

Website Curriculum Page – Introduction

English

English encompasses three main areas of study:

- Speaking & Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Our schemes of work are designed to give pupils the opportunity to develop vital skills needed to succeed in these three assessment areas, and the wider world outside of the classroom. Our assessments and schemes of work are informed by National Curriculum guidelines and develop essential transferable skills.

English, as a core subject, is recognised as a fundamentally important area of study. We in the department encourage our students to recognise the crucial impact of communication, written or spoken, for themselves and their future, through focused, creative and inspiring teaching and learning.

Pupils are encouraged to consider the effects of language and an appreciation of alternative perspectives through a vast range of texts. Most crucially, we aim to inspire pupils to express themselves creatively, appropriately and effectively by using the rich and diverse English language.

Maths

This is an exciting time for Mathematics; the new National Curriculum model encourages students to apply the skills they learn to everyday situations. This means that during the time between Year 7 and Year 11, students will be given opportunity to learn through a variety of different methods including teacher and student-led discussion, group work, use of ICT, textbook practice and project work. The aim is to make mathematics as accessible and enjoyable as possible for all our students through the use of a variety of teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles.

Students are at present taught in two mixed ability groups but as the school grows, all students are grouped based on ability. In year 7 this is based on achievement at KS2 and internal baseline tests and is something that will be reviewed regularly throughout your child's time at The Suthers School.

We have extremely high expectations of all our students and endeavour to provide the support required to ensure their success. By achieving good grades within maths we know that students will have the opportunity to go on and become the next generation of teachers, accountants, statisticians, bankers, engineers, actuaries...or even researchers exploring issues such as climate change and much more.

Science and DT

Our aim is to bring a real-world focus to Science lessons and by incorporating Science and DT together in one curriculum area we are able to do exactly that; in Year 7 for example, students follow a scheme of work which enables real-world application and realisation of scientific theory such as through the construction of model cars and boats to test the laws of forces and motion as well as the creation of 3D cell models using a range of craft and modelling techniques.

As with each of the core subjects at The Suthers School, students follow the Progress Board Scheme of Work and will spend equal time studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In fact, in order to make links with the demands of GCSE the pupils are taught in discreet topics of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The scheme of work is designed to be investigation-led so pupils acquire the necessary scientific skills and students are encouraged to complete challenging work so they secure ambitious rates of progress in lessons.

During science lessons students will have the opportunity to develop and learn many new skills including:

- Investigative skills through experiments
- Scientific enquiry by asking 'why?'
- Numeracy: graph drawing, calculating the mean, completing scientific calculations
- Literacy: by writing up scientific experiments and explaining scientific concepts
- Evaluation skills as pupils examine their experiments and scientific theories

MFL

Here at The Suthers School, our students benefit from having five lessons of French each week.

Our students will learn to read, write, speak and listen in French by covering a number of authentic topics including personality, school, hobbies and interests, home town, food, holidays and the media. They will learn how to express viewpoints and understand French culture, as well as discuss key issues in society.

As well as learning the language, students will be learning about different French-speaking countries and cultures, which will prepare them well for an increasingly globalised world and workforce. Learning a foreign language is so rewarding and it enables students to improve their literacy and problem solving skills as well as their ability to work in a team and independently.

Students will be well equipped at the end of Year 8 to embark on their GCSE French course which will develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in greater depth and cover a wider range of grammar, with a focus on translation, literary texts and using a range of different tenses.

Humanities

At The Suthers School we are determined that our pupils are prepared for a future as global citizens and we know that a good grounding in the Humanities is essential to this. Through the discreet study of History, Geography and Philosophy and Ethics, we seek to bring alive our world, its history and its beliefs and values.

By teaching the three separate subjects we believe we will enable pupils to develop the specific subject-related skills needed for GCSE and beyond. In Years 7 and 8 our students have two lessons of Geography and History a week and one lesson of Philosophy and Ethics a week.

Art

In Year 7 students will be introduced to a broad range of new techniques, materials, artists and themes. These experiences will set the foundations for developing as an effective artist and creative thinker.

Students will work through three different topics and engage in practical tasks, discussion, group work and homework projects. Each theme is designed to develop a balance of practical skills, knowledge and understanding. Students will experiment with both 2D and 3D formats and explore techniques including painting, printing, collage and sculpture.

Drawing is seen as a fundamental art skill, which is encouraged and developed across all year groups. In year 7 students begin to develop a more realistic style of drawing and are taught the importance of keen observation, accurate line and use of tone. In their first terms at The Suthers School, students will be taught and assessed on their ability to:

- Understand and identify the formal elements of art; tone, line, form, shape, texture and colour.
- How to make use of a wide range of tonal and shading techniques, be able to discuss tone and formal drawn elements used by themselves and others. .
- How to draw from observation, developing an understanding of proportion and scale.
- A clear understanding of colour theory with the ability to identify primary, secondary, tertiary and complementary colours as well as the ability to confidently mix colours.
- How to scale up a drawing using the grid techniques
- Understand a range of reasons, motivations and incentives for making a drawing.
- Gain confidence in a range of mark making techniques.
- Gain understanding of artists in how their create their work, then using these skills to create a response in the style of the artist, as well as the ability to use art terminology to describe and analysis the work.
- How to make 3D sculptures using team work
- How to work collaboratively to create a final piece.

Music

In Key Stage 3 (years 7 and 8) we aim to deliver a broad experience of music and music making in line with the expectations of the National Curriculum.

Students have two music lessons a week and able to develop skills in three key areas.

- **Performing**
- **Composing**
- **Listening**

At Key Stage 3, students will complete a Scheme of Work which enables them to explore a range of music styles and to engage with music from all over the world. In Year 7 for example, their studies begin with a focus on African music and includes:

- Autumn**
 - **African Music** - The skills of performing, composing and analytical listening will be nurtured through experiencing different styles of music from Africa. Specific styles covered are: African drumming, Isicathamiya and Gumboot Dance.
- Spring**
 - **Caribbean Music** - The skills of performing, composing and analytical listening will be nurtured through experiencing different styles of music from the Caribbean. Specific styles covered are: Calypso, Samba drumming, Steel Drums and Reggae.
- Summer**
 - **Instruments of the orchestra and Programme Music** - Students are familiarised with the instruments of the orchestra and develop their analytical listening skills and performance skills through a study of programme music. Specific works studied are: the Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg, the Carnival of the Animals by Saint Saens and the Sorcerer's Apprentice by Dukas.

We want our students to be excited and inspired by their Music lessons and work hard to prepare them for further study at GCSE and beyond.

PE

In their first three terms at The Suthers School, all students will participate in swimming lessons at Bingham Leisure Centre. Lessons will be led by the Nottinghamshire County Schools Swimming Teams and will be provided to students free of charge. This means that all students will take part in a 16 week programme, tailored to suit the full range of abilities and designed to give direct instruction on strokes and swimming technique, build stamina, develop team-working skills through games such as water polo as well as give all students the chance to gain a Junior Lifeguarding qualification.

PE is of course an excellent opportunity for pupils to take part in exercise to mentally and physically stimulate both the body and the brain and to develop key skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. From Term 4 onwards, students in Year 7 at The Suthers School will participate in a range of sports and activities to include a selection from the following:

Athletics

- Dance
- Fitness
- Games
- Gymnastics

Our schemes of work are informed by the National Curriculum and prepare students for Physical Education at GCSE and A Level.

Students at The Suthers School benefit from a minimum of three periods of Physical Education a week.

Drama

Drama is an art form, a practical activity and intellectual discipline. It is exploration, representation and development of imagination and sensitivity and the study of the dramatic communication of thought, feelings and ideas.

At Key Stage 3, students are able to develop a range of foundation skills through the study of a range of play texts as well as practical instruction in techniques such as still images, movement, levels, proxemics, voice and control. In Year 7, students will develop their skills through the study of well-known fairy tales as well as through script writing and performance.

As they progress through Key Stage 3, pupils will have the opportunities to explore social and moral issues and to work in a creative way which helps develop self-discipline and interpersonal skills.

PSHEC

Our PSHEC (Personal, Social, Health, Economic and Careers) curriculum aims to enable each student to develop into a healthy, well rounded and responsible adult. Through a wide variety of active learning styles, PSHE lessons encourage every student to participate fully and discuss, reflect on and form their own opinions and views.

The key aims are to:

- Develop confidence and responsibility
- Develop a healthy, safer lifestyle
- Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people
- Acquire knowledge and understanding about becoming informed citizens
- Develop skills of enquiry and communication
- Actively participate and take responsible action

Students at The Suthers School benefit from a weekly PSHEC lesson, a programme of assemblies and form time activities designed to develop and reinforce key learning as well as a programme of carefully planned Personal Development Days where students are off-timetable for a whole day and have the opportunity to engage with key aspects of the PSHEC curriculum in more depth.