

Curriculum Overview

At Astrea Academy Netherwood, we are ambitious for our curriculum to be academically rigorous, carefully constructed by subject specialists and sequenced in a way that ensures systematic teaching and mastery. It should introduce scholars to powerful knowledge that takes them beyond their everyday experiences and places scholars in a strong position to lead successful lives beyond school, to question and debate the world around them, making them intellectually curious and tenacious and preparing them for citizenship in a democratic society.

Through engagement with their subject specialism and their subject communities, teachers understand the distinct nature of their subject and can engage with the evidence-based research through the subject lens, so that a subject-specific pedagogic approach can be adopted and used effectively. We do not narrow the curriculum for any scholar. Instead, we ensure that all scholars receive their entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We work to ensure that our curriculum is coherent and builds learning over time. We ensure that our scholars have embedded opportunities to connect current learning to both past and future, which enables our scholars to build this core knowledge at Key Stage 3, with the opportunity to specialise at Key Stage 4.

Within our curriculum, we ensure that we develop the literacy, communication and numeracy skills. This places at the centre of the curriculum plans the need for our scholars, from their cultural and socio-economic backgrounds to make them ready for a fulfilling and successful life in the future.

Our Personal Development curriculum enables scholars to make informed choices about being safe and staying healthy. This is supported by access to a well-planned PE curriculum. British Values are interwoven through Personal Development and throughout the frameworks of the relevant subject areas.

We provide excellent careers information, advice and guidance and have a dedicated member of staff to support scholars at crucial points in deciding their next steps.

Literacy and Fluency:

We use Astrea Reads (during Tutor Time) and curriculum development to prioritise high quality reading for all scholars. Scholars are introduced to high quality texts, which they engage with in the best way according to research. All schemes of work throughout the academy consider challenging reading texts. Scholars are given feedback as a whole class, with individual pointers as to where they have made errors that need correcting by the scholar.

Fluency is about our scholars being able to recall and apply the things they know confidently, accurately and with understanding. We know for example, how important it is to be fluent in your times tables and the various other aspects of mathematics that use these. When scholars are more fluent, they free up their thinking to tackle new challenges, explore ideas more deeply, and enjoy learning without feeling held back by feeling hesitation or uncertainty.

Every scholar at Astrea Academy Netherwood has a folder to store their Knowledge Organisers. This is the content that we want them to become fluent in. Scholars should use these to complete self-quizzing as part of their weekly homework. They have a 'Masters of Knowledge Recall Booklet' to assist them with this. They can complete 'Look, Cover, Check' retrieval practice with these booklets. The booklets will also help them prepare for quizzes at school. These include quick-fire fluency quizzes during morning meetings three times per week and lesson-by-lesson fluency quizzes in their various subjects such as in their 'Do Now' at the beginning of lessons. These then culminate in a larger quiz at least once per subject per term.

Key Stage 3

Our scholars follow a broad and balanced KS3 curriculum which is firmly based on the knowledge needed to progress. Our lessons are 1 hour, with 5 lessons per day.

We assess scholars on entry to the academy using GL assessment data. This gives us more information about scholars which we can use to explore needs further.

Curriculum Allocation per fortnight

KS3- 50 lessons
9 English
8 Maths
8 Science
4 History
4 Geography
4 Spanish
2 Computing
2 PE
2 RE
1 PSHE
2 DT (carousel: Textiles, Food, Resistant Materials (2 lessons in Y8 & Y9 and 1 in Y7)
1 Art (2 lessons in Y7 and 1 lesson in Y8 and Y9)
2 Music (2 lessons in Y7 & Y9 and 1 in Y8)
1 Drama (1 lesson in Y7 and Y9 and 2 in Y8)

Key Stage 4 (Y10 & 11)

In Key Stage 4 all scholars continue to study a broad and balanced academic curriculum to GCSE or equivalent, but can specialise, to reflect their passions and chosen future pathways. We offer a guided pathway route into Y10 to allow scholars to choose some subjects that best reflect their interests. We continue to ensure that the curriculum is balanced, academic and knowledge rich ensuring that curriculum is not narrowed to 'the tests'.

We have allocated considerable time and resources to ensure scholars achieve well across the core and options subjects

Curriculum Allocation per fortnight

KS4 – 50 lessons (56 in Year 11)
9 English (1 double per fortnight)
9 Maths
10 Science (4 Bio, 3 Chem, 3 Phys)
2 core PE
1 core RE
1 PSHE
6 Option 1
6 Option 2
6 Option 3
6 x Lesson 6 in Year 11 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Scholars also receive a daily 45-minute Tutor Time lesson which involves the following throughout the week, morning meeting, assembly, Astrea reads, culture curriculum and intervention sessions for Year 11 Scholars.

Social Mobility

We strive to offer cultural capital and literacy development through a knowledge-rich curriculum. We give our scholars advice about a range of aspirational education/careers pathways with curriculum time in PSHE and cultural enrichment through a range of educational visits including trips abroad. Activities and information available to Astrea Academy Netherwood students are designed to increase participation in higher education courses in the future.