



# Bury Grammar School Curriculum

from September 2018

## Aims

- To offer a distinctive BGS curriculum which provides breadth alongside academic challenge;
- To deliver a dynamic, inspiring and challenging curriculum both inside and outside the classroom which prepares pupils well for life beyond BGS and maintains our strong tradition of nurturing fully-rounded individuals;
- To ensure that BGS, as an 'all through' grammar school, provides an 'all through' curriculum with high academic expectations and a breadth of experiences in keeping with our grammar school traditions;
- To offer the same opportunities to boys and girls within the separate schools.

## Key Principles

- Equal opportunities for all: boys and girls to have access to the same educational and co-curricular opportunities within their single sex schools aged 7 to 16;
- Investing in examination courses by devoting more teaching time to GCSE and A Level;
- A commitment to Mathematics and English as a foundation for success in all academic areas;
- A commitment to breadth: Science, Modern and Classical Languages, the Humanities, Creative Arts and Physical Education;
- A focus on academic quality (rather than quantity) in terms of academic qualifications;
- Staying faithful to our grammar school heritage;
- Offering parents better value for money in the form of greater teaching/contact time per GCSE/A Level and a stronger educational offering - all within a school day of the same length.

## SIXTH FORM (Key Stage 5)

- Significantly more teaching time per A Level subject – up to **an additional 1 hour 30 minutes per subject fortnight**;
- Significantly more teaching time per A Level subject over the course of two years: **40+ hours**;
- A commitment to small class sizes;
- A commitment to extracurricular provision, EPQ, Activities and Sport;
- Co-educational teaching with single sex form groups and pastoral care.

## SENIOR SCHOOLS

### Key Stage 4 – Years 9, 10 & 11

- GCSE courses which run for three years instead of two: this means **significantly more time** (an extra year) to prepare for more challenging examinations. This would equate to **more than 80 additional teaching hours** per GCSE subject in total;

- Use of the additional GCSE teaching time not only to prepare thoroughly for examinations, but also to go ‘beyond’ the syllabus and offer an exciting and enriching course in every subject;
- More teaching time for each GCSE subject each week;
- Pupils to pick GCSE options in Year 8; an enhanced options advice and careers education programme to be introduced – to ensure pupils make wise GCSE choices - including an Options Evening and one-to-one options/careers interviews for every pupil;
- All pupils to have the option of participating in either:  
The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, *or*  
The Higher Project Qualification (forerunner to EPQ), reflecting our emphasis on higher order thinking skills;
- More teaching time for English and Mathematics;
- A continued commitment to single sex teaching.

### Key Stage 3 – Years 7 and 8

- Greater range of subjects offered: boys will from next year have the opportunity to study Spanish, Food, and Drama (as girls currently do); girls will from next year have the opportunity to study CDT (as boys currently do);
- More teaching time for English and Mathematics, to prepare for GCSE and A Level courses in which the English/Mathematics content of *nearly every subject* is more demanding;
- Greater number of Creative Arts for all: Drama, Music, Art, CDT and Food to be offered to both boys and girls;
- A continued commitment to single sex teaching;
- Stronger preparation for GCSEs and A Levels;
- Possibility of offering the Project Qualification (forerunner to EPQ) – to encourage pupils to be independent learners and to reflect our focus on higher order thinking skills.

### INFANT SCHOOL and JUNIOR SCHOOLS (Key Stages 1 and 2)

- Setting a ‘BGS Standard of Excellence’ across all schools, with a clear focus on exceeding expectations;
- Even greater focus on English, Mathematics and Science as core subjects;
- Ensuring an excellent start in modern and classical language learning;
- Broadening the creative curriculum with exciting new initiatives and extended project work in order to serve our pupils well beyond the primary phase;
- Focus on independent work and individual portfolios – developing self-directed learners;
- Emphasis on experiential learning e.g. learning outside the classroom;
- Creative learning topics in line with 21st century demands, e.g. coding, robotics, entrepreneurship and environmental sciences;
- Computing for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, developing the twin strands of digital literacy and technical understanding, underpinning all subject areas.

### The School Day

The structure of the school day will change and will consist of six 50-minute periods and a two week timetable – which is more conducive to high quality learning. The beginning and end times of the day will remain the same in all parts of the School, except that Seniors will finish at 3.50 pm EVERY day in both BGSB and BGSG.