

Curriculum Statement 2023-24

OUR CURRICULUM INTENT AND VALUES

Our Areté Learning Trust curriculum is ambitious and based upon the evidence of how students learn. It exposes them to the best that has been thought and said so that they are challenged to be the best that they can be.

Underpinning this, strong knowledge foundations and the highlighting of interdisciplinary links ensure learning is equitable for all.

Rich first-hand experiences broaden horizons and create fulfilment and enjoyment.

Ultimately, students thrive academically, personally and socially enabling them to become active and responsible global citizens.

Curriculum design and coverage

Northallerton School & Sixth Form aims to provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum, building upon the knowledge and understanding gained at KS2. The school provides a 3-year key stage 3 and a 2-year key stage 4, however the core subjects of English, maths and science do begin their GCSE teaching towards the end of Y9 once they are confident that the subject knowledge has been secured from key stage 3. At key stage 5 students are able to select from a good range of academic and vocational courses, some of which are taught in partnership with other trust Sixth Form Colleges to maximise the course offer.

Details of all course content (KS3-5) can be accessed by following these links:

KS3 & 4: <https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk/curriculum/>

KS5: <https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-curriculum/>

The table below shows the breakdown in terms of teaching hours across Key Stage 3 and the courses on offer.

Key Stage 3 Subject	Curriculum Hours per Fortnight
Art	2
IT / Computing	2
Design Technology / Food	3
Drama	2 in Y7 and Y9, 1 in Y8
English	8
Geography	3
History	3
Maths	7
Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)	5 in Y7, 6 in Y8 and Y9
Music	2 in Y7 and Y8, 1 in Y9
PE	4

PSHCE	1.5
Science	6
Social and Religious Studies	2

For all of the foundation subjects there is a requirement that the KS3 national curriculum is finished for all students by the end of Year 9. Students are taught both French and Spanish for the majority of their KS3, taught by subject specialists.

Key Stage 4

In the Spring term of Year 9 students opt to take four 'option subjects'. The curriculum is designed so that students maintain a wide choice of other subjects including technology and expressive arts subjects, a second language or second humanity subject and triple science. Our curriculum offer is always kept under constant review to reflect the needs of our students and to take into account changing external requirements.

The table below shows the breakdown in terms of teaching hours across Key Stage 4 and the courses on offer. The following link will take you to the course booklet which contains further detail of all of the KS4 courses, including the awarding bodies we use.

<https://northallertonschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/KS4-Programme-of-Study-Guide-2022-2024-NSSFC.pdf>

Key Stage 4 Subject	Curriculum Hours per Fortnight
Art & Design GCSE	5
Biology GCSE	5
Business Studies GCSE	5
Chemistry GCSE	5
Core Physical Education	2
Design and Technology GCSE	5
Drama GCSE	5
Engineering GCSE	5
Engineering VCERT	5
English Language and Literature GCSE	8 in Y10, 9 in Y11
Food & Nutrition GCSE	5
Hospitality and Catering VCERT	5
French GCSE	5
Spanish GCSE	5
Geography GCSE	5
Level 2 Health and Social Care	5

History GCSE	5
GCSE Computing	5
Maths GCSE	8
Media GCSE	5
Music GCSE	5
PE GCSE	5
Physics GCSE	5
PSHCE and Careers	2
Combined Science GCSE	9 in Y10, 10 in Y11
Religious Studies GCSE	5
Social and Religious Studies Core	2

Key Stage 5

At post-16, we believe it is important for all students to follow subjects that enable the fulfilment of career ambitions. We offer an extensive range of A levels (English literature, mathematics, further mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, French, Spanish, history and geography) as well as art, English language, psychology, economics, PE, product design, religious studies and law. Some of these subjects are taught in partnership with Stokesley Sixth Form College and Richmond Sixth Form through our online collaboration. We are also proud of the achievements of our vocational students and we offer a range of successful vocational level three qualifications in a diverse range of areas including health and social care, applied science, business and media. Students following these courses usually progress to higher education, training or employment related to their studies.

The table below shows the breakdown in terms of teaching hours across Key Stage 5 and the courses on offer. The following link will take you to the prospectus which contains further detail of all of the KS5 courses, including the awarding bodies we use:

<https://www.northallertonschool.org.uk/sixth-form/prospectus-curriculum/>

Key Stage 5 Subject	Curriculum Hours per Fortnight
Art A level	8
Biology A level	8
Business L3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	8
Chemistry A level	8
English Language A level	8
English Literature A level	8
French A level (Delivered by Richmond)	8

Further Maths A level (Delivered by Stokesley)	8
Geography A level	8
Health and Social Care L3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	8
Health and Social Care L3 Cambridge Technical Diploma	16
Health and Social Care L3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma	24
History A level	8
Maths A level	8
Media Studies L3 Cambridge Technical Extended certificate	8
PE A level	8
Physics A level	8
Product Design A level	8
Psychology A level	8
Religious Studies A level	8
Applied Science L3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	8
Extended Project Qualification	2

How we meet the 16-19 study programme requirements

Students in KS5 choose 3 A level and / or level 3 vocational subjects at the start of Year 12. Occasionally students will take 4 A level subjects where the student is able to demonstrate that they have the capacity to take on the increased workload. In addition to the teaching time that students receive they commit to two hours of independent study for each subject.

The curriculum offered at KS5 ensures that there are clear progression routes to enable students to continue their post 16 education at Northallerton Sixth Form College, and to prepare them for higher education and/or the world of work. There is a strong careers programme that supports students to understand the options available and to make informed choices about their career aspirations. There is a rich and varied enrichment programme which gives students the chance to enjoy new experiences and consolidate their timetabled learning through a range of extra-curricular opportunities and experiences.