



AKELEY WOOD  
SCHOOL

## **AKELEY WOOD SENIOR SCHOOL: Curriculum**

*Akeley Wood Senior School is committed to the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, informed by the national curriculum, but reflecting, at the same time, the particular abilities, aptitudes and aspirations of our own pupils. This policy aims to ensure that all pupils have an equal access to that curriculum, and that the quality of their learning experience leads to a consistently high level of involvement and achievement.*

*Akeley Wood Senior School aims to help every individual to fulfil his or her academic potential. This is achieved through skilled, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching in small classes, differentiating the expectation and (as far as possible) the work for each child as appropriate. For some A or A\* grades (or in new money Grades 9 or 8) will be the goal; for others achieving five C (grade 5) grades at GCSE will be a triumph. The bright must be challenged; those who struggle academically must be given all possible help maybe through remedial tuition. We recognise that parents have different ambitions for their children and we want to work with them - as long as in our professional opinion it is in the best interests of the child to do so.*

*Most importantly, the school believes in the education of the whole child. It is our job to discover and nurture each pupil's abilities, wherever they may lie. So Music, Art, Drama and Physical Education (for example) all play an important part in school life, both as part of the curriculum and as activities outside the curriculum. Some children will succeed more in these areas than in the academic life and the confidence thus gained will be carried back into the classroom. So there is no hierarchy of value as far as subjects are concerned. The value is the value to the child.*

*We support all students to be able to work happily in the mainstream classes and some will receive extra specialist tuition to meet their specific educational needs. In addition to their teaching role, the SEN staff encourage pupils in all their work, helping them to overcome any problems which they may encounter in their lessons..*

*The provision for students identified on our Exceptional Potential register ensures that students with a particular skill or talent are encouraged to flourish. The Oxbridge*

*Programme assists our A-Level students with their applications to established international universities*

## **Curriculum**

In Years 7, 8 and 9 the curriculum comprises English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design & Technology (Resistant Materials, Food Technology, and Textiles), French, Spanish, Geography, History, Information Technology, Music, Religious Studies and Physical Education. All students also follow our pastoral curriculum, 'Life Learning' in which they are taught how to keep healthy in body and mind, how to make and keep friends, how to understand better how they learn and how to maximise their potential at School. We are also introducing a 'character education' strand to the Life Learning whereby students will develop their leadership qualities, team working and problem solving abilities, all through the medium of our glorious outside grounds.

At the end of Key Stage 3, pupils choose the subjects they will study for their GCSE examinations. At this stage they receive a booklet which details the courses on offer. Parents are fully involved in the making of these important decisions.

Most pupils are expected to follow nine GCSE examination courses. All pupils study English, Mathematics and Science. Students can choose to take the Combined Science examination (leading to two GCSEs) and a further four options; or to study Biology, Physics and Chemistry as individual subjects and take a further three options.

We strongly advise all pupils to study at least one modern language: French and Spanish are currently offered at this stage. Other options may be chosen from Art, Design & Technology (Resistant Materials), Geography, History, Business Studies, Computer Science, Music, Music Technology, Sports Studies, Film Studies, Drama and Textiles.

In the Sixth Form most pupils study three subjects to A level although those with exceptional potential may study four. All subjects offered at GCSE level are available with the addition of Photography, Politics, Economics, Philosophy and Ethics and Psychology.

### ***The Enriched Curriculum***

The Akeley Wood Enriched Curriculum is part of the timetable for all Year groups and presently runs on a Friday afternoon. Students are able to choose from an extremely wide range of activities, the majority of which run for one term and are available across the year groups and across the school sites. Activities range include Archery, , badminton, volleyball, printmaking, vintage fashion 'up-cycling', robotics, musical theatre, sports media, Japanese, World War 1 detectives, sports leadership and First Aid. Activities are reviewed termly.

### ***Extra Curricular Activities***

As well as the extensive sports and fixtures list at the Senior School, there are also a wide range of other extra-curricular activities, ranging from Drama productions and musicals to Mandarin and Science Club. The School is keen to encourage teachers who have a particular interest to share their enthusiasm with the pupils. There are a host of music ensembles and pupils are also encouraged to take an active role in the organisation of the activities. Pupils are encouraged to take up a musical instrument on an individual basis and pupils are entered for music examinations.

Some curriculum areas within departments host a week in the School Calendar for a celebration of their subject area – these festivals are an opportunity to find out more about different subject areas as well as attend lectures and get involved in a range of activities.

The school organises a number of residential trips during the year, for example, an annual ski trip. There are a host of different trips within departments, from the Art trips to London galleries to the annual pantomime and theatre trip in Year 7; Year 7 also make an annual trip to Cornwall and the Eden project. Recent trips further afield include Art department trips to Barcelona, a combined Art/Geography trip to Iceland and a Sports tour to Dubai.

The school makes a significant contribution to fund-raising for Project Volunteer Sri Lanka which culminates in a two-week volunteering trip to Galle for a number of Year 12 students.

*See also Academic section*

Updated: September 2016

Next Review Date: September 2017

Signed :



Mrs Amanda Ayres  
Head of Senior School