

CURRICULUM POLICY

PRINCIPLES AND BELIEFS

The Curriculum of Minsthorpe Community College is underpinned by the values and principles outlined in our College Mission Statement: As a College at the heart of the community it serves, our aim is to raise the expectations and achievements of all learners and by doing this play a leading and proactive role in the local area. Minsthorpe Community College's mission is to change for the better the lives and life chances of all members of our community. In order to achieve this we are committed to the achievement of rapid educational transformation within the college through the development of outstanding practice based upon sustainable collaboration.

VISION

Minsthorpe Community College aims to become an outstanding college in which all children are enabled to reach their potential through the provision of high quality education within a caring and supportive environment. The on-going professional development of all staff will ensure sustainability and assist in the creation of a culture of continued improvement. Guided by the principle of 'learning without limits' students will be responsible for their own learning and strive to achieve at the highest level in an environment that allows the values of the 'Minsthorpe Way' to flourish.

VALUES

Minsthorpe Community College's values are embodied by the term 'The Minsthorpe Way' and are:

- Believe
- Achieve
- Succeed
- Enjoy
- Support

They are underpinned by a commitment to provide an education for all our young people that is founded on honesty, openness, optimism, aspiration and an unshakeable belief in the intrinsic worth of every individual within our community. Intelligence is learnable: it is expandable, not fixed, and is the product of hard work. The key to expandable intelligence lies far more in self-belief than it does in any ideas about ability. This is why the student motto, "always believe you can achieve" is at the heart of what we do and is embedded, both in our values and in our culture.

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POLICY AIMS

Minsthorpe Community College aims to provide a curriculum which:

- Strives to maximise attainment at all key stages
- Has a persistent focus on all individuals making expected progress from 11-19
- Encourages students to be healthy, to stay safe, to enjoy & achieve, to make a positive contribution and to prepare for their economic well-being
- Focuses on the knowledge and understanding, skills, attitudes and attributes, which develop well balanced individuals
- Prepares young people to be participants in independent lifelong learning
- Encourages equality of opportunity for all, whilst recognising differences and celebrating individuality

This balanced and broadly based curriculum in all Key Stages will:

- Provide opportunities for all students to learn and achieve their best
- Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Prepare students for future opportunities, responsibilities and experiences

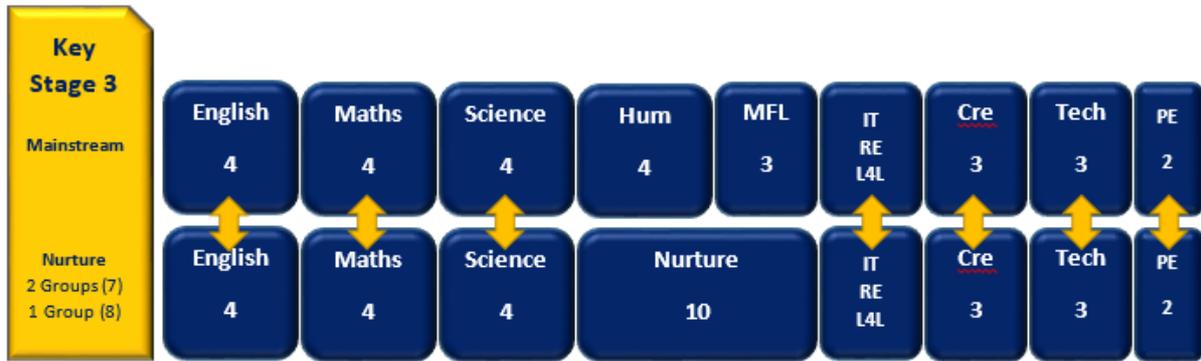
Our curriculum delivery is supported by:

- Leadership Team Curriculum Area Link attachments
- Curriculum and Cross Curricular (Pastoral) Teams
- The Specialist Support Team
- The Support for Achievement strategy
- Guidance advisors in Minsthorpe Access Point (MAP)
- Our 'Learning 4 Life' programme
- 'Firefly'– our Virtual Learning Environment
- Our Assembly and 'In the Spirit of Things' programme
- The Progress & Achievement (P&A) framework
- A range of external agencies
- Our Lead Practitioners

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

KEY STAGE 3 (2 Years) – Years 7 & 8

We meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, through the following subjects at Key Stage 3

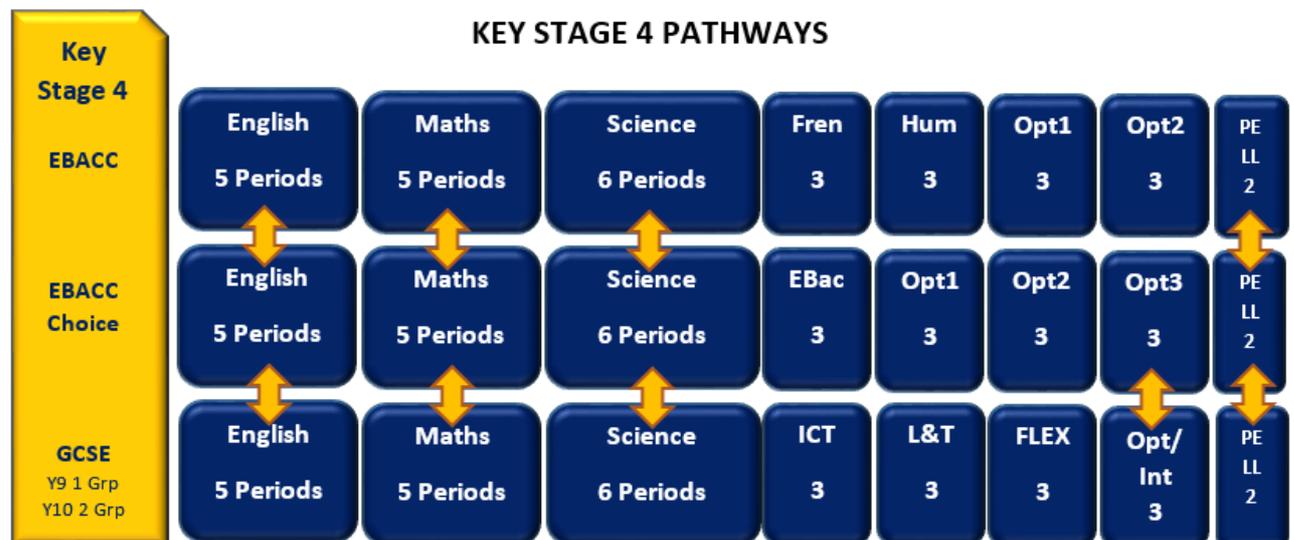


KEY STAGE 4 (3 Years) – Years 9, 10 & 11

To ensure that all students make good progress and reach their full potential by the end of Year 11, we place students in Year 9 onto targeted Pathways according to their individual needs and expected progress. Each Pathway has a slightly different content and focus.

There are 3 Pathways as outlined below. Each Pathway has an element of choice for students, to allow them to personalise their route through to Year 11. There are also a number of statutory or compulsory subjects that all students must follow regardless of their Pathway. These are English, Maths, Science, ICT, PE and L4L.

Where appropriate, we also arrange offsite Alternative Provision opportunities, where students can study a wide range of vocational courses including Construction, Hair & Beauty, Childcare and Motor Vehicle, in conjunction with a personalised onsite timetable, which is tailored to meet the needs of each young person.



POST 16 CURRICULUM

Learning programmes at Post 16 are available across Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 in both academic and vocational subjects. Students enrol on either a two year 'Level 3' programme (entry requirements at least 5 A*-C at GCSE) or a one year Level 1 or 2 programme (GCSE expected grades D-G). Level 2 students are then able to re-enrol on a Level 3 programme having attained extra qualifications.

At Level 3, we offer AS/A2 levels and BTEC Diplomas - equivalent to 3 'A' Levels.

At Level 2, we offer BTEC First Diplomas, and GCSEs.

At Level 1, we offer BTEC First Diplomas, and GCSEs.

It is possible for students to mix programmes, for example by resitting English or Maths GCSE at Level 2 whilst studying A Levels at Level 3.

All students follow a full time course and enrichment activities form a core part of our Post 16 curriculum. We also operate a Football Academy scheme which allows talented footballers to receive 'UEFA B' level training whilst studying with us. An up to date list of our Post 16 curriculum offer can be found in our Post 16 prospectus.

