



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

CURRICULUM

HIGHLY AMBITIOUS AND INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM DESIGN

Through appreciating and promoting the Christian values of dignity, hope, community, wisdom, humility, and kindness, all members of St George's are explicitly encouraged to be aspirational. We aim to positively impact upon each other and society so that we contribute to a world where, inspired by St Paul, we can 'be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves' (Romans 12:10). The pursuit of deep wisdom sits at the absolute heart of life and design at St George's. While all schools focus on the acquisition of knowledge and understanding—which are fundamental aspects of wisdom—true wisdom is something far deeper. Each of our values stands separately, but pulled together they help our pupils to acquire something which will help them make appropriate, exemplary choices and decisions, providing a firm foundation for positive relationships throughout their lives. Wisdom is gained by humbly submitting to learning, approaching others with kindness, upholding the human dignity of all, and by holding on to the hope that is set before us. Like the farmer in Jesus' parable, we are sowing for the future and providing good soil for our pupils to root themselves in; or, like the wise builder, creating a firm rock on which they can build their house.

At St George's, in order for all pupils to achieve academic excellence, we deliver a highly ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum where teachers act as the subject experts whose role it is to convey their deep expertise to pupils. We believe that all pupils are entitled to learn about 'the best which has been thought and said'. Our plans are evidence-informed and inspired by some remarkable schools that have already embarked upon this project, while ensuring every curricular decision is precisely tailored to meet the needs of our pupils, community, and faith. Knowledge is power, and knowledge empowers children to achieve, dismantle barriers, and carve out their own path in the world. By providing pupils with an excellent, knowledge-rich education, we are enabling them to fulfil their potential and broaden their life opportunities.

INTELLIGENT SEQUENCING AND BREADTH WITHOUT COMPROMISING DEPTH

This exceptional, well-sequenced, and focused curriculum is one of the most powerful forces in combating inequality. Our curriculum is intelligently sequenced to be consistently ambitious and fully inclusive, consisting of everything that is required for the development of all pupils socially, intellectually, spiritually, and physically. Every decision that we make—from timetabling and subject provision, to teaching and learning approaches, and extra-curricular activities—is made with an ethical view to uphold a sense of dignity, humility, and wisdom. Our three-year Key Stage 3 is broad and purposeful, allowing pupils to study a large range of subjects ready to make an informed decision in Year 10 about their specialisms. We believe that by a total lack of curriculum narrowing, our pupils are able to develop

a wide range of expertise and experience a full, well-rounded, and holistic education at St George's.

As a core element of our exceptional curriculum design, we ensure that all pupils, including the most disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), have equitable access to this ambitious curriculum, leading to a high level of academic, technical, or vocational excellence. All pupils have the opportunity to study and enjoy the greatest literature ever written, from Shakespeare's conspiratorial tragedy 'Julius Caesar' and Orwell's politically charged 'Animal Farm', to Pullman's modern masterpiece 'Northern Lights'. It is our duty as educators to ensure that when pupils leave secondary school they are in a position to enter into academic discussions and debates, enjoy Shakespearean theatre from a position of true understanding, and fully appreciate the value of cultural capital. We provide the knowledge for pupils to develop their own unique perspective from an informed stance, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate a constantly changing society with confidence, hope, and above all, kindness.

EXPERT PEDAGOGICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND SUBJECT MASTERY

Because we believe quality first teaching is our top priority, we execute an extensive and rigorous Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme running seamlessly on a whole-school and departmental level through each subject's Intellectual Preparation (IP). Our research-informed CPD has an uncompromising focus on promoting high-quality pedagogy and subject mastery to ensure our teachers are able to deliver consistently exceptional lessons which, in turn, lead to exceptional learning. At St George's, we are privileged to have subject specialists in all departments as well as a proactive team of Lead Practitioners who raise standards in teaching and learning through their research-based support. We also benefit from a large number of experienced external examiners across many subjects in the academy who offer their subject knowledge expertise to support their colleagues in their own subject mastery.

At St George's, we pride ourselves on our high expectations, mutual respect, and academic ambition achieved through a relentless drive for a culture of uncompromising excellence. One major way in which we achieve an environment that promotes this high-quality learning is through the use of curriculum booklets. These curriculum booklets are specifically constructed by our subject experts to ensure that components of knowledge are perfectly sequenced to match our curriculum visions, facilitating cumulative knowledge, long-term retention, and mastery by integrating this knowledge into larger concepts. Teachers combine the precision of the booklets with thorough lesson preparation to ensure learning is delivered to clearly and methodically explain key concepts, interleave knowledge and skills, and proactively address misconceptions to promote deep understanding. At St George's, our lessons are delivered in such a way as to promote exceptional levels of academic engagement, active participation, knowledge retention, and immediate application. Teaching and learning strategies

are under constant review and refined to specifically meet our pupils' needs; as a school, we constantly aspire to improve, and we instil the same drive for improvement in our pupils.

Literacy, reading, writing and vocabulary instruction are highly prioritised and interleaved within our rigorous CPD and specific initiatives to promote comprehension and communication mastery. For those pupils who arrive at St George's whose literacy and reading skills are a barrier to accessing everything our aspirational curriculum has to offer, we provide explicit teaching through Direct Instruction, progressing towards our focused Reading Plus programme, before finalising reading excellence in our own SG Reading Mastery programme. This ensures that pupils rapidly gain the foundation skills in literacy and reading to fully engage in our broad and knowledge-rich curriculum by the time they finish the programme, supported by the precision of our carefully implemented Reading Plus programme which is used with all Key Stage 3 pupils.

Furthermore, assessment forms a seamless part of every single lesson, allowing teachers to systematically check the understanding, retention, and mastery of key concepts. Twice per year, we formally assess pupils through examinations to inform bespoke responsive teaching, identify pupils who require intervention, and provide a clear progress update to parents and carers. We recognise that this can be used as a powerful combination of assessment as, for, and of learning—integrating memory building, formative, and summative methodologies. Crucially, we ensure that all data collection is combined with strategic action which directly adds to learning, while actively minimising teacher workload to sustain staff well-being and instructional quality.

HOLISTIC IMPACT AND EXCEPTIONAL PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT

At St George's, we are extremely proud of our exceptional academic results, however we do not believe GCSE results are the only measure of success; the profound impact of our curriculum is deeply visible in the character of our pupils. Pupils at St George's are exceptionally kind and compassionate, possessing the humility and dignity to put others before themselves in line with our academy's uniting scripture from Romans 12:10, which calls them to be devoted to one another in love and to honour one another above yourselves. Throughout Years 7 to 11, we evaluate the success of our curriculum and pupils through a robust, balanced matrix of summative and formative assessments, transparently sharing these results with parents and carers, celebrating successes, and rapidly supporting those in need.

Everything at St George's contributes to creating a strong, highly successful holistic education. This includes striving for the very best GCSE results, which combine with the values and character that we instil, leading directly to the best possible life chances for our young people. Our curriculum's impact is unequivocally demonstrated by the fact that our results for all pupils, including our most disadvantaged and SEND cohorts, continue to improve consistently. This relentless upward trajectory firmly secures our place as the highest-performing

school in Blackpool, preparing every pupil to enter wider society with confidence, deep expertise, and hope. It is our mission to develop the best historians, scientists, mathematicians, linguists, authors, artists, athletes, geographers, chess champions, and experts from a range of disciplines. Not only do we want our pupils to display expertise in a range of fields, but we also instil humility, compassion, kindness, and empathy. Furthermore, St George's supports pupils to acquire the self-development, career management skills, and qualifications they need to achieve positive employment destinations, helping them choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities, and contribute to a successful economy.