

Curriculum Policy

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Last review date: August 2022

New review date: September 2023

“Burlington House School” refers to Burlington House Prep, Burlington House Senior and Burlington House Sixth Form.

Please see also:

Remote Learning Policy

Homework Policy

Teaching and Learning Policies (in Staff Handbook)

STANDARD 1: THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PROVIDED (CURRICULUM)

At The Burlington House School the curriculum offers learners the opportunity to access a broad and balanced educational experience, designed to meet national, local and individual priorities. The timetable has been specifically designed by our Leadership Team with the aim of equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary for living and working in today’s rapidly changing society.

The Burlington House Schools’ priority is to develop Literacy, Numeracy and the use of ICT while still giving pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, human and social, physical, scientific, technological and aesthetic and creative education. The schedule broadly follows the mainstream National Curriculum, including a Modern Foreign Language. There are, however, additional and unique features to our provision including a substantial programme of Enrichments offering creative, thematic, recreational and intellectual opportunities to study in subjects not included in the usual KS2, KS3 and KS4 National Curriculum Programme and significant opportunities for small group mentoring and therapeutic sessions.

Personal Development (SMSC) is embedded across the curriculum. As such, The Burlington House School promotes mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In order to encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society:

- There are regular meetings of the peer elected School Council with issues taken to the Leadership Team agenda
- An annual election of Prefects
- The PSHE curriculum encompasses rights, values and equality
- Specifically in the Humanities subjects, the curriculum covers the development of democracy, the rules that support it and how societies decide and make change. Citizenship,

studied as a GCSE in KS4 and as RSS in KS3, covers all fundamental British Values, as part of the designed curriculum

- KS2 and KS3 trips include visits to local institutions of worship to see how different cultures celebrate faith ([please see Covid amendments, below](#))
- Enrichments, such as fundraising and Duke of Edinburgh, promote awareness of how pupils can contribute to the local and wider community, in supportive, financial and creative ways ([please see Covid amendments, below](#))
- Whole school Gatherings (assemblies) take place three times per week and follow themes of mutual respect, tolerance and commemoration of major British democratic events ([please see Covid amendments, below](#))

Timetable

In 2022-2023 academic year, a new timetable has been introduced, with the following features:

- 50 minute lessons (7 lessons per day / 35 lessons per week)
- 2 x 10 mins morning breaks; 1 x 10 mins afternoon break
- 35 mins lunch break

Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

Number of 50 minute lessons per week:

Art	1 lesson
DT / FT	1 lesson
English/ Literacy	5 lessons
Enrichment	2 lessons
Group Communication	1 lesson
OT	2 lessons
Reading	5 lessons
Humanities (Geog/Hist)	2 lessons
ICT/Computing	2 lessons
Mathematics/Numeracy	5 lessons
Performing Arts	1 lesson
PSHE	1 lesson
PE	3 lessons
Religious Studies (RSS)	1 lesson
Science	2 lessons
Spanish	1 lesson

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Number of 50 minute lessons per week:

English	5 lessons
Maths	5 lessons
Science	3 lessons (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)
PE	3 lessons
Art	2 lessons
Food Prep	2 lessons
DT	2 lessons
Performing Arts	2 lessons
Spanish	2 lessons
Learning Skills	2 lessons
Enrichment	2 lessons
Geography	1 lesson
History	1 lesson
Computing	1 lesson
Religious Studies	1 lesson
PSHE	1 lesson

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Number of 50 minute lessons per week:

English	5 lessons	
Maths	5 lessons	
Science	5 lessons	(6 lessons Yr11 Double Science)
Option 1	4 lessons	
Option 2	4 lessons	
Option 3	4 lessons	
PE	3 lessons	
Study Skills	2 lessons	(1 lesson for Yr11 Double Scientists)
Enrichment	2 lessons	
PSHE	1 lesson	

GCSE Curriculum

During Year 9, pupils choose subjects for their GCSE studies. This decision is made after a GCSE Information Evening for pupils and parents. Optional subjects are then chosen, collated and a unique timetable created based on the available configuration of pupils, teachers and resources, which allows for the greatest selection of subjects and best-fit for pupils with their preferences.

Pupils are expected to complete a minimum of 6 GCSE's or Entry Level equivalent, including the 3 cores of English Language, Mathematics and Science. Equivalent qualifications to GCSEs, such as BTECs, VCerts, and Functional Skills are offered. Pupils may wish to take more than the 5 required; some pupils take 8 or 9 subjects. Others may need a reduced timetable. Each case is individually assessed in consultation with parents, pupils and staff.

As far as is reasonably possible, core subjects and Learning Skills/Study Skills (mentoring) sessions are scheduled in the morning when pupils are most alert and receptive. Option subjects are timetabled into the middle or afternoon sessions when personal interest levels tend to maintain motivation and create a willingness to learn.

For more information on the range of subjects offered at GCSE level please refer to the table below.

Learning Skills / Study Skills Sessions

Learning Skills and Study Skills sessions are opportunities for very small group mentoring, in KS3 and KS4. These are grouped vertically, according to main need.

These sessions focus on the pupils' individual needs and specific learning objectives to closely monitor progress and development. Each mentoring session comprises specific and individualised literacy, language and numeracy skills as well as additional social communication skill development, as required. Mentors aim to move pupils forward in terms of their main areas of need, while monitoring the transference of skills to other areas of the curriculum.

Enrichments

A wide ranging **Enrichment Programme** operates in KS2, KS3 and KS4, with the offer changing on a termly basis. These lessons take place twice per week, just before lunch. Enrichments encourage the development of practical skills, knowledge, peer relationships and mentorship, as groups are formed from all key stages ([please see Covid amendments, below](#)).

The enrichment programme aims to:

- draw from all subject areas
- encourage health and emotional well being
- integrate academic content
- promote literacy and numeracy skills
- develop strong relationships between participants
- provide opportunities for authentic decision making by participants – allowing potential for pupil leadership in the activities
- enrich the curriculum and provide avenues for creativity
- encourages respect for each other, paying regard to the protected characteristics

Each enrichment activity will include elements of:

- creative thinking skills
- team-working
- behaviour and social skills
- taking responsibility
- citizenship
- decision-making
- links to the real world
- problem solving

Additional Curriculum Elements

In addition to the above, The Burlington House School also provides:

- Specific **ICT** training in the first year, in order to develop their skills and make the use of their laptop more convenient. Pupils are taught touch-typing, file management and applications such as Google Classroom. These continue to be reinforced throughout their school career.
- **Google Classroom** to support all lessons, including remote learning (please see Remote Learning Policy)
- **Peripatetic** lessons, offered to all pupils and range from musical instrument instruction to drama lessons. These lessons are privately funded by pupils and their families ([please see Covid amendments, below](#)).
- Dramatic performances of various kinds or musical showcases, occurring each year at The Burlington House School. For example, Year 9 performs a piece from **Shakespeare** each year which is also studied in English Language GCSE. The **Annual Christmas Gala** provides performance opportunities for KS2 and KS3 pupils and assessed production responsibilities for KS4 Performing Arts pupils ([please see Covid amendments, below](#)).
- An extensive programme of Physical Education Activity. Burlington House School pupils are offered two and a half hours (minimum) games afternoons in Year groups. The PE department utilised local facilities such as tennis courts, climbing wall, athletics track and a rowing centre. All pupils can elect to use their enrichment options for up to a further 2 hours of PE related activities each week, should they so wish.
- **PSHE and Citizenship Education**, timetabled for a single period for the whole school at the same time, to allow opportunities for vertical and year group activities. For more information, refer to the PSHE and Citizenship Policy.

- **Trips**, both in and out of term time, used to support the curriculum and are encouraged in all subject areas ([please see Covid amendments, below](#)).
- **Extra curricular trips** such as end of year activity trips for KS3, a biannual ski trip or a twice yearly sailing opportunity on Tall Ships, are offered ([please see Covid amendments, below](#)).
- **Careers** advice and **work experience**, integral part of career planning and at The Burlington House School, pupils from Year 10 must complete 1-2 weeks of Work Experience at the end of the Summer Term. This experience links with Study Skills and Citizenship Education programmes and is designed to provide opportunities for real life experience.

Curriculum Support

- In some cases, parents have difficulty supporting their children with homework. The school may offer small group homework support in these instances.
- Some GCSE subjects require after-hours tutoring and small group work. This is offered on an individual needs basis and is negotiated between departments, pupils and their families. The aim of these sessions is to provide opportunities for extended learning or revision of core content.
- 1:1 Literacy and Numeracy support is provided for pupils identified as in need. This support is offered by teaching staff on a needs basis and is co-ordinated by the SENCO.
- The Burlington House School also provides **Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Counselling** support (see policies in Therapeutic Support). Many elements of this support are incorporated directly into lessons through direct and continuous cooperation between therapists and teachers, such as the 'Brain Gym' and 'Alert' programmes and individual movement breaks. Specific support by therapists is allocated based on provisions required by pupils' EHCPs and additional observation and testing.

Amendments due to Covid regulations and restrictions:

Where there are government regulations in place for schools settings that alter the nature or format of some curriculum offers, these will be adjusted as follows:

- Trips - details will be forwarded to parents in advance of each trip, detailing the alterations or special considerations that have been made in order to comply with Covid guidelines. This may include removing features of the trip, such as overnight stays, or making changes to groups, routes or other details.



- Performances/Gatherings - these will take place online, unless informed otherwise.
- Please see Remote Learning Policy for details of how lessons will be run during full or partial school closure.