

North Cestrian Curriculum & Setting – Part 1

We are proud of our broad and balanced curriculum model that has been evolving as the school has continued to grow these past few years. You can see the overview of the model below.

Our KS3 Curriculum

Support	Expect				
Pupils in need of additional support in maths and English will have fewer Spanish lessons. There is flexibility to reduce/adapt the offer to meet the needs of each individual.	FOUNDATIONS	WELLBEING	HUMANITIES	CREATIVES	TECHNICAL
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths English 3 Sciences Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE Personal development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RE History Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Music Performing Arts

Our 3 Academic Pathways at KS4

Support	Expect (9 GCSEs)	Extend (10-12 GCSEs)
<p>Entry Level Qualifications in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Maths Science <p>In addition, students will access additional support with English and Maths as well as accessing sports.</p> <p>Students will have access to the full option choices expected of all, however there is flexibility to reduce/adapt this offer to meet the needs of each individual student. E.g. removing an option subject, English Literature or RE to allow more focus on English and maths.</p>	<p>All pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths English Literature English Language <small>We expect most pupils to complete the spoken language endorsement.</small> Combined Science (2 GCSEs) RE PE, Health & Fitness Personal Development, Wellbeing & Skills <p>3 additional subjects: At least 1 of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Spanish* GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE Computer Science <p>Further option subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC L1/2 Performing Arts GCSE Music GCSE Art WJEC L1/2 Engineering GCSE Food and Nutrition GCSE Media Studies GCSE Psychology GCSE Business Studies OCR Nationals L1/2 Sport Science OCR Nationals L1/2 Creative iMedia BTEC L1/2 Health and Social Care GCSE Statistics 	<p>In addition to the core subjects expected of all pupils, we offer the following academic challenges:</p> <p>*Our talented and most able linguists will study Spanish + 2 other option subjects.</p> <p>Our talented and most able scientists will study 3 separate sciences gaining 3 GCSEs instead of the 2 expected from Combined Science.</p> <p>GCSE Further Maths is offered to our most able mathematicians.</p> <p>GCSEs in home languages is an option for those students who are fluent in languages other than Spanish. [Pupils study at home but sit the exams in school].</p> <p>Combination of a language and humanities subject alongside Maths English and Science qualifies for the English Baccalaureate – EBacc.</p>

Can I choose which 2 sciences I study?

No. All pupils, irrespective of year group and GCSE pathway (triple or combined), study Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Do I have to do the EBacc?

No. The EBacc is gained from the combination of Maths, English, Science, a language and history or geography. We encourage pupils to consider this combination, but it is not compulsory.

Can I choose any three additional subjects (options)?

No. Option subjects are grouped into 3 pools. You will need to choose 1 subject from each pool. The groups of subjects are changed each year to aim to meet the choices of as many pupils as possible. There will be a few pupils who will need to make alternative choices. This will all be explained during the options booklet and process in y9.

Do I have to take RE GCSE?

Yes, most pupils will take RE GCSE. By learning about different religions, beliefs, and traditions we hope that our students can develop their own sense of identity and cultural enrichment about their role as citizens in modern Britain today and their links to a global community that will enable them to thrive and go on to lead rich and fulfilling lives as global citizens.

How our students are set within subject areas

For September 2023, we are tweaking the organisation of academic sets to give better access and flexibility for subjects to move pupils and align them with appropriate GCSE pathways prior to Year 10. Current sets will change for the new academic year.

- Each Year group is split into 2 bands, A & B. These are then divided into 3 teaching classes.
- A small 4th group is created for those pupils who need curriculum adaptations and additional support to improve core skills in in English and Maths. These pupils are more likely to need adaptations to their curriculum pathway to support progress in foundation subject knowledge and skills.

	Band	Set			
Y7 & 8	A	1	2	3	
	B	1	2	3	4
		Triple Sci, EBacc pathway			
Y9, 10	A	1	2	3	
	B	1	2	3	Entry Level
		Triple Sci			
11 legacy	A	X	Y	Z	
	B	X	Y	Z	Entry Level

Which subjects dictate setting?

In Y7, pupils are set on ability in maths and then a more mixed ability approach is taken to other sets based on ability in English (KS2 SATs &/or baseline skills assessment at North Cestrian).

Y8 & 9 pupils are independently set by Maths, English, Science and Spanish. English determines the setting which is followed by humanities subjects and Spanish determines the setting which is followed by computer science, the creative arts and technology.

From Y9, Science & Spanish setting works towards identifying those suitable for the Triple Science and EBacc routes.

9A1 / A2 Science identifies those with a passion and ability to sustain high quality work at a faster pace are more likely to be successful at this challenging courses. These pupils are most likely to be aiming for A Level science courses. Some of these pupils opt for the Combined Science option at the end of Y10; A Level courses can still be accessed from this route.

9A1 / A2 Spanish identifies those who should be aiming for the EBacc. Like other local schools, we want our pupils to have the opportunity of a second language (Spanish) and completion of the English Baccalaureate). All pupils (Band A and B), except set 4, can choose to take Spanish GCSE and access the EBacc if they wish to. Those who are fluent in another language e.g. a home language can opt to take that as their EBacc language component and therefore choose a different option subject.

When can I move sets?

Set moves usually happen at the end of each term. It is often too disruptive to move sooner, or too often. We prefer teachers to adapt their teaching to meet the needs of pupils as they progress, hence set moves are made if pupils' needs are better met in another class. More set moves happen at the end of an academic year when more data is available about pupil progress across a year group or setting is determined by GCSE pathways.

Who decides if I can move sets?

Heads of Faculty identify pupils from assessment data and recommendations from teachers using class performance. Where a subject has sole control of a block of classes, this can happen more easily. However, if several subjects are impacted by a change e.g. English, agreement must be sought from a number of different staff. The Academic Director (Dr Askey), oversees set change recommendations from faculties and facilitates timetable changes.

Can I move from A band to B band?

Yes, you can if it is agreed by all the relevant faculties to better meet your needs, however, it is not a choice that you can opt for. A and B Band moves are more likely to happen at Y8 to Y9 or Y9 to Y10 to ensure access to the appropriate GCSE pathways.

If I am in B band in Y9 can I take Spanish GCSE?

Yes, you can. Anyone can choose Spanish as a GCSE option, except those following a reduced Spanish curriculum (set 4).

I am in 9A2, do I have to do Spanish GCSE?

Yes, we expect all pupils in 9A1 and 9A2 to take GCSE Spanish, unless they take another language qualification e.g., a language spoken at home (Arabic, Chinese etc.). We value the skill of a second language and believe that those pupils that can, take this opportunity to gain a broad range of subjects and skills at GCSE level. It adds value to your CV in applications to colleges and future careers. Many local schools in Trafford expect pupils to take a language GCSE.

I am in 9A3, can I take triple science?

You would have to perform as well as pupils in Sets 9A1 and 9A2 in Y9 assessments to be considered. Talk to Dr Rodger.

I am in 9A1 but do not want to take triple science, can I opt out?

Yes, you can. You can gain two good GCSE from combined science up to grade 9:9. If you have no real interest in science and are not thinking of A level sciences, you may be better off choosing Combined Science. Talk to your science teacher or Dr Rodger.

North Cestrian Curriculum Part 2: Personal Development

In addition to the academic curriculum, North Cestrian offers a broad range of personal development opportunities, including the statutory personal development topics and an increasingly diverse range of extracurricular clubs, trips and visits.

Personal Development lessons further broaden the curriculum via a sequenced, age appropriate, programme incorporating SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Social) themes, British Values, citizenship, careers, and wellbeing. Relationships and sex education (RSE) is an important part of PSHE education and is compulsory for all secondary school pupils. See our [policy](#) on the school Website.

Our mission is to thrive together, through the equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and uniqueness through a curriculum which aims to:

- Prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life so that they may make a positive and respectful contribution to society and keep themselves safe.
- To encourage health-promoting behaviour.
- Ensure students have the information to make informed, healthy, and safe life choices.
- Develop pupils' understanding of personal responsibility.
- Ensure pupils learn to show respect and consideration for others and alternative points of views.
- Provide support and information for young people and their parents.

Our PD curriculum is designed to enable holistic personal growth, with opportunities to explore, question, and debate issues relating to pupils and the world around them. It extends horizons across and beyond the subject-based curriculum, building confidence to ask questions and talk openly about complex personal, social, and moral topics.

We will learn to champion and protect wellbeing, mental and physical health, to provide the resilience and tools to face the realities of modern life. It builds informed views and character to enable a safe, happy, and successful, life and career. Knowing more, and being able to do more, is central to your rich and fulfilling life.

Personal Development is delivered through lessons, assemblies, guest speakers, extracurricular clubs, character, and leadership development opportunities.

Personal Development - All pupils (age appropriate)			
British Values	Social & Emotional development	How We Learn	Health & Wellbeing
The Law		Reading & Debating	Relationships & Sex Education
The Media	Bullying	Character Education	Mental Health
Futures & Careers	Respect & Consent	Formality & Conduct	Physical Health
Finance	Equality	Personal Responsibility	First Aid
Online Safety	Digital media	KS4 - IT skills for life, Computational Thinking	
Cultural Capital - Extra Curricular Clubs, Teams, Visits and Trips			
Astronomy Club	Debate Club	School Bands, Choirs	Outdoor Activities Trips
Rendezvous Cafe	Drama Clubs	School Sports Teams	International Trips
STEM & Curiosity Science Clubs	Chess Club	Inclusive sport activities	Theatre Trips
Journalism & Writing Clubs	Gardening Group	Sports e.g. Football, athletics, tennis, basketball, swimming, table tennis, badminton, netball, lacrosse	Curriculum enhancement Trips
Warhammer Club	Kindness Club		Subject Drop in & Revision
Anumana Code Club	eSports Club		Y7 Head's Table Lunch
Reading Groups & Book Café	Zumba	Y10 Work Exp. & college trips	Summer Reward Trips
Extra Responsibility & Leadership Opportunities			
Subject Ambassadors	Duke of Edinburgh Awards	Y9, 10,11 Prefects	Head Boy/Girl
Form Captain / vice captain	Science Librarian	Music Lessons & Grading	Sports Captains, Charity Reps
Presentation in Briefings	Reading Buddy	Involvement in interviews & open days: pupil voice tasks, tour guide	
Character Development & Cultural Capital opportunities from our website menu		Recognition for involvement in external clubs/teams, hobbies	