



Stanchester
Academy

Curriculum Policy

2024 - 25

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Our Vision

Stanchester Academy is a community built on the values of mutual respect and ambition for everyone. This vision underpins our curriculum policy and is reflected in the decisions we have made about our curriculum offer to students.

Context

Stanchester Academy is a Year 7-11 secondary school serving the district of Yeovil. We are one of four schools serving the town of Yeovil and the surrounding area. Currently our entering Year 7 PAN is 174. Our catchment serves a wide rural area with a high proportion of students being bussed into the academy.

At Stanchester Academy we are passionate about the potential of all our students, and in providing a curriculum which encourages them to be ambitious about their future.

Our academic curriculum is designed to produce a structured and carefully sequenced pathway enabling students to gain the knowledge and skills of a broad range of subjects. We recognise the impact that outstanding teaching and learning has and therefore focus on research informed practices in our lessons.

Alongside our academic curriculum, we strongly believe in the importance of character education and offer a wide enrichment programme that enables students to grow their cultural capital whilst with us.

As a school in a rural area, we are enthusiastic about providing opportunities and experiences for our students. As such we offer many extracurricular clubs, trips both nationally and internationally, and numerous workshops with external subject specialists.

Curriculum Intent

At Stanchester Academy:

1. All students follow a curriculum that encompasses our ethos of raising individual ambition and providing the best opportunities for individuals to increase their social mobility and cultural capital.
2. We deliver a curriculum that recognises the importance of teaching traditional academic subjects alongside appropriate vocational choices, as well as developing strong literacy skills.
3. There is a focus on teaching expert subject knowledge, where subjects deliver depth and understanding rather than teaching purely to final examinations.
4. Throughout KS3 and KS4 we seek to develop kind and resilient individuals, exposing students to experiences that broaden horizons and increase their future opportunities.
5. There is an emphasis on educating the whole child, with attention given to their academic, emotional, mental, physical, and social development.
6. Our curriculum enables our students to make wise and informed choices and, ultimately, to be successful, caring, and productive citizens of the local, national, and global communities they live in.

Curriculum Implementation

We achieve our curriculum intent through the following implementation principles:

1. A carefully planned and sequenced curriculum across all subjects, including our extra-curricular provision.

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2. Rigorous and timely assessment that provides detailed feedback to students and informs future planning.
3. Teaching that demonstrates expert subject knowledge, an understanding of how students learn, plans for the long-term retention of knowledge and skills, and uses effective marking and feedback to ensure all students to make excellent progress over time.
4. A consistent approach to teaching and learning (through our 'Outstanding Learning Guide') that is driven by research informed practices and enabled by ongoing and supportive teacher development.
5. Behaviour and inclusion policies that enable all students to learn and make progress, supported by clear and consistently applied routines.

Curriculum Impact

Our ambition for all students is that they successfully leave Stanchester Academy with:

1. Outstanding GCSE and vocational qualifications that demonstrate gained knowledge, skills, and progress over time.
2. The knowledge, skills and character that equip them for successful future decision making in life and the world of work.
3. A destination that meets the students' goals and aspirations and equips them for future progression.

More information about our academic outcomes and student destinations can be found on our website. At a whole school and subject level, the academy regularly monitors and evaluates our curriculum impact and identifies the appropriate steps to improve.

Curriculum Offer

At all key stages, our curriculum offers students clear routes of progression onto the next stage of their learning. At key stage 3, our students progressively develop knowledge and skills from year 7 through to year 9 that meet national curriculum standards and ambitious subject specific plans. At key stage 4, the curriculum conforms to statutory requirements whilst offering a range of options to enable students to fulfil their potential and prepare them for the next stage of their learning at post 16.

In addition to supporting the values of our school, the Stanchester curriculum meets the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and the three key aims for all young people; namely that all young people should be:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress, and achieve.
- Confident individuals who can live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

Key Stage 3

In key stage 3 we offer a broad range of subjects that are carefully balanced to ensure that all students develop knowledge and skills across different subject disciplines.

- Across Years 7 to 9 students study our bespoke Business and Digital Skills course that equips them with applied computing knowledge, an insight into the world of business and employment, alongside valuable careers, and enterprise-based skills.

- In Years 7 to 9, a specific lesson for PSHE has been introduced that complements the content delivered in tutor time and PSHE drop down days. The curriculum is grounded in the outcomes set out in the Department for Education’s statutory guidance for Relationship, Sex and Health Education. We have chosen to extend this curriculum to include non-statutory elements which explore life skills, finances and being part of a community.
- Physical Education (PE) promotes healthy bodies and minds and all years 7 - 11 receive 4 lessons per fortnight.
- Tutorial, PSHE and RE cover students’ place in society and how to be reflective and responsible citizens.
- Students are well supported through the option process in Year 9 to ensure they are on pathways that allow the greatest chance of academic success.

Year 7, 8 & 9 Lessons:

Subject	No. of Lessons a Fortnight
English	8
Mathematics	8
Science	6
PE	4
DT	2
Geography	3
History	3
RE	2
Spanish	4
BDS	3
Art	2
Music	2
Drama	2
PSHE	1

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, students typically study 9 subjects: the core academic subjects (Mathematics, English Language, English literature, Science Combined or Triple), and four option subjects. This is both academically challenging as well as offering a wide breadth of study.

- Students begin studying introductory aspects of GCSE Maths and Science towards the end of Year 9. However, Year 10 serves as the formal start to GCSE studies and requires students to select their option subjects from a carefully selected list of subjects.
- Students are appropriately guided to whether they study Combined Science or Triple Science during the options process. The Combined Science pathway is delivered within the allocated core lesson time; however Triple Science also takes the place of one of the option subjects.
- All students must take at least History or Geography.
- All courses at Key Stage 4 are challenging and rigorous, both following and extending on the awarding bodies’ specifications.
- Students are only set in ability groups in Mathematics and Science. For all other subjects students will be in mixed ability groups.

- We have purposefully ensured that Year 10 and 11 students continue to receive two lessons of PE a week for the benefit of their physical and mental wellbeing.

Year 10 & 11 Lessons:

Subject	No. of Lessons a Fortnight
English	9
Mathematics	9
Science	8
PE	4
Option A	5
Option B	5
Option C	5
Option D	5

GCSE Option Subjects:

- GCSE Art, Craft and Design
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Citizenship
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Film Studies
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Triple Science
- Cambridge National in Creative iMedia
- Cambridge National in Sport Studies
- BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

The Academy Day

The school operates on a two-week timetable. There are 50 lessons across a fortnight made up of single lessons each 60 minutes in length. Each school day is scheduled as follows:

Period	Duration
Tutorial	8:20 - 8:50
Period 1	8:50 - 9:50
Period 2	9:50 - 10:50
Break	10:50 - 11:10
Period 3	11:10 - 12:10
Period 4	12:10 - 13:10
Lunch	13:10 - 13:50
Period 5	13:50 - 14:50