

Contents

Foreword	2
The First Year Curriculum	3
Art and Design	4
Classics	4
Dance	5
Design Technology & Electronics	6
Drama	7
English	8
English as a Foreign Language	9
Food & Nutrition	9
Geography	10
History	11
ICT & Computer Science	12
Mathematics	13
Modern Languages	14/15
Music	16
Philosophy of Religion	16
Physical Education	17
Science	18
Learning Support	19
Curriculum Enhancement Programme	19

Updated September 2011

Foreword

Welcome to the St Bede's First Year Curriculum Booklet. Within these pages we have tried to give you an idea of the opportunities which lie ahead during the first three terms at the St Bede's Senior School. It will be an exciting year: some time will be spent improving and developing in subjects that have been studied before, but there will also be opportunities to work in new areas.

At St Bede's we give every child the chance to do their very best in every area. While we strive for success in the classroom, we also recognise that endeavour on the sports field, in the theatre or dance studio, in the design technology workshop or in the art room, is equally worthwhile. We provide a broad curriculum in which we believe every child will be able to find an area in which they can shine.

This year is an important one. Some children will begin preparing for GCSEs in some subjects; some will use the year to mature, academically, so that they are ready to make that start at the beginning of year 10, in the Lower Fifth. We hope above all that children will relish the opportunities in front of them, and will enjoy their time at St Bede's, just as our teachers will relish the opportunity of working with them and will enjoy helping them to become successful and happy young adults.

John Tuson
Academic Deputy Head

St Bede's School reserves the right to alter any of the courses' content and availability without prior notice and also reserves the right to cancel a course at any time without liability. In these circumstances, pupils will be offered appropriate alternatives. We shall, of course, endeavour to consult and advise all parents and students should this become necessary.

The First Year Curriculum

Head of Year: **Mr Liam Backler**

All Year 9 students follow a common curriculum, as well as selecting three additional option subjects. The programme is comprised of widely-based introductory courses that centre on the acquisition of skills necessary for GCSE and IGCSE courses to be followed in the Fifth form (Years 10 and 11).

In addition to the academic curriculum, all students join in the school's extensive activities programme, which offers a wide range of sporting and cultural opportunities. During the first term, all Year 9 students take part in a weekly Team Building activity as well as an Outdoor Pursuits week based in the Peak District. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to make new friends and develop some essential life skills!

The following subjects are available within the curriculum:

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies)
- Art
- Design Technology
- Home Economics
- Physical Education
- Information Communication Technology

Option Subjects

- French
- German
- Latin
- Mandarin
- Spanish
- Ceramics
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Electronics
- Music
- Photography
- EFL
- Learning Support

Flexibility exists within the extra-curricular timetable for students to continue their studies in Ancient Greek or to prepare for examinations in their first language (e.g. Japanese, Chinese, Russian).

During the second term, with the help of their personal tutors, students select subjects to be studied at GCSE.

Art and Design

CORE

Head of Department: Mr David Graham

All first years do Art each week. Over the year, pupils will get the chance to engage in a variety of activities which will give them an introduction to the range of areas available on the Art and Design GCSE course. Art is a very popular and successful subject; there are 9 full-time specialist teachers and extensive facilities available at St Bede's. Over 350 pupils are engaged in studying the subject at exam level every year. Also Ceramics and Photography are available as an extra option.

Photography

OPTION

During the year the students will experience various photographic techniques from dark room experiments to the use of Photoshop. The course can work as an introduction to the subject for further study at GCSE. Students will require a digital camera.

Classics

OPTION

Head of Department: Mr Jonathan David

Latin:

This option is for students who may have studied Latin before, and many choose Latin as a GCSE option. The content therefore centres on the language requirements of GCSE: the rigours and challenges of syntax, grammar and vocabulary. Some of this will be new, some of it revision. This is a challenging but valuable subject for the able student.

Greek:

Since students usually arrive less experienced in Greek than Latin, the course is virtually ab initio. The alphabet, grammar and syntax are covered at some pace, of necessity, along with carefully chosen reading texts. For some very able students, this year will be the first year of the two year GCSE course culminating in the exam in the Lower Fifth year.

Dance

OPTION

Performing Arts - Dance

Director of Dance - Ms Elaine Holland

Dance is one of the most expressive of the arts and one that even without training is universally enjoyed by old and young. With training, young students learn poise, balance and the ability to make the most efficient and effective use of their muscles. Allied to music and drama, the opportunities offered for dance performance hone those skills and help dancers communicate with an audience.

The dance genres offered through the Dance Programme is based on understanding safe and best practice in dance. Predominantly students will be taught ballet technique, contemporary, jazz, creative work and composition skills with technical analyses and contextual subject matter. These provide a foundation for continuing studies in GCSE Performing Arts - Dance which is helpful to lead on to AS and A2 Dance Studies.

Students wishing further dance training, if they are particularly keen on a specific dance discipline, (not necessarily as a professional career option) are encouraged to enhance their work by the study of dance on our Activities and Recreational Programmes.

The Legat School of Dance

Director of Dance - Ms Elaine Holland

The Legat School of Dance offers intensive dance training with the ability to undertake academic studies in conjunction with a bespoke scheme of dance training. Classical Ballet, Contemporary and Jazz Dance are offered. If students wish to enhance their timetable still further and the Director of Dance agrees, additional classes are available during Activities and after-school hours in solos and repertoire and Royal Academy of Dance examinations.

This programme prepares students for entry to vocational ballet schools, musical theatre schools and those wishing to consider a Dance Degree or Dance Diploma at colleges and universities. Entry to the Legat School at St Bede's is by audition and interview only. Overseas students may supply a DVD of class work and have a telephone interview. Students should be proficient in ballet and have had a minimum of three years' dance experience. It is a rigorous course, demanding of the students a professional level of dedication. Students must be physically fit and in excellent health due to the rigors of the programme.

Design & Technology

CORE

Head of Department: Mr Paul Edwards

Pupils who opt for this course will undertake a series of short projects that have been specifically chosen to provide a good introduction to the various disciplines of this subject. Pupils will gain experience working with a range of materials such as wood, metal and plastics as well as developing skills with electronic systems, computer aided design & manufacture (CAD/CAM) and graphics. During the year pupils will use a problem solving approach to design and make a variety of high quality products using a wide range of equipment and processes. Projects may change form time to time but recent examples are as follows:

- Laminated wooden clocks
- Cyber pets (microprocessor controlled)
- Musical dice (microprocessor controlled)
- Pewter key fobs

The course is designed to be interesting and challenging for all pupils, whether they go on to study Design and Technology at GCSE level or not. Design Technology is available at GCSE as DT: Product Design or as DT: Electronic Products* and pupils may opt for one of these to study at GCSE level - not both! Design and Technology is a popular and successful course and is studied by a healthy number of GCSE pupils each year, many of whom go on to study Design and Technology at 'A' Level in the sixth form.

Estimated additional cost for materials and consumables: £20 per term

Electronics

OPTION

The study of basic electronics includes: Ohm's law, Resistors, Capacitors, Batteries, Transistors, Output transducers: Speakers, Piezo Sounders, Input transducers: Switches, LDRs, Thermistors, Soldering techniques and use of a multimeter.

The study of Microprocessors includes: PIC microcontrollers, Programming PIC microcontrollers using Logicator, and making printed circuit boards using 'Circuit Wizard'

Pupils will also complete at least one project, possibly two, such as a cyber pet and a musical dice.

Drama

OPTION

Head of Department: Ms Sarah Cakebread

First Year Drama gives students an opportunity to explore this discipline in an exciting and dynamic way. Their group and communication skills will be given the chance to evolve and mature throughout this year. The content of the course includes exploration of a wide variety of texts and improvisation work, studied using a host of dramatic styles. There is ample opportunity for First Years to take part in the performances that the department produce for the public each year. At these times the students are encouraged to become involved in all areas of performance and often find their passion in the more technical and behind the scenes aspects of theatre. The creative freedom that this subject allows teamed with the focus and energy needed to create good drama makes this a particularly challenging and thus rewarding subject to choose.

English

CORE

Head of Department: Mr Paul Gibbs

All First Year students receive four hours of English teaching per week. We are fortunate that this year does not culminate in the taking of SATS and thus we are liberated to explore the subject with greater freedom, focusing on what is both interesting and most useful and appropriate for each specific student and class, without losing sight of all the important objective: to make our students committed readers, clear communicators and excellent writers.

Small class sizes help teachers provide fully targeted support and advice in reading, writing, speaking and listening for each individual student. There are regular writing tasks related to fiction and non-fiction texts, all of which helps our students to improve in terms of written accuracy and fluency of expression. There is instruction in rudimentary but essential aspects of spelling, punctuation, grammar and paragraphing to help all our students improve their written ability levels over time. Most importantly, our students are also introduced to a wide variety of challenging literary texts, for example, a suitable novel, a challenging play, a range of interesting poems and other stimulating short stories plus non-fiction. Pupils are also challenged to read a great deal for pleasure by making excellent use of the library and other resources.

Overall, by the end of the First Year, all our students are ready to tackle the forthcoming challenges of the IGCSE English First Language and IGCSE English Literature courses to the best of their ability, with some students being fast tracked over a single year whilst the majority follow the normal two year programme. The First Year summer exams will mirror the final IGCSE English exams to further prepare each individual for the challenges ahead and at the end of the First Year all of our students will have had their minds stretched and their preconceptions challenged as they strive for success in a subject that always sparks the imagination.

English as a Foreign Language

OPTION

Head of Department: Mr Jason Cook

On arrival, students are assessed on their ability in English in order to be placed in the appropriate class. Our intention, where and when possible, is to move students into a mainstream (i.e. pre-GCSE) English class.

The EFL course follows a syllabus which is grammatically based, with the particular aim of improving reading comprehension, increasing written accuracy and developing communication techniques relevant to the learning environment. We also offer support and guidance across the curriculum, teaching the language and study skills that are needed to be successful in other academic subjects.

At the end of the First Year students usually sit one of the University of Cambridge exams in English as a Foreign Language, PET (Preliminary English Test) or the higher level FCE (First Certificate in English). This gives them a sense of achievement as well as an internationally recognised qualification.

Food and Nutrition

CORE

Head of Department: Mrs Claire Ballard

The First Year Food and Nutrition course will give students experience of handling a variety of ingredients in simple meals using pasta, rice, dairy products, meat and a variety of fruit and vegetables. They will be introduced to a range of practical skills including cake, pastry, bread, sauce and biscuit making.

We study food hygiene and safety, healthy eating, nutrition and the main food groups. In addition we discuss current issues including food labelling and cultural and ethical influences on food choice.

This course is intended to give students a knowledge and interest in both practical cookery and theory and to prepare them for study at a higher level or simply provide them with essential life skills. The course is a perfect foundation for further study at IGCSE level progressing to AS and A2 and City & Guild's Vocational qualification

Geography

CORE

Head of Department: Mr David King

All students who enter St Bede's complete the First Year Geography course. We find that there are many different levels in the understanding of Geography, as the students have come from a variety of schools. However, the department is passionate about expanding the student's knowledge and understanding of how important Geography is in today's world. We rarely study 'shapes' of countries, cities and towns, rivers and volcanoes in isolation - the study of Geography today, concerns how man interacts with the environment and how the environment interacts with man.

Fieldwork is a very important part of the Geography curriculum. Students who get to see and experience work in the field, remember much more and, hopefully, find it very interesting. Trips during lessons occur from time to time in the first year and we always encourage students to be aware of their environment. As well as understanding some geographical aspects of the local area, pupils also study Development Trade and Aid, the Geography of the 2012 Olympics, Tourism, the role of China in today's world and Natural Hazards. We use a number of resources to teach the subject, including DVDs, videos, news articles, the Internet, CD ROMS, GIS and textbooks. We are fortunate to possess a good IT infrastructure within the department so students can build and apply their IT skills within the subject.

In all lessons a variety of teaching methods are used to stimulate the student and encourage them to question what is happening in the world today. Role plays and debates are popular, as well as pair and group work.

The course provides a firm foundation for both GCSE and AS/A2 courses.

History

CORE

Head of Department: Miss Katy Chinn

The First Year History Programme is a chance to explore widely the great events of the past. We study various areas of History from the Slave Trade, within the context of the British Empire, to the history of the 20th century which include various options such as the First World War and the British Home Front during the Second World War and explore ideas of dictatorship and totalitarianism of the 1930s. Although these topics cover a wide expanse of history from circa 1500 to 1945, we are primarily concerned with enjoying the adventure of History, understanding conflict and change, investigating prejudice and discrimination and the triumph of the human spirit as well as acquiring skills as young historians. We feel that a study of the conflicts and changes of the 20th century will better prepare our students for the GCSE course, should they opt for it; it is also beneficial for those who may well return to the subject in adulthood.

ICT

CORE

Head of Department: Mr Iain Barr

Our starting point here at St Bede's is that ICT is for all. The use of Information and Communication Technology should be an exciting, enriching and rewarding experience and our aim in the First Year is to build up students' competence and confidence not only in preparation for their GCSE years but also for life.

We cover all of the usual core applications such as word processing, spreadsheets and so on in the context of planning, preparation and best practice. We also explore wider uses of ICT, including document management, acceptable use, validity of information and audience presentation.

Students have access to a Windows based network and have lessons in specially designed ICT labs, utilizing projectors and smart boards; they are guaranteed a computer for their own use. The school's campus-wide wireless infrastructure supports students who have laptops and these are greatly encouraged. Safe, filtered and monitored Internet on demand, email, easy access to learning resources and remote access are also in place to further enhance students' learning experiences.

We strive to produce autonomous, confident users of ICT who can make judgement about how best to use ICT to help solve a problem - but also to know when not to use the technology.

Computer Science

OPTION

By following the Computing course, students foster an interest in, enjoyment of, and confidence in the use of computing. They develop an appreciation of the range and power of computer applications and solve problems using computing. The practical part of the course will focus on programming; whilst the theory topics will include the understanding and use of:-

- Algorithms
- Binary, Denary and Hexadecimal
- Data Types
- Procedures and functions
- Health and Safety
- Computer Legislation
- Truth tables
- Decision Maths
- The CPU

Mathematics

CORE

Head of Department: Mr. Paul Wilkinson

Our aim is to realise the full potential of each and every pupil in the school. The First Year programme represents the initial steps along this road. Pupils enter the school with a very diverse range of abilities in the subject. At one extreme, we meet pupils who really enjoy the subject and simply want to do more advanced work. At the other extreme, we meet pupils who are convinced they will never be able to do the subject.

To deal with this, we initially put the pupils into sets according to information we receive from previous schools and parents, scholarship, Common Entrance, or our own Entrance Examination. We monitor pupils carefully and are happy to move pupils to a different set if this will be to their advantage.

In all the sets, pupils study algebra, numeracy, shape and space, data handling and the use and application of Maths. The work is based around the Impact Maths series of textbooks published by Heinemann. All classes use Book3; either 3 Red, 3 Blue or 3 Green depending upon their abilities.

We see the purpose of the First Year as four-fold: -

To show pupils that Mathematics is a subject which is both interesting for its own sake and is needed to solve practical, everyday problems

1. To show pupils the importance of understanding rather than learning
2. To ensure that pupils have all the basic skills that will be required to successfully complete our GCSE course
3. To challenge pupils with problems that require a deeper level of thought than they have met in the past
4. At the end of the year, pupils are ready to study GCSE Maths and probably GCSE Statistics at a level appropriate to their abilities.

* The most able mathematicians follow a two year course leading to IGCSE mathematics at the end of Year 10 followed by IGCSE further pure mathematics at the end of Year 11.

Modern Languages

OPTION

Head of Department: Mr Henrik Rohmer

French (Continuation Course)

This is a course for students who have studied French in their previous school for a number of years and who wish to continue to learn this language. Whilst many students choose to proceed to a full GCSE at the end of the First Year, others may opt to do a short course or continue with another language that they have started at St Bede's.

German

This course is suitable both for beginners and those wishing to continue with studying German. Those who choose to proceed to a full or short course GCSE will gain a very solid foundation for these GCSE courses. Those who opt not to proceed will have acquired a knowledge of the basics of the language and would be able to put their knowledge into practice in everyday situations in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Mandarin

The first year beginner's Mandarin course at St Bede's, aims to provide a solid foundation in the language for non-natives. Students will learn the basics of Mandarin and, since it is a tonal language, particular attention will be paid to pronunciation. As well as learning the spoken language, students will be expected to begin learning Chinese characters from the outset of the course.

Those students who take up and pursue Mandarin will have access to the fascinating and rewarding world of Chinese culture, as well as to the increasingly wide range of career opportunities which are opening up as China's profile extends on the world stage.

Spanish

This course is suitable both for beginners and for those who have studied Spanish in their previous school. Those who choose to proceed to a full or short course GCSE will gain a very solid foundation for these GCSE courses. Those who opt not to proceed will have acquired a knowledge of the basics of the language and would be able to put their knowledge into practice in everyday situations in Spain and many South American countries. After Chinese and English, Spanish is the most commonly used language worldwide.

Music

OPTION

Head of Academic Music: Miss Louise Morris

This course is designed to provide the necessary foundation required for GCSE Music. All students will be expected to play an instrument or sing to high standard. In addition to these requirements, all students will be expected to have instrumental/vocal lessons to supplement their music studies.

The course will develop the student's knowledge of music that reflects the subject's diverse nature. This course follows three strands: performance, composition and listening. Theory and basic music literacy will be introduced through a study of western music, which will be reinforced by use of the department's comprehensive computer programmes.

The aim of the course is to afford students an opportunity to perform and collaborate with their peers in a resourceful and proactive environment. Some examples of styles covered are: Twelve-bar Blues; Latin American Music; Impressionism; African Music and Music for Special Occasions. A core performance unit ends the course in preparation for those students taking the GCSE syllabus.

Philosophy and Ethics

CORE

Head of Department: Mr Marc Rattray

This Philosophy and Ethics course offers students a range of topics that aims to enthuse them about this subject as well as prepare them for GCSE.

The course covers subjects ranging from Buddhism and Hinduism to Rastafarianism and the music and lyrics of Bob Marley through to an analysis of whether or not you can prove there is a life after death. Students look at some of the core arguments that aim to prove the existence of God and ethical issues such as whether or not you can ever justify warfare.

Students are given the opportunity to decide for themselves what they think about each issue and, most importantly, to debate.

Last year, the number of pupils going on to select the GCSE course more than doubled, such was the student enthusiasm for the subject. It is hoped that this will continue.

Physical Education

CORE

Head of Department: Mrs Kyra Merchant

All First Year students are required to undertake two hours of PE once as part of their timetable. The course is designed to give students a wide variety of activity experiences ranging from health related exercise, swimming and water-skills, cross country, games, athletics, gymnastics, team building and orienteering. All classes are mixed ability and gender with the emphasis placed on participation, skill acquisition and development and enjoyment.

Throughout the programme, students are taught the importance of maintaining a healthy, active approach to life and the benefits that can be gained from various types of physical activities to their overall health. Students are encouraged to gain an understanding of the social benefits of sport, health and safety issues, as well as the roles and responsibilities that are evident when exercising with your peers.

Students follow a set programme for 5/6 weeks before changing the activity. Those considering doing GCSE PE later on, will also gain a good understanding of the types of activities that are offered at GCSE level.

Science

CORE

Head of Faculty: Mr Martin Costley

The First Year Science course at St Bede's has several aims. The first aim is to prepare all of our students for further study at GCSE level. We currently offer a wide range of science options at GCSE and our First Year course reflects this. We cover key concepts in physics, chemistry, biology, environmental science and agricultural science and we explain how these subjects interrelate and support each other. Science is therefore taught as an integrated subject by one teacher in the First Year.

The second aim is to stimulate our students' interest in the living and physical world around them. We believe that science is not simply a body of knowledge about the world, but is also a process of active enquiry. We therefore teach the skills of scientific investigation through experimental work. This includes the skills of how to analyse and evaluate the quality of the evidence provided for scientific statements.

The third aim is to provide all of our students with a grounding in scientific literacy and numeracy. This enables all of our students to understand newspaper, TV, radio and internet reports on science-related issues and make informed judgements about important scientific topics in the real world, which affect their lives.

The **Biology** component of the First Year is focused on human biology and includes food chemistry, nutrition, aspects of human reproduction, and microbes and disease. Practical work involves the chemical analysis of foods and culturing bacteria. Topics in **Chemistry** include the action of acids, the concepts of chemical reaction and change, and the development of new and useful materials such as metal alloys. The **Physics** component explores aspects of Forces and Energy, including Astronomy, Electricity, Magnetism, Sound and Light. The lessons on **Environmental and Agricultural Science** aim to give students an understanding of how the environment is affected for good and for ill by human activities. Topics include issues of worldwide importance, such as global warming and acid rain, and also of local interest, such as the effects of pollution on wildlife and woodland management and conservation. This part of the course includes a visit to a local farm and woodland.

Learning Support

OPTION

Director of Learning Support: Mrs Sonia Bunyard
Deputy Director of Learning Support: Mrs Christine Bilham

Pupils with learning difficulties may opt for Learning Support. It would be usual for prior discussion to have taken place with the LS department before selecting this option.

These small group lessons, of two hours per option block, are taught by qualified special needs teachers supported by curriculum subject teachers where appropriate. Targets are devised with the pupils and regularly reviewed and updated. Literacy and numeracy skills may be addressed together with curriculum support and over-learning new topics. Individual learning styles are determined; revision and examination strategies are practised.

Our aim is to get to know each pupil and their individual needs as quickly as possible in order to fully inform all their teachers via Individual Education Plans and to work towards meeting individual targets.

From September 2011, the cost of small group Learning Support for two hours per week (one option block) is £425 per term.

If you would like to discuss the level of support that your son / daughter may require, please contact Mrs Bunyard on 01323 443815 or via e-mail: sonia.bunyard@stbedesschool.org

Curriculum Enhancement

Curriculum Enhancement for able pupils seeks to offer opportunities for challenge such as:

- individual timetables where appropriate and as the timetable allows
- extension and acceleration for able pupils within the classroom
- extension/breadth for able pupils beyond the classroom wherever possible

For further information please contact John Tuson:
john.tuson@stbedesschool.org