

FAQS



CURRICULUM

English

What topics will year 7 study?

We will begin the year exploring extracts of different genres of writing to build their authorial skills. We will also read a full prose text study in the Autumn term. Year 7 will develop their written and analytical skills through exploring and discussing R.J. Palacio's 'Wonder': a heart-warming novel with underlying messages about kindness and acceptance.

In the Spring term we will study Poems of the Globe with a focus on culture. After half term, we will explore world issues and practise the art of rhetoric through watching and creating powerful speeches; reading and crafting persuasive letters and fulfilling the role of a journalist by researching and writing factual articles.

In the Summer term, we will engage with Shakespeare's most famous works and learn about the globe theatre and life of the Elizabethans!

What texts will you explore at GCSE?

At GCSE, our year 11 cohorts complete Eduqas GCSE Literature and Language exams. To prepare for this, they journey back to the Jacobean and study Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'; Dickens' Victorian novella 'A Christmas Carol'; the Eduqas poetry anthology which is full of poems with various themes and historical backgrounds; students will also study the award winning modern drama 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell.

Are there any school trips or extra-curricular clubs spec

In normal times outside of COVID-19, there is plenty of opportunity for us to take you to the theatre to experience performances of your GCSE texts first hand. Trips we have organised in the past have been to see outstanding performances of 'Macbeth' that usually take place at the fitting location of Stafford Castle. Looking ahead, we are keen to visit the theatre to see Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' which is also on the GCSE syllabus.

An extra-curricular club we run is a book club based around books that have won awards. The Carnegie Shadowing Group offers the opportunity to shadow an internationally recognised award. The Hart School provides copies of the shortlisted texts to students and we meet weekly to discuss and exchange ideas to eventually choose our favourite book. Students write reviews and upload them to the Carnegie website to be viewed by a large network of schools. This is run every year by members of the English team and students predominantly from Year 9 are invited to participate.



Mathematics

How will my child be grouped for maths?

Currently, students are taught in mixed ability grouping. During year 7, student will cover a range of skills from number, data, geometry, algebra and ratio and proportion. Students will develop deep understanding in these skills and this will provide a foundation for year 8-11.

How will my child be challenged in maths?

Currently, students are taught in mixed ability grouping. During year 7, student will cover a range of skills from number, data, geometry, algebra and ratio and proportion. Students will develop deep understanding in these skills and this will provide a foundation for year 8-11.

How will my child be supported if they are unsure?

During lessons, we actively question and regularly assess students so we know how they are doing. We offer Key Stage 3 club, where students can get support they need for homework as well. Students also have access to an online package called Hegartymaths, where they can access video tutorial lessons at home.



Science

What courses do you offer?

We follow a 5 year programme using the AQA exam board. The work that students do in years 7-9 feeds directly into the AQA GCSEs. Students are entered for Combined Science which is worth 2 GCSEs or individual Biology, Chemistry and Physics exams. At A level we follow the OCR specification and offer Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science.

What extra curricular activities do you offer?

We have a very popular STEAM club where students plan their own practical activities and take part in Nationally recognised qualifications such as the STEAM awards scheme. We can also support Duke of Edinburgh skills work.

What does Homework look like?

We use the online platform Educake to set homework. We set short knowledge retrieval/revision activities for homework, returning back to previous learning so that revision is ongoing rather than last minute.



Sport and Health

What types of jobs does the BTEC First Award in sport, prepare you for?

Some students have pursued a career in Education as a teacher, coaches, in the army or a public service, Sports psychologist, or sports physiotherapist.

How do students know what sports clubs they can attend?

Students are given an a copy of the Extra curricular timetable in their first week of school. The timetable will show all of the sports that we offer, and what time then run.



Performing Arts

Do BTEC qualifications have the same weight as GCSEs?

Yes – a BTEC level 2 qualifications is equivalent to a GCSE, and a BTEC level 3 qualification is equivalent to an A Level.

Can my child learn a musical instrument outside of their timetabled music class?

Yes – we offer peripatetic music lessons in voice, keyboard, guitar, drum kit, woodwind, and strings.

What do you offer for extra-curricular in Performing Arts?

We offer drama and dance clubs, and choirs and bands. As well as performances during each half-term, we also put on whole school musicals, such as Annie and Matilda.

As well as these in school opportunities, we offer national projects such as Got to dance, Pro Exel and London Theatre Tours.



Design

Do students study Design and Art in year 7?

Yes, students study both Design and Art in year 7, they have one lesson of Design and one hour of Art per week.

What will we learn in year 7?

Students will gain a range of skills and techniques in Design. They will explore curriculum areas from Art, Graphics, Product Design, Textiles and Food.

Will I need any specialist equipment?

The main equipment you will need to bring is a pencil and black pen. Pencil crayons are useful, but most specialist equipment will be provided.

What options can I take in Design?

Students have the option at the end of Year 9 to study specialist subjects within design at Key Stage 4.

They will can choose from; GCSE Design & Technology, GCSE Art or Photography, BTEC Hospitality or BTEC Engineering.



Modern Foreign Languages

What languages can pupils learn at The Hart School?

Pupils can study French and Spanish from Year 7 up to Year 13. All students study MFL in KS3 but they can choose to continue, or not, at GCSE level. Most students study one language in Year 7 but we regularly review our languages off and whilst at The Hart School, your child will be given the opportunity to choose to study another language.

Does it matter if I have not learnt a language at primary school?

No, it doesn't matter at all. We will quickly gather information at the start of year 7 about how much language study all students have already done. We will then tailor our lessons to ensure that those who have never studied MFL catch up with those that have learned a language previously.

Do all students study MFL?

At KS3, all students study MFL. In year 9, students choose whether or not they would like to continue to learn a language at GCSE level.

Humanities

What will I learn in Year 7 history?

In KS3, all students have 2x 1-hour lessons of history per week. In Year 7, students learn about Medieval and Tudor England, and the influences of the church, state and society at that time. They learn how to use historical sources and interpret historical accounts in order to construct their own opinions, judgements and ideas.

In year 8 and 9, students build on their knowledge of British history and learn about the Early Modern period and the Industrial period and begin to look at the challenges that Britain faced during these times. They also start to look at the associated challenges faced by Europe and the wider world.

What topics will I learn in Geography?

In year 7, all students have 2 hours of geography lessons per week. Students develop key geographical skills like map-reading and compass use before learning about the UK climate and its weather, and how it differs around the globe.

Students learn to identify key human and physical features of an environment, recognise and name oceans and continents, locate places using latitude and longitude co-ordinates and to conduct geographical enquiries. At the end of year 7, students will get their first chance to conduct their own fieldwork study investigating microclimates with a small-scale area in our locality.



Computing

How many lessons will my child have in year 7?

Students in KS3 (years 7,8 and 9) have 1 lesson per week of Computing

What do they learn?

- Students will cover a broad overview of Computing including Digital Literacy
- E-safety
- Computer Science
- Collaborating online
- Microsoft Office
- Entrepreneurship

Will they need a Chromebook?

Students are invited to purchase a Chromebook for use in school (in most lessons) through the school scheme – this is crucial for Computing.

What software do they use?

Kodu, iDEA, Adobe suite, Scratch



DIRT

	Even Better If...	DIRT Task
D1	Reach a well-supported judgement/conclusion to the question	Rewrite or write a conclusion that clearly states which factor you consider the most important in Jack the Ripper getting away with murder
D2	Demonstrate secure subject knowledge and understand of key features	Use specific rather than general information. Add in clear examples that explain the factors for Jack getting away with murder
D3	Confidently explain your points	Make sure that you <u>explain fully</u> (this meant that) (this led to) your reasons of why Jack got away with murder.
D4	Reliability and usefulness	Pick any 2 sources and assess their reliability and usefulness in understanding how Jack got away with murder
D5	Be able to offer convincing and valid explanations by considering all elements	You must have a balanced and varied argument. There were 3 main factors Jack got away with murder, poor police, living conditions and skill of the murderer – write a further paragraph, which examines the one of these that you missed.

~Motivate & Inspire ~ Meeting All Learning Differences~
~High Quality Feedback & Assessment ~



ClassCharts

Sixth Form

How many students stay on in Sixth Form?

The majority of our students currently stay on to study in the sixth form. There is a supportive programme of advice to help students to make the right choice of destination for them post 16. Students can choose to stay on in to the Sixth Form, go to college, take on apprenticeships or go further afield depending on their interests.

What grades do students need to get access to courses in Sixth Form?

We typically ask for an average of a grade 5 across the subjects taken at GCSE level. However, it is more important that students have attained the grades needed for their subject choices post 16. There is more information on our website about Sixth Form courses.



“WE CAN
WE WILL
WE DO”



**THE HART
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*