

Curriculum Statement 2019 - 20



Curriculum Intent

The Wren School delivers an innovative curriculum, in line with the National Curriculum, which:

1. Encourages the **development of knowledge** and **cross-curricular** understanding through an approach to learning which both **inspires** and **challenges** students;
2. Develops a depth of understanding through a range of **Wren skills** and daily **reflection times**;
3. Prepares students for 'life' as a global citizen through **Dynamic Days** that complement the PSHE programme and contribute to the development of the **whole child**;
4. Promotes what it means to be a **responsible adult** and ensures students have a broad range of **'life' skills**;
5. **Nurtures** each child to ensure students **aim high** and become successful **members of the community**.

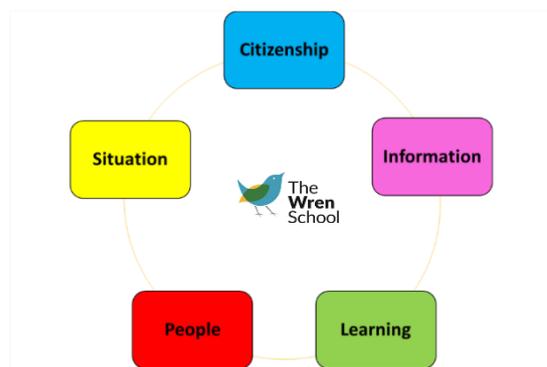
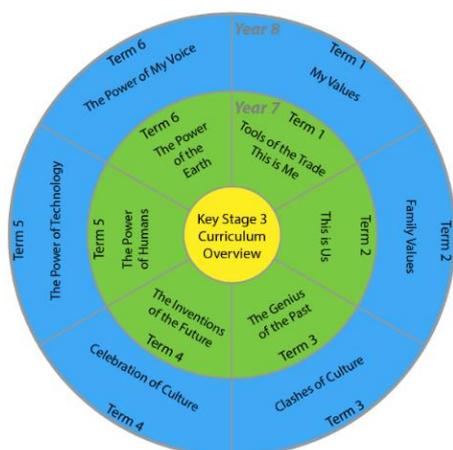
In developing a knowledge-rich curriculum that includes the skills and attitudes that contribute to success, we ensure that there is an emphasis on:

- understanding how children learn;
- developing higher order learning skills;
- fostering a love of reading; and
- challenging students to think about **why** they are learning as well as **what** they are learning.

The school is structured around a two-year key stage 3 and an enriched three-year key stage 4, followed by a key stage 5 (sixth form) curriculum offer (from September 2020). Students sit nationally-recognised assessments and gain nationally-recognised qualifications at the end of key stages 4 and 5. Students for whom it is appropriate are encouraged to study EBacc subjects at GCSE.

Curriculum Implementation

Key stage 3



Our key stage 3 curriculum bridges the gap between primary and secondary school through a focus on developing core skills plus wider knowledge and understanding derived from a thematic curriculum linking ten subject areas: English, mathematics, science, PE, humanities, technology & art, modern foreign languages (Spanish and/or French), performing arts (drama & music), computing and wellbeing, as well as 'reflection' time. Our school day is structured to support this curriculum by enabling a mixture of double and single lessons in response to the differing learning needs of each subject.

Key stage 4

The key stage 4 curriculum meets the needs of our students by incorporating the opportunity for both academic and vocational study. We aim to give each student the chance to succeed by offering an appropriate range of qualifications including options that enable study towards the English Baccalaureate. However, for some students, a continued focus on core skills (and consequent reduction in optional subjects) is more important. The key stage 4 programme of study commences in year 9, with all students beginning GCSE courses in the core subjects of English (language and literature), mathematics and double science. For the optional GCSE subjects that we offer, students undertake ‘taster’ GCSE modules in order to help them make their choices. By the end of year 9, each student formally selects optional GCSE subjects to study in years 10 and 11 to supplement the core GCSE subjects. Some students follow a vocational course as an alternative to one or more GCSE subjects. It is our aim that all students will participate in one week of work experience or community service by the end of year 10 and, for a limited number of students, this opportunity may be extended into year 11 in lieu of one or more option subjects.

Core Subjects, e.g. Year 10 2020 -2021 (subject to annual review)

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Double Science

Option Subjects on Offer, e.g. Year 10 2019-2020 (subject to annual review)

In total, each student chooses four option subjects. We strongly encourage students to select a minimum of one of the options below, although many chose more than this.

- Spanish
- French
- History
- Geography
- Computer Science

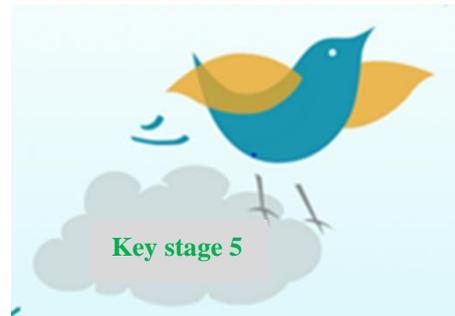
In addition, students can choose from:

- **Achieve (a double option focused on developing life skills)**
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- **Creative iMedia**
- Design and Technology
- 3D Design
- Drama
- Film Studies
- **Hospitality and Catering**
- Music - GCSE or **BTEC Music Technology**
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Physical Education – GCSE or **Cambridge National**
- Textiles

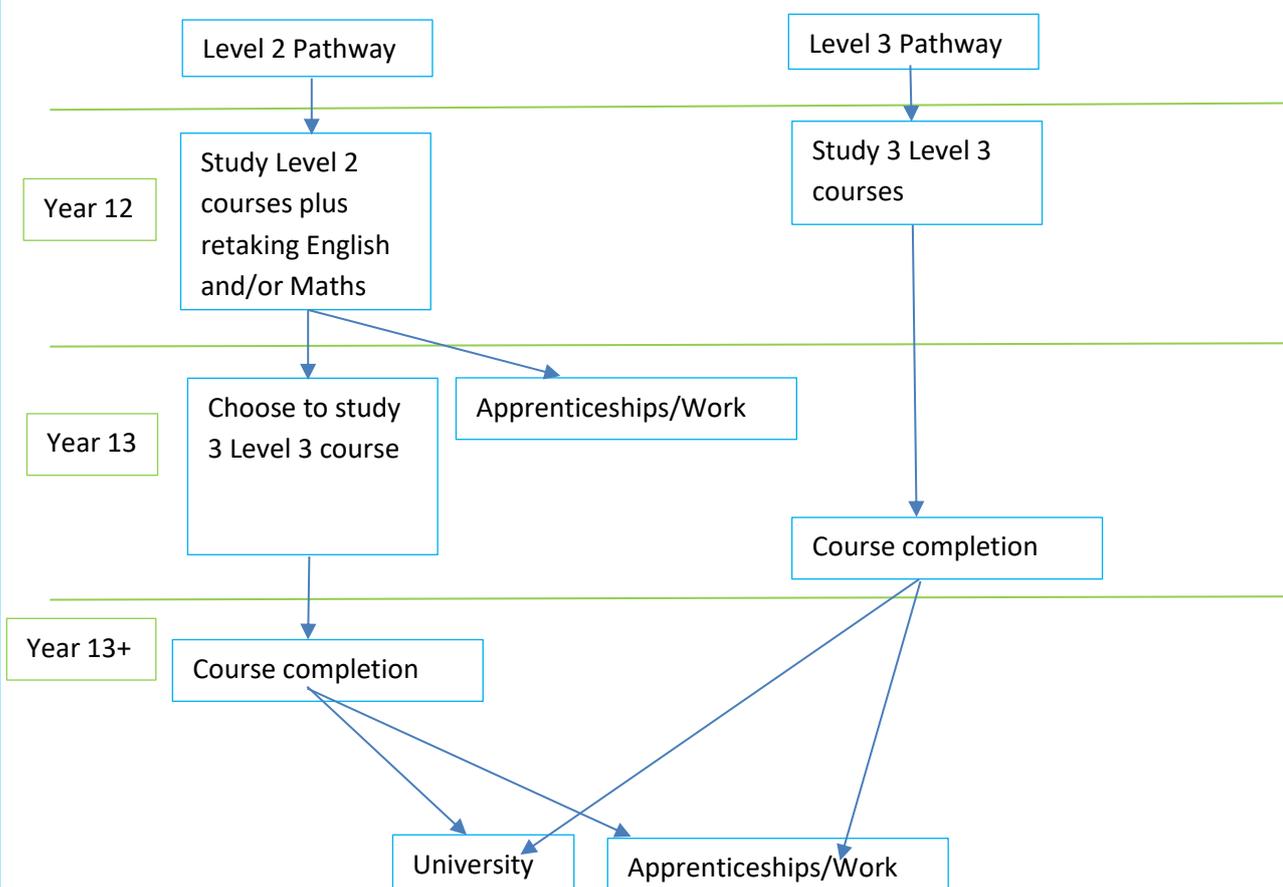
Subjects in green are GCSE equivalencies, therefore they are vocational courses.

Key stage 5 - Sixth form

The Wren School will be welcoming its first sixth form group in 2020 when students in year 12 are admitted. Year 13 will open in September 2021. The Wren School will have an open access sixth form, i.e. transfer from year 11 to sixth form will be based on attitude to learning and further study rather than academic ability. As such, the school will aim to provide an appropriate range of courses and qualifications to meet the needs and aspirations of our students. The key stage 5 curriculum will meet the needs of our post 16 students by incorporating the opportunity for both academic and vocational study, whilst exploring extra-curricular opportunities for personal growth. We aim to give every student the opportunity to reach their own personal goals and targets through our subject offer, whether that is to go to university, study an apprenticeship or enter the workplace. Alongside their academic study, students will follow a post 16 'Life Skills' curriculum aimed at readying each student for life after the 6th form. The key stage 5 programme of study will commence in year 12, with all students beginning their A Level and/or BTEC Level 3 courses. These courses will run for the full 2 years and end with public examinations at the end of year 13. Students who do not make the entry requirements for a specific course or pathway may be offered a place on a 1 year Level 2 pathway. This will include re-taking English and/or maths and completion of Level 2 courses. Students on our Level 2 pathway, upon completion, will have the option of starting A Levels/Level 3 courses. This will, of course, mean these students will remain in our sixth form for 3 years. It is our aim that all students will participate in one week of work experience or community service by the end of year 12, including those who chose to commence part time employment.



The diagram below shows the typical pathways that a sixth form student may select; these will be modified to meet individual needs and interests if appropriate/practical.



Key stage 5 courses likely to be offered from 2020:

Level 2/3

- Art & Design (level 2)
- Cambridge Technical in Sport & Physical Activity
- Health & Social Care
- Mathematical Studies
- Music Tech BTEC
- Performing arts (Extended certificate Level 3)

Level 4 (A Level)

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English language
- English literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Photography
- PE
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish

Further information regarding entry requirements and an application form will be published in September 2019.