



**Horbury School**  
**A Specialist Language College**

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# **CURRICULUM STATEMENT**



# Horbury School – A Specialist Language College

*“Spirit of Excellence”*

## **Horbury School Curriculum Statement**

Horbury School is committed to enabling all its students to enjoy, achieve and to become independent learners. We aim to ensure that all students reach or exceed their potential. Our Language College Specialism provides an international dimension for our curriculum which embraces community cohesion and celebrates diversity.

Horbury School continually seeks to provide a curriculum which allows for personalised learning. We provide a wide range of subject choices within the framework of the National Curriculum and the requirements of our status as a Specialist Language College. There are clear progression routes which are enhanced by opportunities for deep learning.

The school follows a one week timetable of twenty five periods. Lessons are one hour in length but increasingly subjects are blocked to give longer periods for learning.

KS4 begins in Year 9. At KS4 students follow a core curriculum which includes English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, ICT, Religious Education, Physical Education, Citizenship and PSHE. Citizenship and PSHE are delivered through ‘Stop the Clock’ days (i.e. the normal timetable is suspended for the day and students follow a different timetable related to Citizenship). Students also select two option subjects to study each year. In Years 9 and 10 the Option groups are taught vertically whereas Year 11 stands alone as a year group in the Options. Students may also opt to study a second Modern Foreign Language in addition to their core language.

At KS4 core subjects are blocked across the year group and set by ability. These are delivered over 3 days. The Option subjects run in half day blocks (2 hours and 3 hours) over two days per week in line with the Local Authority Diploma and Alternative Curriculum days. Setted arrangements may be possible in the optional subjects when numbers are large enough to operate more than one group in a particular subject.

At KS3 the timetable is half-year blocked, however lessons in English, Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages are setted across the full year group. Other subjects may be blocked together at KS3 and setted when there is sufficient flexibility in the timetable to make this possible. At KS3 all students follow the National Curriculum. In addition, students have a discrete lesson of Drama once a week. At KS3 the core modern foreign language is French. Incoming Y7 students have carousel classes in German, Italian, Spanish and Mandarin.

In September 2007 the school introduced a course in Arts and Humanities entitled ‘Project Based Learning’. The course focuses on the development of key personal learning and thinking skills through extended project based learning. Lessons take place on one day and involve students receiving their entitlement in Geography, History, Art, Music and Drama in extended blocks of time rather than in one hour sessions once a week.

A structured ‘Access Course’ is offered to students operating at Level 3 or below at the end of KS2. These students follow a reduced timetable allowing additional time for literacy and numeracy which is staffed from the SEN Base.

We are committed to extending curricular provision including Foundation Learning, Work Related Learning and Diplomas, working with a range of partners..

Careers Education is provided through PSHE and Citizenship programmes. All KS4 students participate in a week's work experience. Personal learning and thinking skills, enterprise and social and emotional aspects of learning are integrated into learning and teaching across the school.

Across all age ranges and throughout the curriculum we are introducing skills based approaches to learning to help our students become independent learners with an aptitude for life long learning and to better prepare them for working life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.