These will be studied for 3 hours per week. They will also choose one long thin option to study from Y9-Y11, which will be studied for 2 hours per week. The organisation of our option blocks for KS4 increases the breadth of study available to students and ensures that all students have access to the full breadth of subjects on offer at Notre Dame. Students are able to choose a wide range of GCSE courses and other work-related courses.

The following section outlines the curriculum that will be followed by students during Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

During this Key Stage, all students follow a broadly common course of study in line with the National Curriculum and have an entitlement to:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Design and Technology
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- A Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)

In addition, students will follow an ICT course which covers the ICT national curriculum.

Students will receive Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship Education within the core subjects listed above. PSHE is also delivered 2 hours a week in Y8, and through Enrichment Days. This is largely delivered through what we term our personal development curriculum. This will be supported through form time and the assembly programme. During Y8 students have the opportunity to choose some of the courses they would like to study for Key Stage 4. Advice on how to choose subjects is given and decisions are made by students, parents and staff working together to ensure the best choices for each individual.

The options process usually starts with an Enrichment day dedicated to GCSE choices in early January, followed by a parents' options information evening in late January. We then have Y8 parents' evening in February when we issue the options forms, which are due in for early March.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Students follow a common core leading to examination in:

- Religious Education
- English (and English Literature for most students)
- Mathematics
- Double award Science (Triple award can be taken by electing to take it as the long thin option choice).
- Students will also be required to take a Modern Foreign Language, which will either be French or Spanish.
- In addition to these core subjects, students will make choices about which option subjects they will study. The main choices are made during Y8 (for the following September) but depending on the courses chosen, students will also be able to make further choices during Y9 if places on other courses are available. Over the period of KS4 the majority of students will be able to choose three option subjects plus the language they have studied in years 7&8. Extensive support is given to help students make these choices.

Students can choose additional courses from a range which usually includes:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Child Development
- Drama
- Food & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Health and Social Care
- i-Media/Music
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Technology –Product Design
- Triple Science
- Everyone also follows a non-examined programme of Physical Education.

- Personal Health and Social Education (PSHE) and Careers Education. Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) are delivered within the core subjects listed above and through Enrichment Days. CEIAG is also delivered through drop down hours each year in the Autumn term. This is supported through form time and the assembly programme. Considerable resources are put towards supporting students making decisions about post 16 study or training- our philosophy of education is about 'educating for life',

Core Subject	Option
English Literature *1 GCSE	1*1 GCSE
English Language*1 GCSE	2*1 GCSE
Maths*1 GCSE	3*1 GCSE
Double Science*2 GCSE	
Religious Education*1 GCSE	
Modern Foreign Language*1 GCSE	

Our curriculum allows for 7 GCSEs in the core subjects and up to 3 more in the optional subjects.

Physical Education

Physical Education is taught from Years 7 to 11 – GCSE PE is available and Sports Studies is available as an A-level subject in the Sixth Form. Activities cover the full range of traditional sports for both girls and boys including football, rugby, cricket, netball, tennis, rounders, volleyball, athletics, badminton, trampoline, cross country running, gymnastics, basketball, dance and hockey. Students receive their entitlement to 2 hours of timetable Physical Education each week.

Students may be taught in the gymnasium, hall, outdoors, on our 4G astro turf facility or in our well-equipped sports hall. We offer a wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs, including ski club, netball, football, rounders, athletics and hockey. Students from Notre Dame win a variety of awards each year.

Notre Dame also offers a Key stage 5 curriculum;

The KS5 curriculum is designed to enable first class progression routes, built around student need. Option blocks are created following consultation with potential entrants, thus meeting their needs. Our offer is largely A-Level based. Additionally, all students attend form time (where a rich and varied curriculum is delivered in line with our ethos) and Core RE (non-examined).

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D	BLOCK E
Biology	Biology	Art/Photography	Biology	Chemistry
Business	Business	Chemistry	Chemistry	English Language
DT-Product design	Geography	Computer Science	Core Maths	Economics
Economics	Health & Social Care	English Language	Drama	Further Maths
English Literature	Maths	History	English Literature	Philosophy & Ethics
French	Music	Health & Social Care Double	Maths	Physics
History	Philosophy & Ethics	Maths	Physical Education	Psychology
Maths	Psychology	Politics	Spanish	Sociology
Physics	Sociology	Psychology		
Psychology				

The vision of ensuring all students can thrive, starts with a well thought out curriculum model that enhances the experience of students. Below is a summary of each department intent that feeds into the whole school curriculum model intent.