



# Highsted Grammar School

## **Curriculum Statement 2021**

### **Curriculum Subjects for Years 7 to 9**

Within Key Stage Three, pupils study a wide range of subjects, including the complete range of National Curriculum subjects. The core programme followed in Years 7 to 9 includes English, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Computing, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages (French and German), Art and Design, Design and Technology, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, Physical Education (PE), Religious Education (RE) and High Performance Learning (HPL).

There is also an Education for Life programme which delivers the PSHE and RSE curriculum. Formal teaching of GCSE material in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Short Course RE begins in Year 9.

### **Examination Courses in Years 10 and 11**

In these examination years, the following GCSE courses are currently studied:

The core: English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, History or Geography and French or German, and Short Course RE.

Optional subjects: Art and Design, Business Studies, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama, a second Modern Language, Music, a second Humanities subject, GCSE PE and Sociology.

Please note that this subject list may vary from year to year according to the needs of pupils.

Core PE also continues in Years 10 and 11 for all pupils, as does the Education for Life programme which delivers the PSHE and RSE curriculum.

### **Sixth Form Courses**

A wide range of subjects is available for Advanced Level examinations and choice of subjects is arranged so as to allow sensibly grouped, but flexible options. The choices at GCE A Level this year include:

Fine Art; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Drama & Theatre Studies; Economics; English Literature; Film Studies; French; Geography; German; Government and Politics; Health and Social Care; History; Law; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Media Studies; Music; Photography; Physics; Psychology; Sociology; Spanish; PE.

Please note that this subject list may vary from year to year according to the needs of students with some subjects studied in partnership at Borden Grammar School and Fulston Manor School.

The school also offers the Extended Project Qualification to complement the full programme of academic qualifications.

All students continue the Education for Life programme which delivers the PSHE and RSE curriculum.

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## **Sex and Relationship Education**

Full details of the school's RSE curriculum can be found in the *Relationships and Sex Education Policy* on the School's website.

## **Careers Guidance**

A structured programme of careers guidance is provided at Highsted. The School promotes the full range of academic and technical routes and uses the Gatsby Benchmarks to develop a careers programme that increases opportunities for students to access everything from experiences in the workplace and personal guidance, to engagement with employers, training providers and universities.

## **Drama**

All pupils in Years 7-9 take Drama as part of their regular curriculum but it is also very much part of activities throughout the school. There is one major school production each year, with additional opportunities for pupils to participate in the annual Drama Competition as part of their House in School.

## **Music**

The school specialises in all aspects of performing and composing. The many talented musicians play together as part of various musical groups, both instrumental groups and choirs. The department is always reviewing the range of activities available to encourage maximum participation.

Peripatetic music teachers visit the school to give individual instrumental and singing tuition led by Kent Music. Close collaboration between the Music and Drama Departments takes place for all school productions.

## **Sports and Physical Education**

Pupils join a proud tradition of participation and success in sporting activities. All pupils can take part in individual and team sports within the curriculum and during after-school fixtures. Students from Highsted have gained both County and National honours in such sports as boxing, bowls, swimming, golf, athletics, netball, rugby, cricket, dance and judo.

## **Religious Education**

Highsted Grammar School is not affiliated to any religious denomination. Religious Education is taught by law and therefore is a compulsory part of the curriculum. While school assemblies contain moral content aimed at enhancing the individual's responsibility and relationship to the community.

There is also a legal provision for parents who may wish to withdraw, upon written request to the Headteacher, pupils from religious worship and/or Religious Education on grounds of conscience or principles. Every effort is made to minimise any attention being focused on any pupil so withdrawn. The very few pupils who are withdrawn from RE usually undertake other learning activities in School.

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## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

It is the policy of Highsted Grammar School to meet the needs of each pupil and it is recognised that some pupils have special educational needs and disabilities. Therefore, the commitment is made to identify and assess pupils as early and efficiently as possible in order to address the pupil's needs, which may take a wide variety of forms. To this end, close liaison takes place with our feeder primary schools and with any school from whom we receive a pupil during the academic year.

The policy ensures that the pupil has the greatest possible access to the whole curriculum. The SEND Manager and other staff work in partnership with parents and consider the voice of the child. Pupils' needs are regularly reviewed and discussed, in consultation with parents and staff. Monitoring and record keeping are overseen by the Deputy Headteacher. Parents are welcomed into school to discuss any concerns/queries that they may have.

Detailed information about Highsted Grammar School's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities policy and processes is available from the school. Parents who wish to discuss these issues can phone the SEND Manager at the school, or the Assistant Headteacher for the Key Stage in question.

## **Homework Requirements**

Homework is compulsory at Highsted and we ask for the support of all parents in helping to create the time and situation for pupils to complete this. All pupils will be given a homework timetable at the start of Term 1 so that both pupils and parents can plan ahead for the year. Individual pupil planners, aimed separately at Key Stages Three, Four and the Sixth Form, contain extensive study skills information, including how to make efficient use of time. Parents are asked to sign this weekly, as part of their monitoring at home that homework has been completed on time and to an appropriate standard.

Time needed to complete assignments will vary according to ability, speed of working and interest of the pupil concerned. For a typical Highsted pupil, homework in Year 7 should take 30 minutes per subject in September. Time spent on homework is gradually increased as pupils move through the school.

## **Behaviour**

The School subscribes to the following statement of behaviour principles:

- Every pupil understands that they have the right to feel safe, valued and respected, and learn free from the disruption of others;
- All pupils, staff and visitors are free from any form of discrimination;
- Staff and volunteers set an excellent example to pupils at all times;
- Rewards, sanctions and reasonable force are used consistently by staff, in line with the behaviour policy;
- The behaviour policy is understood by pupils and staff;
- Exclusion will only be used as a last resort;
- Pupils are helped to take responsibility for their actions;
- Families are involved in behaviour and foster good relationships between the School and pupils' home life.



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## **Student Council**

At Highsted, the School Council is a formal group of pupils who are elected by their peers to represent them and their views. The School Council provides a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views considered in decisions which impact upon them. The School Council also provides leadership and development opportunities for pupils, and is an excellent way to increase participation, teaching young people about democracy, local and global citizenship and accountability.

Date reviewed: November 2021