



Bowden House School Curriculum Statements

Bowden House School offers full time education with a broad curriculum preparing our students for life after school. We follow the National Curriculum with every teacher skilled and experienced in differentiating their subject to meet the wide range of abilities and complex needs our students present. BTEC courses are offered in a range of subject areas. Admission to the school can be during any part of the academic year and students who join us having followed BTEC courses in their previous school(s), can continue their studies with recognition of their prior learning/knowledge accredited in the relevant subject area. The school now offers a 'parallel curriculum' for years 10 & 11 where vocational options complement other subject areas. These options include: college attendance and alternative learning opportunities in the community. Each class group has a Teaching Assistant and 1:1 support is available, if necessary. Students are also able to access additional support when they are entered for GCSE's or Entry Level qualifications.

Curriculum Areas

English

Maths

Food Technology

Art and Design

Performing Arts

External Leadership (EL)

Science

PE

ICT

Social Studies

Humanities

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Design and Technology (DT)

English

In English we develop written and verbal communication skills; building confidence so that students can present thoughts and ideas coherently in writing and speech. We work on developing a love of reading so that our students can access books for fun as well as learning. Students are entered for GCSE's or AQA 'step up' qualifications.



Mathematics

Bowden House School aims to ensure that students enjoy maths regardless of ability. We look to increase students' confidence and capacity to work as independent learners with a "can do" attitude. We focus on practical numeracy skills for all. The Department chooses not to use a published text book scheme but to develop individual tasks and a range of teaching methods to meet individual needs. The students take part in Business Enterprise Projects that allow them to use their maths skills to create ideas and solve financial/ business problems. Our students are given the opportunity to take Maths at GCSE level.

Food Technology

Food technology offers students a sound, basic understanding of food preparation in the kitchen. Students prepare a wide variety of foods learning a range of different cookery skills alongside hygiene and safety in the kitchen. Each term the students work on a different project; this may include recipes from celebrity chefs, recipes from around the world, things that everyone should learn to cook and much more. The lessons are designed around healthy cooking on a budget using ingredients that are readily available



from local supermarkets.

Students have the opportunity to analyse their work and to personalise their dishes. They receive rewards for a set number of points within lessons to earn their own chef's jacket.

Art and Design

All students in the school study Art and Design up to GCSE level. This covers a variety of disciplines including drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and printing using a number of different materials. The students begin with simple activities in KS3 then progress onto more elaborate work at KS4. We have a weekly Art Club and an Art Exhibition each Spring Term where students can showcase their work to friends and family. Students' work is displayed around the school.



Expressive Arts

All students have at least one Expressive Arts lesson a week where Music, Dance, Media and Drama are taught. Singing is very popular as is drumming, percussion and composing on the I-MAC using Garage Band. Students can take a number of different AQA unit awards.

External Leadership

Once a week, students at Bowden House are timetabled to spend a day experiencing External Leadership (Outdoor Education). This provides students with opportunities to develop skills in a wide range of outdoor activities such as biking, orienteering, bush craft, camping, kayaking, sailing, surfing and rock climbing. Through these experiences we work on building co-operation, trust, problem solving, decision making, goal setting, communication, leadership, responsibility and reflection. In addition, each year all students are offered the opportunity to spend a week on a residential trip, camping for example in South Wales or the Lake District.



Science

Science is taught in an exciting and practical way with lots of time given to carrying out experiments. At Bowden House we aim to answer questions and feed fascination and curiosity about the world. We cover the National Curriculum in science for KS3 and KS4 with all students completing a BTEC Level 1 in applied science. More able students follow the core science GCSE and from 2017 they will be working towards dual science GCSE examinations.

PE

The PE Department has an ethos of "sport for all" as well as offering a high-quality physical education curriculum that inspires all students to succeed and excel in



competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. We provide opportunities for students to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness.

There is a school football team and we believe that opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect. Every Wednesday the whole school spends the last lesson of the day

engaged in sport: playing football, badminton, table tennis or walking for fun. A GCSE course is available for the students to study and gain a full GCSE qualification. The school also boasts a fully equipped gymnasium and a Multi-Use Games Area to ensure that sport is accessible all year round.

ICT

In ICT, students are encouraged to think for themselves and develop their computing skills to:

- find things out
- develop ideas and make things happen
- exchange information
- review, modify and evaluate work as it progresses

Students complete tasks that go towards AQA examination board Unit Awards.



Social Studies

Social Studies provides students with the opportunity to develop their personal skills and knowledge covering some of the following topics: drugs education, First Aid, Health & Nutrition, career planning, anti-social behaviour and sexual health. This is achieved through sharing thoughts and ideas, expressing opinions and through self-reflection. We also have visitors into the class to enhance the learning opportunities available to all.

Humanities



This is a subject that enables the students to gather a greater knowledge of the world around the by exploring the geographical features, different religious views and historical factors that have influenced the world as we know it today. It is taught to all Lower School students and gives them the opportunity to marvel at the things that we take for granted. We cover topics such as Romans, Ancient Egyptians, our planet, coasts and

World Wars as well as life in the 21st. century.

Modern Foreign Language (MFL)

In KS3 our students are introduced to European Languages through exploring the differences in cultures. Lessons are developed to encourage an awareness of what

they might expect were they to travel - art, food, geography and fashion. As so many of our students have speech and language difficulties, we base our learning around everyday conversation and simple vocabulary.

Design Technology (DT)

In DT, students are taught about safe working in a workshop environment. They work with plastic, metal and wood. Projects involve design work drawing in 2D and 3D. Students learn model making, planning, as well as developing an understanding of materials and equipment. The Department has a free-standing, fully equipped 'garage' where students can learn and work on, all the practical aspects of bike and car mechanics.



Additional Support

Lower School

Since its inception in October 2003, the Lower School (affectionately known as the 'Bungalow') strives to encourage students with the process of learning and the development of emotional literacy to help maximise progress. The majority of students arrive at Bowden House School without the necessary basic skills to engage in learning. Using a broad range of strategies and alternative activities, students gradually 'learn how to learn'. They discover their own strengths through personal discovery. The first two lessons every morning are referred to as 'Core'. This enables staff to assess emotional needs to help minimise issues. The core curriculum focuses on key skills in Literacy and Mathematics that have either been missed or not fully understood but here they are pursued in an imaginative and non-threatening manner.

The Lower School adapts to the needs of the current cohort. We do not shy away from the reasons behind their placement at Bowden House. Part of the learning process is to recognise and develop strategies to manage their own 'behavioural and learning' issues. We also encourage students to understand and accept that in recognising their individuality, the route to learning may follow different paths for each of them.

Speech and Language Therapy

We have a Speech and Language Therapist on site for 3 days a week to provide assessments, advice and therapy for students who have difficulties with verbal and/or

written communication skills. She also advises the Education and Care Team with effective strategies to develop communication in a variety of settings.

Therapeutic Counselling

We have a Counsellor on site for three days a week and Individual counselling sessions are offered to all students who feel that they could benefit from such support. Counselling is a way of sorting out problems, difficulties or worries with another person in a confidential, informal manner with someone who has specialist training in helping others.

CAMHS – Clinical Psychologist

Our CAMHS Clinical Psychologist is in school for 2 days each week working directly with our students during term-time in addition to supportive work with families during the school holiday periods.

Learning Support

Our Learning Support Consultant provides intensive literacy and numeracy support where students receive individual attention with the opportunity to close gaps in learning and strategies to help them cope in the wider classroom setting.