

**THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL**

**POLICY**

for

**CURRICULUM**

January 2005 – KGU  
Ratified by FGB  
Amended Jan 2006, April 2007, Jan 2008, Sept 2008 – KGU  
Amended Sept 2009 – TNE  
To Governors Curriculum Committee October 2009  
Ratified by Governors Curriculum Committee February 2010  
Ratified by FGB June 2010  
Amended January 2012 – AMI  
To Governors Curriculum Committee February 2012  
Reviewed and updated June 2015 – LPR  
Reviewed and updated July 2018 - PJA

# **Curriculum Policy**

## **Our Approach to the Curriculum**

Students at The Thomas Aveling School follow a very broad and balanced curriculum. The Arts, Sport and Personal Development are valued highly. We want students to be able to follow their own interests and use their talents to the full and have designed a curriculum to enable this to happen.

We have an extended Key Stage 4 to allow students to choose subjects they have a greater interest in, but by our restriction of “allowed combinations” students will often study at least one EBACC option in addition to other subjects in our wide option offer. Each year approximately half of the year study Geography, a similar proportion will study History and a smaller, but still significant, group will study one of the three languages we offer with excellent results. We also offer an alternative curriculum that meets the needs of those children who need a little extra support in their studies.

We are very pleased with our wide offer of vocational and academic qualifications in the Sixth form – all at Level 3. Over half of each cohort of Year 11s stay with us to complete further study before applying for university or higher level apprenticeships and professions. Those unable to stay with us, or who already know the career they want are supported in their applications to local colleges.

In addition to the examined curriculum, we also offer many opportunities for children to engage in extra-curricular activities throughout the year. These include Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, sports teams, arts clubs, coding clubs and various trips far and near to generate an understanding of their position in the world and a further enjoyment of learning.

The school intends to:

- ensure that students develop the necessary literacy and numeracy skills
- provide students with a full and rounded entitlement to learning
- foster students’ creativity and develop essential skills, including learning skills
- promote a healthy lifestyle
- inspire students to a commitment to life long learning
- promote high standards in all learning and teaching
- promote community cohesion

## **Equal Opportunities**

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all students as far as is reasonably practicable. The school has an Accessibility Plan, which is available to parents on request.

## **Inclusion**

A balanced and broad curriculum is provided to offer personalised pathways of choice for all students taking options in Key Stages 4 and 5. In addition, a range of opportunities are offered for students in Key Stages 3 and 4 to take part in inclusion programmes to support positive behaviour. In Key Stage 3, the school has created its own inclusion programme to give extra support to students with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties whilst in Key Stage 4 a variety of external providers are used as well the use of an Alternative Curriculum.

## **Subjects offered Key Stage 3**

At Key stage 3, all students study the subjects listed below until the end of year 8 with the exception of MFL where some students may complete an additional Language and Literacy course. There is however, flexibility within the curriculum to allow for effective differentiation to take place.

English	Maths	Science
ICT	Design Technology	History
Geography	RE	PE
PSHE	Music	Drama
Dance	Art	MFL

## **Key Stage 4 (Year 9, 10 and 11)**

At Key stage 4, students have some choice in what to study in over 40% of their timetable through the option process. Students follow the programme below. A guided choice of option subjects is undertaken to ensure a balance.

English	Maths	Science
PE	Citizenship & Religious Beliefs	PSHE
Four Options		

Options courses currently offered to students are:

Art and Design	Graphics	Performing Arts
Business Studies	Health and Social Care	PE
Computer Science	History	Photography
Creative Computing	Italian	Product Design
Dance	Learning for Life	Spanish
Food & Nutrition	Media	Sport
French	Music	Textiles
Geography		

## **Post 16**

Students are offered Level 3 courses in the Sixth Form at Thomas Aveling School. Level 3 courses are a mix of academic and vocational.

The school reserves the right to only run courses that have sufficient numbers to make the course viable to run. All courses, apart from resit GCSE Maths and English are two year courses

### **COURSES**

#### **Level 3 Vocational Courses**

**(Double Award): These courses are equivalent to two Advanced Level GCEs and take two years to complete.**

Business  
ICT  
Sport

#### **AS/A Level 3 Vocational Courses**

**(Single Award): These courses are equivalent to one Advanced Level GCE and take two years to complete.**

Business  
ICT  
Health and Social Care  
Music Technology  
Sport  
Performing Arts

#### **AS/A Level GCE: Single Award:**

Applied Science  
Art  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Comp Science  
Dance  
Design Technology - Product Design  
English Language & Literature  
English Literature  
Geography  
History  
Law  
Mathematics  
Media Studies  
Photography  
Psychology  
Applied Science  
Sociology  
Textiles

#### **GCSE:**

English Language  
Mathematics

In addition, further courses are available at Fort Pitt – including Physics and MFL

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is available to all students. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education but this request must be made, with sufficient reasoning, in writing, to the Headteacher.

## **Collective Worship**

All students are expected to take part in daily collective worship. The school has a programme of collective worship involving main assemblies, year assemblies, vertical assemblies and time to reflect during tutor time.

## **Sex Education**

The school provides sex and relationship education in the basic curriculum for all students, in which students are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life.

A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, students and parents, and takes into account the views of representatives from the community.

In accordance with the law, the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all students, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education without giving reasons, but this should be in written form to the Headteacher.

## **Political Education**

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner.

## **PE and Games**

All students are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme. Students can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with school.

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

The school has a wide and varied programme of educational, cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. Students are invited to take part in these as they arise.

## **Homework**

The school expects homework to be set as appropriate. Each department has their own homework policy, which is in line with the best education aims for their subject. These are detailed in the curriculum pages for each year group, which are available from the school's website and are updated annually. The school also uses an e-homework system on the school's website, which shows what homework has been set by a student's teachers.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The school has a SEN policy for statemented and non-statemented students. The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with parents.

### **Concerns and Complaints**

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with their child's form tutor.

If the issue is not resolved then parents should make an official complaint in writing to their child's Director of learning. If the matter is still not resolved then parents should make an appointment to see the relevant Assistant Headteacher responsible for child's house.

**Appeal process for examinations & internal coursework marks – please see separate policy**