

Social Studies Curriculum Overview

Curriculum intent

The department comprises of six different subjects with varied curriculums which offer a diverse range of learning experiences for students. The key intention of our curriculums is to promote student progress as well as develop our students to become independent and inquisitive citizens who have a better understanding of the world they live in.

Our knowledge rich curriculums aim to equip students with an understanding of differing explanations for human behaviour, theoretical perspectives in understanding how society works, an awareness of the political system, health and social care sectors and personal finance as well as equipping them with the necessary skills to think critically, conduct research and write academic essays.

Our courses support students in preparation for the next stage of their education journey and adulthood by encouraging them to express themselves and their viewpoints, become confident in presenting their ideas, exercise their civic duties, have the ability to question injustices and become active citizens that make a positive contribution to society.

Curriculum Implementation

Each subject in the department has carefully drafted curriculum maps (week to week plans) that are regularly reviewed and adjusted based on students' needs as well as considerations of how to maximise student progress. For example, the order of the topics does not always follow the order in specifications and topics are usually sequenced with the intention to build upon students' skills over the period of the course. For example, in politics, psychology and sociology, students are taught the theoretical perspectives or basic understanding of political issues at the beginning of the course as these link to different subtopics covered later on. Another example is in EPQ, where students are taught research skills at the beginning of the course and presentation skills later on which ties in with the order in which their project progresses.

Some courses have key themes that fit throughout every topic area, and these are also considered in the curriculum maps. Many subjects interleave these themes throughout the course so that students can make synoptic links. For example, psychology and sociology deliver research methods in the single period slot weekly as this topic links to many different topic areas covered.

Curriculum impact

Students make good progress on the courses offered in the department, with attainment typically in line with or exceeding centre performance nationally as well as similar centres.

Students leave our courses with a more analytical mind, equipped with an understanding of different viewpoints, are politically literate, financially capable, aware of 'British Values' thus equipped to be adult citizens that can make positive contributions to society.

Our courses also support students in their preparation for higher education as many go onto study related subjects. For example, in politics 7 out of 11 students in the last cohort went onto study politics, economics, history or law. The courses offered also have a long-term impact on student aspirations, as the department have had many ex-students return to gain experience in preparation for teacher training courses in the subjects they studied. We also have ex-students who are now teaching staff within the department and across departments in the borough demonstrating how our courses have inspired students.