

Curriculum and Learning at Shelley College

Shelley College is committed to providing a curriculum that will prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and meet the aims of the College strapline: **'Valuing people supporting personal best'**.

The aims of our curriculum are:

- to enable student progress in all areas, regardless of ability, disability, gender or race
- to develop successful learners who give their personal best and achieve
- to develop confidence in our students so that they are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- to enable students become responsible citizens who make a positive contributions to college life
- to equip students with 21st century skills needed beyond Shelley College
- to help students to embrace our Commitment to Learning Policy by taking responsibility for their learning
- to encourage students to develop the skills needed for employment
- to offer students the chance to achieve and have high aspirations enabling personal best
- to offer students the opportunity for moral and spiritual reflection in order to promote positive emotional health and confidence.

We offer a curriculum that is personalised, broad and balanced.

Our Curriculum

The Shelley College Curriculum

Our day consists of 5 periods of 60 minutes every day making 25 periods in the week. We operate a two week timetable consisting of a 'Yellow' and a 'Blue' week making a 50 period fortnight. There is a form period of 20 minutes at the beginning of each morning and a floating 'values and skills' lesson that takes place during every two week cycle. This is where students spend the lesson with their form tutor learning about key values and skills required to become a good citizen. Break (20 minutes) is between Periods 2 and 3 and lunch (45 minutes) is between Periods 3 and 4. School starts at 8:30am and finishes at 3pm.

On three mornings during the school year, Years 9-13 'Skills for Life' morning that are specifically designed to cover aspects of PHSCEE that cannot be delivered through other lessons. These mornings often involve outside agencies and guest speakers and cover issues such as drugs, bullying and careers. All students will attend at least one assembly each week that is well planned and coordinated to support the delivery of social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of learning, including the promotion of British values.

Key Stage 3: Year 9

Students entering Shelley College in Year 9 will sit NFER tests and baseline assessments in English, Science & Mathematics during the summer 2 week transition from middle school.

Year 9 is a transitional year and students are taught in 4 bands of similar ability across all subjects. Within each banding students are taught in sets in English, Mathematics and Science, Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish or dual linguists), Humanities and Drama. Other subjects like PE, Technology and Art are taught in mixed ability. There are three forms in each band. Students will start studying topics for GCSE in some subjects like Science and Religious Studies.

Students take their GCSE course options at the end of Year 9 which will be after the May bank holiday when the whole timetable rolls forward.

Key Stage 4: Years 10 and 11

Students begin their GCSE courses in June of Year 9.

Pathway 1 is a traditional GCSE route and consists of four options of which at least one must be a language (French or Spanish) and one must be either History or Geography (both can be taken). Then remaining two options consist of subjects experienced in Year 9 and new subjects available to them at this stage e.g. Business Studies or Computer Science.

Pathway 2 allows students to take four options from a range of GCSE courses stated above and many will, of course, be on discrete individual programmes that may include work in the Student Support Centre / The Bridge, work experience, college placement, food production and The Princes' Trust.

Most students irrespective of their pathway must study either a humanities subject (History or Geography) or Computer Science. The range of GCSE options is large due to the removal some vocational subjects.

Key Stage 5: Year 12 / 13

Our Post-16 provision consists of a choice of 'A' levels and a Level 3 BTEC. Students usually choose four AS/Level 3 BTEC courses, normally reducing to three in Year 13. Students who fail to achieve a GCSE Grade C (old system) and a grade 5 (new system) or above in English or Mathematics will be asked to retake these subjects and lessons are timetabled to facilitate this.

What will my child be taught?

All subject areas at Shelley College have Curriculum plans, which cover three years (or in some cases 5 at post 16). Curriculums have been designed to ensure that all students are fully prepared for the demands of the new GCSEs and A Levels. Curriculum Leaders started by identifying the key Assessment Objectives contained in the GCSE specifications and mapped backwards to ensure students are introduced to key skills and content during Key Stage 3. We liaise and plan closely with our middle schools to ensure some skills filter into Years 7 & 8.

We are also committed to ensuring that our young people are fully exposed to a variety of social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of learning (SMSC), including British Values. This is evident through our planning in each curriculum area.