



ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

Using Key Stage 2 results pupils are placed in three bands. Subjects are taught in ability sets from the spring term of Year 7. The sets are adjusted termly in accordance with achievement. Parents will be invited to come into school for parents evening to review progress and discuss targets with mentors and teachers.

We believe that education is a continuous process. It begins in the home and we always seek to work in partnership with parents. Education does not cease when formal schooling ends. We aim to give every child the knowledge and capacity to learn so that they enter the world as happy, rounded, balanced citizens and as qualified as possible.

More Able at Mount St Joseph

It is important that able pupils are identified at an early stage and given an appropriately challenging curriculum. To do this Key Stage 2 results, reports from primary school and cognitive ability tests are used to group students with similarly high attaining pupils.

Lessons are tailored to stretch our more able students challenging them to develop the skills and attributes needed to support their future success. Our more able students follow a curriculum which enables them to demonstrate their mastery in a wide variety of subjects. Target grades are challenging and students are supported through a mentoring programme in attaining these targets. Extracurricular activities provide enrichment opportunities to extend and challenge.

The excellent examination results attained by our more able students is evidence that our programme that offers challenge, support and opportunities is highly effective and produces some outstanding GCSE results and further opportunities beyond school for our students.

Transition

Primary pupils have many opportunities to visit Mount St Joseph in years 4, 5 and 6. They join in collective worship, attend masterclasses and have day visits to the school to get a “taste of life” at Mount St Joseph. In addition, gifted and talented pupils attend additional lessons whilst the more vulnerable pupils join in our nurture sessions. Sports competitions are also held throughout the Summer Term for years 4 and 5.

In year 6 our pupils join us for a day to make new friends, meet the teachers and prepare themselves for September.

As a result, the move to Mount St Joseph is a smooth and successful transition where pupils feel happy and safe and continue to make progress in their learning.

Enriched Activities for Students

All pupils are offered opportunities for worship and reflection. Pupils take part in retreats and services of reconciliation. There is the opportunity to be part of the Chaplaincy team. Many do voluntary work in nurseries and care homes. Each year group takes part in raising funds for charitable causes.

There are many trips and activities where all students are encouraged to participate – these include: Mock Trials, residential trips to the Battlefields, London and Outdoor pursuits. The school also offers a variety of field trips to the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District, art trips to galleries, visits to



universities, theatre trips, camping trips, a variety of extra-curricular clubs and extended school days.

Key Stage 3 and 4 Curriculum

At Mount St Joseph students enjoy dynamic lessons in a rich and varied curriculum designed to engage and motivate students. We believe that every child is uniquely talented and we seek to provide a curriculum which meets the need of all our children.

Our curriculum aims to offer all students a broad, balanced and rich experience which will equip them to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The curriculum is enriched with a variety of extra-curricular activities to encourage pupils to make constructive use of their leisure time. We create the conditions in which all students can grow and develop resilience and creativity.

KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM

Transition from primary to secondary is a high priority for the school and students arriving new to the school in year 7 are initially taught in their form groups, this enables them to develop strong relationships with their peers and a strong sense of belonging.

After the first term and throughout the remainder of year 7 and year 8, students are taught in ability groups, set in three bands, enabling lessons to be tailored to maximise each individual's potential. Whilst the curriculum focuses on literacy skills and mathematics it is also varied so students can experience a wide range of subjects.

Subjects within the Curriculum

In accordance with National Curriculum guidelines all students follow a common curriculum at Key Stage 3 comprising:

Art	Citizenship	Computing
Drama	English	Geography
History	Mathematics	French/Spanish
Music	Physical Education	Religious Education
Science	Technology	

In year 9 Students are able to opt for certain subjects whilst still following a core programme. This allows students to focus on their interests and experience some subjects in greater depth before choosing their subject specialisms in year 10.

Students continue to study the compulsory subjects; English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Computing and Core PE. Students choose to opt out for one of the humanity subjects; History or Geography, one of the creative arts subjects; Art, Music or Drama. Students in the M and S bands also continue with a Modern Foreign Language; French or Spanish and students in the J Band not continuing to study MFL have additional periods of technology and creative arts. This allows students to personalise their learning to fit their aspirations and needs.

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

In the spring term of Year 9 students opt for their final Key Stage 4 subjects and it is these they will sit exams in at the end of Year 11. Students continue with these subjects for the remainder of their



time at Mount St Joseph and as our fantastic results show our students make excellent progress in all the subjects they study.

The curriculum at KS4 is designed to enable students to achieve their best, studying subjects they find stimulating and relevant. There are three pathways which students can follow.

Students on the English Baccalaureate pathway study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, RE, Computing and then either History or Geography and either French or Spanish. They also have the opportunity to study an additional subject of their choice.

Students on our core pathway study English, Maths, Science, RE, Computing and a humanity subject and those who wish not to study a Modern Foreign Language can instead choose two options. Students on this pathway may sit a mixture of GCSE and equivalent Vocational qualifications such as BTEC's.

We also have students who opt for our Vocational pathway. The school has developed new programmes with external providers Babington Group, Bolton Community College and Red Box Training. These include: Young Apprenticeships in Care, Retail BTEC, Catering, Hair & Beauty, Construction, Engineering, Motor Vehicle Studies and Employability skills. Students on this pathway will study for one day per week at one of our partner Institutions. On their other 4 days in school these students study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science and RE as well as Computing, Core PE and Citizenship. Students on this pathway will sit a mixture of GCSE and equivalent Vocational qualifications such as BTEC's or NVQ's.

Subjects within the Curriculum

All pupils at Key Stage 4 study the core subjects:

English	Mathematics	Science
Computing	Religious Education	Physical Education
Geography/History		

Optional Subjects

After consultation with parents and staff pupils choose further subjects from:

Art	Busiesss	Computer Science
Drama	Health & Social Care	Hospitality & Catering
French/Spanish	Music	Photography
Physical Education	Technology – Product Design/Graphic Products	

Our curriculum is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our students. We regularly take their feedback to see what we could do better and what subjects they may wish to study in the future. To complement the curriculum we have a wide range of activities that go on across the year from one day Enterprise events, to visits by outside speakers, work with radio stations such as Key 103, retreats and ethos events, sports days and celebrations.

Support is provided for all students through our tracking of student performance. The curriculum is flexible to allow students to have short term support and intervention to address any specific learning issue and achieve the best progress possible. The personalisation of the curriculum at



Mount St Joseph has something for everyone and encourages all our students to do their very best and reach their true potential.

If you require further information please contact the school office by telephone: 01204 391800 or by reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk