



St. Julie's Catholic High School
Curriculum 2021/22
Parent/Carers information



A Curriculum for all students

Beliefs and Values

At St. Julie's Catholic High School, we believe that all students are entitled to an education that will enable them to develop to their full potential by finding appropriate challenges in their learning environment. All students have individual needs, which puts personalised learning at the heart of our teaching plans. We continue to be inspired by the beliefs and values of our patron saint, St Julie Billiard of Namur, who stated "*Let them be taught what is necessary for life*". This statement is as relevant today as it was over 200 years ago when St Julie founded the Sisters of Notre Dame with an educational mission to provide young people with the skills necessary to contribute to society through a variety of means.

Curriculum Intent

Our Notre Dame values of faith, truth, joy, love, justice and hope guide us in the development of the curriculum for our students. In doing this, we are mindful that:

- Our curriculum is designed to show **faith** in the capabilities of our students, regardless of their prior attainment, successes and failures, and concerns about their ability to achieve (*where faith, prayer and reflection are visible in word and in action*)
- A research-based approach reveals the **truth** that our students can succeed in all their endeavours and have a meaningful and purposeful life despite inequalities in society, which they learn to recognise to overcome (*embracing the diversity of all God's people*)
- Students find the greatest **joy** in their learning when it is challenging, purposeful and recognises their autonomy as unique individuals with their own dreams and aspirations (*discovering potential and sharing unique talents*)
- Showing **love** of our students means committing to building a curriculum that equips them to overcome the social disadvantages

inherent in our local context (*taking good care of God’s world and all who inhabit it, especially the poor and disadvantaged*)

- Within our local context, **justice** demands that we maximise the extent to which pupils can experience a depth of learning that truly equips them with the cultural capital needed to succeed in life, supplemented by a breadth of opportunities beyond the taught or examined curriculum (*where fairness, care and compassion are central to life*)
- Our curriculum design is reflective of our intimate knowledge of how best to instil in our students the clear sense of **hope** and direction that safeguards and nurtures their dreams and ambitions (*which provides all with a safe and secure environment*)

Implementation

Learning and Teaching

Throughout each key stage students experience structured lessons based on the Common Lesson Format. This evidence-based research method, developed by Barak Rosenshine (Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Illinois, Boston), ensures students have a full and wide-ranging approach to support their learning in the classroom. All staff follow the Common Lesson Format so that students benefit from a consistent approach to teaching and learning.

Year 7-9 Curriculum

Subjects	No. of lessons per week	Subjects	No. of lessons per week		No. of lessons per week
Maths	4	Geography	2	Computer Sci	1
English	4	History	2	DT	1
Science	4	PE	2	PSHE/RSE	1
RE	3	Dance/Drama	1	Art	1
Spanish	2	Music	1		

Year 9 Global Citizenship Programme

The Global Citizenship programme is designed to enable students to recall the knowledge they have gained from the National Curriculum in Key Stage 3, in a way that allows them to deepen and apply it to relevant issues facing all of us, but especially young people – our environment. This curriculum is broken down into half-term units. The assessments are designed to assess higher order skills such as analysis, evaluation, reasoning and also practical skills.

Extra-curricular and Supra-curricular programmes

All students can access a comprehensive programme of extra-curricular and supra-curricular opportunities across each key stage. Programmes include:

STEM activities	Duke Of Edinburgh
Mathematics Problem-Solving Club	HE+ programme
Oxbridge Outreach Programme	Master-classes
Alumni Programme – presentations from former students	School trips abroad
Medlink and Vetlink	The Brilliant Club
Social Mobility Foundation	Elevate Programme
Accelerated Year 8 Maths Programme	Mentoring support
Leadership opportunities	Enterprise programmes
Cultural visits	Lectures at Hope University
The Scholars Programme	National Tutoring Programme – Brilliant Tutoring Programme and Tutor Trust

Humanutopia	The Girls' Network Mentoring Programme
Sports Teams	The Ogden Trust – Physics Partnership



GCSE Options process

- All students will get to choose at least **2 option subjects**
- Students have **free choice** in the option blocks
- **Top universities are looking for quality grades at GCSE (9/8/7) NOT the quantity of GCSEs taken.**
- Our view is that students are better served with higher grades in 8-9 GCSE subjects rather than lower grades in 10 or more GCSE subjects

Universities may ask for a specific number of GCSEs (or their equivalent). For example, a number of medical courses ask for five (sometimes more) grade 8.

Modern Foreign Language qualifications are valued by admissions tutors across the Russell Group universities, and as such studying a Language will enhance the prospects of students applying to a range of competitive degree courses.



Compulsory qualifications

All students will continue to study:

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Trilogy Science (worth 2 GCSEs)
Computer Science	Religious Studies	Physical Education (non-examined)	PSHE/RSE

Students who plan to go on to study ‘A’ Levels and apply to go to university may be recommended to study English Baccalaureate (EBacc) qualifications, including Triple Science, Humanities (Geography and History) and/or Spanish.

Students who wish to study Separate Science must have a desire to study three sciences at A level and study competitive Science courses at university, such as Veterinary Science or Medicine. All other students will study the Double Award Science course, which still is widely regarded as a pathway to A level studies and beyond in Science.



The educational landscape has changed quite dramatically over the last five years and will continue to do so. At St. Julie's we want to ensure that all pupils are fully prepared for these changes.

Impact: Progression Routes and Destinations

At St. Julie's Catholic High School, students continue to excel once they complete their studies. For the past five years we have consistently achieved a NEET figure of 0% (significantly above the national average). This means that 100% of students remain in Education, Employment and/or Training for at least two consecutive terms once they have completed their studies at St. Julie's Catholic High School.

As a result of the school curriculum, students...

- prepare for all aspects of life whilst at school and when they leave
- foster a life-long love of learning
- can demonstrate high written and spoken standards of literacy, numeracy and communication

- demonstrate their ability to become international citizens
- can stimulate creativity, confidence and independence
- develop moral values which encourage both personal and social responsibility.

Students can access a range of providers such as: Higher Education (including Russell Group universities); Further Education; high quality apprenticeships and further employment and/or training. 96% of students receive an offer for a place at a university of their choice and we remain above the national average for acceptance offers. For further information regarding destinations, careers and success rates in Sixth Form, please go to www.stjulies.org.uk

Any questions or queries?

If you require any further information, advice or guidance please contact:

- Mrs McCourt – Deputy Headteacher for KS3/KS4
kmccourt@stjulies.org.uk

School contact number: 0151 428 6421

Further information regarding the school curriculum and qualifications can be accessed via our school website www.stjulies.org.uk

Please also refer to the DfE Performance Tables www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables. This provides a detailed overview of the excellent results achieved at St. Julie's at GCSE and A Level standard.