

Ref: DWI/IBI

10th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about the school's curriculum structure for the 2026-2027 academic year.

We operate a two-week timetable of 50 periods in total (spread across Week A and Week B). Teaching groups in Years 7 and 8 are named after PRIDE (e.g. 7P, 7R, 7I, 7D, 7E) and groups in Years 9, 10 and 11 are named after VALUES (e.g. 9V, 9A, 9L, 9U, 9E, 9S).

Key Stage 3

Pupils in KS3 study a broad & balanced, knowledge-rich and appropriately sequenced curriculum. It is challenging and rigorous, focusing on the acquisition of knowledge coupled with meaningful assessment. All subjects, with the exception of Maths, are taught in mixed-ability groups. The main aim of our KS3 curriculum is to build the foundation for a successful transition to Key Stage 4, giving our pupils the opportunity to develop into knowledgeable and motivated individuals who can go on to secure a bright and fulfilling future.

ADT (Art, Design Technology and Food Technology) is taught on rotation, so that pupils spend a dedicated part of the year studying each subject to develop their knowledge and skills. Pupils study one lesson each week of Music and Computer Science in year 7.

In year 9, most subjects move from five to six teaching groups, which allows group sizes to become slightly smaller as we move towards delivering GCSE content. Some pupil movement is necessary, which is carefully considered in consultation with Heads of Year, Heads of Faculty, Subject Leaders and class teachers. Therefore, group changes are not possible.

Key Stage 4

Pupils at KS4 study the core subjects of GCSE RS, English Language & Literature, Maths, and either Separate or Combined Science. Pupils are chosen for Separate Science based on their Year 9 summer exam. Additionally, all KS4 pupils take PE (Separate Science pupil have one lesson a week for PE and Combined Science pupils have two lessons of PE a week).

Maths and Science are taught in H and G bands (hierarchical sets determined by our Maths and Science departments). English and RS are taught in mixed ability VALUES classes. Please note that once teaching groups are set, they cannot be changed, but Maths and Science sets are reviewed regularly. Pupils also study three option subjects from a broad and balanced selection.

HEADTEACHER – MRS S ADU

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Pupils sit their GCSE English Literature exam in Year 10. Last year our pupils performed significantly above national average in GCSE English Literature, and one of the benefits of taking GCSE English Literature in Year 10 is that our fantastic results build pupil confidence, encouraging them to excel in Year 11.

I wish you a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing your daughter back in September, rested and ready to take up the opportunities of the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'D Wildig', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mrs D Wildig

Deputy Head - Curriculum, Assessment and Outcomes

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