

Belle Vue Girls' Academy – Subject Curriculum Intent

The English Faculty

English Language and Literature

We teach English at Belle Vue to share a love of language and literature. We want to encourage a love of life-long reading; our promotion of AR and traditional silent reading help students to discover determination and resilience. Our text choices often reflect an active desire to enlighten students about the ways women's issues have always been central to the development of literature and culture. We hope to develop students' critical thinking skills and confidence as well as presenting them with a range of diverse topics and issues. All of this contributes to a broadening of students' experiences. English lessons are always ambitious, viewing the subject as part of a bigger cultural picture. We want our students to embrace different life experiences and historical periods, read with fluency and confidence, develop empathy, to ask questions and to be active - not passive - readers. Our students are encouraged to express themselves with confidence, whether this be orally or through different written forms. We help them to write without feeling self-conscious.

The English curriculum reflects our desire to make connections between literature and contexts, creating vibrant lessons in which students can make effective links between texts and the situations in which they were created. We evaluate our curriculum each year to make sure it stays relevant to students' needs and our vision. Students will always be given opportunities to develop skills rather than simply be prepared for exams: our English faculty is passionate about empowering students through engaging them and equipping them with knowledge and techniques. Our on-going KS3 oracy project will give students opportunities to speak formally in different contexts and will be invaluable in making sure they have the chance to become confident and effective communicators.

Students can use knowledge gained in English lessons in many aspects of their lives; our aim is to ensure they realise this and feel excited about the autonomy this brings with it.

Drama

We teach Drama at Belle Vue to share a love of theatre and performance. We want to inspire students with a desire to explore a wealth of ideas and situations through acting, movement and stagecraft. Drama is an essential part of the curriculum at Belle Vue because it offers students a space in which to be creative and experimental. It encourages a more open and empathetic mind-set which ensures students can develop a deeper understanding of the wider world. Drama lessons will always engage students with questions about how they can present their ideas to an audience, focusing on dramatic techniques and devices as well as more physical aspects such as movement and voice. The Drama curriculum reflects our desire to make connections between literature and contexts. We evaluate our curriculum each year to make sure it stays relevant to students' needs and our vision. Students will always be given opportunities to develop skills and creative approaches rather than simply be prepared for assessments and exams: our Drama faculty is passionate about empowering students through engaging them and equipping them with knowledge and techniques.

The Maths Faculty

We believe with a passion that Maths plays a transformational role in the development of young adults. Our team of enthusiastic maths specialists successfully shape the lives of our learners for the challenges of the real world. We encompass a variety of topics in our teaching combined with problem solving skills to enable students to realise the value of mathematics in a variety of contexts.

Walking through our welcoming department, you will see and hear the engagement of students at work. Through a variety of activities which are challenging and inspiring students actively learn how to do maths. Students are equipped to reflect on their learning and understand the importance of being able to make sensible estimates for their answers. Students gain confidence to make and learn from their mistakes. Redefining Maths as puzzles and problem-solving puts the emphasis on the enjoyment of the subject. The subject is taught so connections are made with current events so students understand the relevance of the Maths they learn.

We aim to give every student a positive mathematical experience to achieve their potential. Our curriculum is delivered in such a way that "Maths is for all".

The Science Faculty

We as a science department endeavour to cultivate a growth mind-set based on resilience where students feel safe to express their curiosity as they develop good grounding in the knowledge of the world around them.

Studying biology at BVGA allows students to build crucial analytical skills in the context of current real world situations, through learning about the body, the importance of health and the ever changing environment we need to protect.

Chemistry is a versatile subject that is an essential pre-requisite for many courses. Our curriculum begins with the structure of the atom and chemical reactions and leads on to crucial topics on futuristic materials, Earths finite and renewable resources to environmental chemistry and how our planet is affected by human activity. Chemistry guides students to not only grow in confidence, become critical thinkers, but also someone who identifies to be part of a global community whose actions contribute to building values and practices.

In Physics we aim to equip our students to navigate an increasingly technologically advanced world through the study of the universe on a variety of scales: from the tiny particles that make up everything around us, to the challenges faced by our increasing energy demands, through to the forces that hold the universe together

The Humanities Faculty

Our vision is to empower students by opening their minds to other places, other faiths, other histories, other perspectives and other cultures; we seek to celebrate difference, rather than merely tolerating it. We aim to transform students' life chances and effect social mobility through the accumulation of 'powerful knowledge' which prepares them for success in the 21st century. We seek to instil in students a passion for learning and an inquisitiveness which encourages them to think critically and not merely accept something at 'face value'.

Geography

In Geography at BVG our aim is to inspire our students to recognise their place in the world, and develop a global 'open-mindedness' that celebrates our differences and challenges stereotypes.

We will equip students with the knowledge and skills to be active global citizens, with the power to 'ask questions' and an ability to shape and invest in our future. They should appreciate an ever-evolving world through the learning of people and places that are outside of their own experiences, developing their appreciation of the diversity of environments, peoples, cultures and economies.

History

It is our intention to share our love of learning about the past and to inspire students with a passion for History which will endure throughout their lifetimes. We are committed to using the study of the past as a force for empowering students and preparing them for their roles as active global citizens in the twenty first century.

Our aim is to promote the development of powerful knowledge which counters racism and stereotyping whilst also promoting community cohesion. Through the delivery of topics such as the Holocaust we seek to open students' eyes to the impact of prejudice and discrimination; we refuse to sanitise the past and we embrace controversial and challenging issues. We actively make links and connections between historical and modern societies to enable students to have a greater understanding of their place in the world. However, we do not merely encourage students to passively accept the status quo but equip them with skills to hold those in power to account and develop knowledge of the struggle for rights and freedoms over time.

The past has taught us the dangers of viewing communities and nations in isolation; therefore we are committed to developing students' knowledge and understanding of British, European and world history. We see the study of History as a vehicle for securing a better future for our students and as a force for social mobility. By equipping students with the skills of analysis and evaluation, we prepare students for a wide range of careers with the potential to significantly improve their life chances.

It is our commitment to ensure that the study of the past shapes every student's future

Psychology

In Psychology we equip our students with the knowledge and skills to find out more about our human brain and behaviour. We will facilitate a critical understanding of the symptoms, causes and treatments of a range of mental health conditions. This will promote the development of emotional intelligence through the consideration of challenging and controversial issues. We aim to develop an open-mindedness when looking into research, theories and evidence. Students will be encouraged to think critically when looking at the main approaches in psychology. This includes cognitive, biological social, behaviourist and psychodynamic approaches. We seek to provide a challenging yet supportive learning environment in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of human behaviour through analysis and evaluation. Furthermore, we aim to combat prejudice, challenge stereotypes and foster community cohesion. It is also our intention to promote the ability to make links with the other subjects studied in the faculty, whilst also developing confidence in understanding how science works and developing competence and knowledge of practical and mathematical skills.

We want to create students with academic self-efficacy who can think for themselves and take control of their own achievement.

Religious Studies

In Religious Studies at BVGA we seek to enhance and broaden the young minds of our students, often through posing some big and controversial questions. Our aim is always to promote the appreciation of the diversity of beliefs and practices that exist not only in Britain but throughout the wider world. We endeavour to create a safe space for students to openly express their own opinions on both their own values and beliefs and consider the views of others with respect and appreciation.

As a team of passionate, enthusiastic teachers of religious studies our aim is to create an environment that enhances academic, social, moral and spiritual learning. This enables our students to apply this wealth of knowledge, creating a wider spectrum of choices when they take up their role in wider society. Students are taught empathy, consideration and understanding of others. We broaden student's horizons by considering a range of religious beliefs and practices and develop the discussion of philosophical and ethical issues.

Our aim is to prepare our students for their role in the diverse world in which they will live and work. We allow students to foster pride in who they are whilst challenging harmful stereotypes and negative perceptions of others. Students are always presented with challenges that allow them to build resilience and develop diplomacy thereby creating confident global citizens with a wealth of opportunities to shape the future.

Sociology

We empower students to open their eyes to the sociological world and explore challenging ideas in a safe environment, encouraging within them excellent academic progress and personal growth. In sociology students study a range of sociological theories and then apply them to a range of important issues such as power relationships both in the family and in the wider world. We evaluate the interconnectedness and interdependence between societies in our modern world. We work to create a safe environment where students are allowed to develop their values and discuss preconceived ideas in a non-judgement way. This is achieved through the study of both education and crime and deviance with relation to class, gender and ethnicity. We encourage students not to accept facts at face value, but develop the skills to analyse and evaluate all aspects of themselves and society. Through the study and personal implementation of research methods we seek to develop an inquisitive mind that can reflect on issues that both unite and divide our world.

The Modern Foreign Languages Faculty

We believe with a passion that Modern Foreign Languages play a key role in the development of confident, open-minded, respectful, conscientious and happy young people who are prepared to embrace and thrive in a complex multi-cultural world. In Modern Foreign Languages at BVGA our students learn so much more than how to speak a language; we also work hard to ensure all our students develop the skills of communication, creativity, resilience and independence. We want students to learn about places that are outside of their own experience, developing their understanding of the world's diversity of peoples and cultures, and encouraging them to challenge stereotypes and foster understanding.

Our team of enthusiastic language specialists strives to promote interest, curiosity and enjoyment in the learning of MFL by providing a supportive yet challenging environment, where pupils are confident to take risks and step outside of their comfort zone and value the opportunity to learn from mistakes. Our aim is to provide a firm foundation in linguistic knowledge for all students as well as broadening their horizons and enabling them to continue to further studies.

The Creative Technology Faculty

Art

The Art department gives young people the creative space to think and respond. We aim to help young people to value and express their thoughts and ideas. Britain has a big colourful history of success in the Arts and this is internationally recognised. We work hard to inspire and educate the women of tomorrow to thrive in the creative industry and beyond. Our staff have a diverse range of specialisms and have worked professionally within the creative industry. We strive to meet the requirements of the curriculum in exciting new ways and celebrate the success of every student. We use a range of different mediums and processes to engage and motivate our students. Our lessons and projects are individualised and differentiated to enable students of all abilities to make progress. Students explore a range of different cultures, history and literature to inform their work. Mathematics', English and I.T skills are used on a regular basis to assist in the creation of artwork. Society wants people that can take the ideas of others both past and present and move ideas forward. The world needs risk takers who are able to experiment and create, we provide students with opportunities to develop the skills required to do this.

Computing and ICT

In 1943 Thomas Watson, President of IBM, stated "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

The whole industry has come a long way since that prediction. Computing and ICT is a subject that is always in the midst of evolution and revolution. Large companies, who were once upon a time at the forefront of cutting edge technology, from Nokia to Polaroid, have all come and gone. Everyday items we once took for granted, cassette

tapes, A to Z maps, the humble television with its four channels, all replaced by items which are more efficient and easier to use.

The strength of our department are its staff, who are able to allow the students to access a wide array of activities – from coding in Python, Creating their own computer games, image manipulation, publishing on the web and many more disciplines. The job of our department is not to teach specific skills but to ensure students are equipped with transferrable knowledge that will allow them to cope with technologies that have not yet been invented. Students are persuaded to experiment and fail in order to build up their resilience. They are encouraged to be creative, to think outside the box and have no limits to their imaginations.

“The world needs people who think outside the box, people who want to use computers to help change the world, to help them create things that make a difference, and not just to get a job done” Steve Jobs.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology it is our intent to prepare students for success in an ever changing technological world. Design and technology at Belle Vue Girls’ Academy is an inspiring, rigorous, practical subject that uses a broad range of knowledge, skills, and understanding. Using creativity and imagination our girls design and make products that solve real problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others’ needs, wants and values. Our team of subject experts are passionate about girls using and building depth of knowledge from other subjects such as science, mathematics, computing and art. Girls learn how to take risks, be resourceful, innovating and creative. We aim to develop in our girls a critical understanding of how high quality technology and design impacts on daily life, and is an essential contribution to the development of our world.

Food and Nutrition

Food Preparation and Nutrition equips students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. It is an exciting and interactive subject; the start of a young person’s learning journey into cooking preparing future generations for life after school. The subject allows pupils to cook regularly whilst considering the cost of ingredients, safety and practicality of the dish.

Some of the biggest health concerns in society can be preventable in many instances through a healthy diet. Helping teenager see their bodies’ potential and educating them to make healthy choices is invaluable to society.

The subject offers pupils a chance to assess the problems facing the food production industry. We encourages pupils to consider how society can move forward and solve problems to protect the environment; whilst satisfying the increasing demands for food in a growing world with minimal impact on the planet.

Pupils are encouraged to explore other cultures culinary traditions and experience cooking and tasting new dishes which develops acceptance and understanding of other cultures in society.

In Food we aim to inspire and motivate students, opening their eyes to a world of career opportunities and giving them the confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe.

Music

Music is what our feelings sound like. Every culture represents its past, present & future, its traditions, celebrations and ceremonies through music. Music as a subject draws all learning from the rest of the curriculum together in a unique way. From Science & technology through to languages, humanities and mathematics, music is truly the creative expression of all other subjects. Music is to the soul what words are to the mind.

Music inspires, develops creativity and allows people to share ideas, emotions and thoughts without the need for a common language. Music is the universal language of mankind. Music is at the same time an individual and a group pursuit that teaches resilience, compromise, communication, inspiration and self-discipline. Artistic pursuits are what drive change, progress and inspiration. Works of art make rules; rules do not make works of art.

Music at BVGA aims to help students to grow socially and creatively whilst developing the skills that will be required in an ever changing and fast developing future. The music curriculum is varied, active, flexible, responsive and engaging and ensures that learners produce something of which they are proud and have ownership.

“I often think in music. I see my life in terms of music” - Albert Einstein.

The Vocational Faculty

We want our faculty to be an inspiring and inclusive team where we work collaboratively to provide a high quality learning experience for all. We aim to be ambassadors of excellence by supporting, encouraging and motivating both staff and students to be the best they can be. We strive to set high expectations to create independent, responsible and respectful learners who take pride in themselves and the work they do. We work hard to educate ‘the women of tomorrow’.

Business Studies, Law and Public Services

Our teachers are experts in the fields of business, law and public services. As a team we aim to grow successful learners who are independent and enjoy their learning. We want our learners to thrive in an environment that supports outstanding progress and excellence. We aim to create an ethos that allows learners of all abilities to experience success as a result of hard work and continued effort.

We are aspirational and aim to equip each of our learners with life-long skills and knowledge to be able to thrive in our competitive world. We work with our learners to develop a strength of character, and resilience that will help them to overcome the challenges they are likely to encounter in adult life. By providing a range of opportunities and experiences, we allow our pupils to succeed in the next stage in their education, training or employment.

By developing an appreciation of the “real world”, we believe that our students deserve a learning experience that does not narrow their life chances but enables social equity and mobility.

Health and Social Care and Childcare

We passionately believe that Health and Social Care and Child Care play a key role in the holistic development of our students and will equip them to be successful women of the future.

Our team of enthusiastic H&SC and CC teachers aim to build upon student’s former skills and knowledge and to effectively facilitate cross curricular themes, whilst introducing and developing new ideas, skills and subject knowledge. We aim to further develop communication skills, empathy and teamwork which will be necessary in order to access careers in the Early Years, Health care and Social care sectors, as well as being transferable skills for other careers and academic subjects.

We want each individual student to achieve their potential by offering them the opportunity to broaden their horizons in order for them to access a diverse range of career paths in both challenging environments and with a range of people from different backgrounds. This is supported by learning which based on real life situations, and at KS5 with experience of work related learning

Physical Education

Our team believe with a passion that Physical Education provides students with the platform to develop their social, emotional and interpersonal skills alongside the development of communication, fair play and independence. Every student will experience an inclusive, challenging and enjoyable atmosphere whilst understanding and experiencing the importance of resilience and fair play. Belle Vue Girls students have the opportunity to get active, learn new skills but more importantly we equip students with the knowledge of healthy lifestyles and how it effects physical, social and mental health.

