

Curriculum Intent

at Milton Keynes Academy

September 2023

Creative Education Trust



*Creative
Education
Trust*

Whole School Curriculum Intent

At The Milton Keynes Academy we champion every student to realise their full potential as empowered local and global citizens. We are determined to ensure that our students' learning experience is engaging and challenging.

By recognising our location in the hub of creative and enterprising international business, we

work to inspire students to aim high. We are proud of our diversity, and the breadth of experience which students bring to their learning. Supporting all students to feel a sense of belonging is at the heart of what we do; we consistently review our curriculum to ensure that it is relevant and inclusive for the students we serve.

Irrespective of starting point, we are determined to ensure that all students are encouraged to **dream** big, **believe** in their own potential, and **succeed**- both at Milton Keynes Academy and beyond. They will challenge themselves to try their best and know that learning from mistakes is part of their journey to success. Our goal is for every student at the Milton Keynes Academy to grow into happy adults, optimistic about what they can achieve.



Art and Design

In the Art and Design Faculty at the Milton Keynes Academy, students have the chance to learn and explore a wealth of creative new skills in Fine Art, Textiles, Graphic Communication and Food & Nutrition.

Learning is purposeful and relevant with direct links to industry, careers, mindfulness and fun. Students learn about past and present creators from around the world. How art, design and food is impacted by our history, current lifestyles, culture, social and political issues, and new technologies.



Within the subject specialist areas, students use their creativity and imagination across a variety of disciplines to plan, design, create and make prototypes/artwork and dishes that solve real world problems. Students build their knowledge in many theoretical areas including: contemporary technologies, artists, materials and processes, design and art movements, nutrition, and current world topics including sustainability and social responsibility.

The skills which students obtain in Art and Design allow them opportunities outside of the classroom. At MKA, we offer students the opportunity to visit various museums and galleries such as: Tate Modern, Design Museum, the V&A museum, Kew Gardens and the Fashion and Textiles Museum. These are fantastic experiences to broaden their horizons and to build their cultural capital for the wider world.



Option choices within the faculty allow our learners to explore their interests, linking to possible future roles such as: a Web Designer, an Architect, Fashion Designer, an Artist, Art Therapist, Illustrator, Head Chef, Food Nutritionist, set designers and Multimedia artists. Art and Design also offers cross-curricular links to other subjects such as: Maths, English, and Science, thus preparing students for further education.

Our vision for learners in Art & Design is to progress with us as independent, collaborative and competent students that can observe, analyse, problem solve, design, reflect, apply, make, evaluate and have an in-depth understanding of the theoretical topics relating to Art, Graphic Communication, Textiles Fashion, Catering and Hospitality. Art and Design students make resilient learners and take creative risks, knowing that making mistakes is part of the learning process. An Arts & Design education supports students to improve self-esteem, perseverance, accountability, collaborative and social skills.

Health and Social Care

With advances in medication and better education about how to stay healthy, Health and Social Care is a consistently growing sector in the working world. There are currently 1.4 million people working in health care and 1.6 million people working in social care. This accounts for 1 in every 10 jobs of the working population. Despite this, there is still a shortage in some of the most vital roles within health and social care – Did you know there is currently a need for 50,000 nurses? It is also projected that there will be a need for 490,000 extra jobs in social care by 2035.



We aim to answer the questions of what health is and why it is important not to just look at health as being physical, but as a holistic entity that adds to our own personal development, and ensuring that balanced opinions can be developed along with the knowledge that is gained.

The BTEC Level ½ Tech Award is a key qualification that puts you in the forefront of understanding the why, the how, and the who's who of Health and Social Care, preparing students at MKA for some of these vital roles by learning key skills such as empathy, good

communication and the services/processes that occur within the Health and Social Care sector.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover:

- the development of key skills that prove your ability to interpret data and assess an individual's health
- an insight into processes that underpin effective and efficient ways of working in health and social care, with the end goal of designing a plan to improve an individual's health and wellbeing
- learning the skills, characteristics, and attributes that are considered the most important in health and social care, including the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to apply and evaluate
- learning the knowledge that underpins the effective use of prior learnt skills, processes and attitudes in the health and social care sector such as human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing

Through extracurricular activities and external speakers, we aim to develop a passion for health and social care with the intention of students enjoying and further developing their understanding of the subject. By showing them the different pathways and career options available, students will work hard to achieve these goals, and continue taking Health and Social Care past KS4 and KS5.



Computing

At Milton Keynes Academy, we want our students to be fully equipped for the information age. We wish them to understand that Computing is more than smartphones, tablets, the internet, networked communications, and social media. We want them to learn that Computing enables all industries from Healthcare and Farming, to Banking and Transportation; and even how Computing has improved living conditions and averted disasters.



We want students to develop their critical thinking when consuming content online, and to be confident in their ability to compare information with other resources and previous knowledge to know when content is factual or not. Developing products in Computing is fun and exciting. It also develops a student's resilience and attention to detail, which is required and pays off when programs or Media products are completed.

Students need to be confident about the choices that they make online, and the kind of content that will support whatever they want to know or do, without having a negative effect on their own or others' wellbeing. We want to nurture curiosity and thinking skills for all our students, preparing them to learn how to look at a problem and create a solution for it.

English

Our wish for our students is to show them that, through English, they learn to see the world and themselves in a different way. For the modern student, the world is evolving at a fast pace and developing the confidence to think critically will serve them well no matter what path they choose to take. Our greatest joy is when students connect to an idea or theme for the first time and recognise why it is important to explore because they can make a deep connection to it through language, character or even the context of a text.

For young people, learning who they are and what their values are is an integral part of their learning experience. The study of English helps them shape their sense of identity and what they really believe in.

English is the foundation for all subjects. It is the knowledge base for which students build on and access everything they do in a day, both in and outside of the classroom.



Through the study of English, we appreciate the arts. We learn to make sense of our emotions through Literature, why humans behave the way they do. We learn to develop life skills like reading bills and completing job applications.

In a modern world, we need students to recognise bias in what they read or hear via social media and the news. We empower them to think, and to develop their own views on what is happening in the world. They are able to recognise and respect the view of others in an increasingly multi-cultural society.

For us, we want students to understand and recognise the world as it was, as it is and as it will be. And, more importantly, to value their own place in it. Through the study of English, we learn what it is to be human.



Geography

Geography is important for a better understanding of the world we live in - whether in the natural or the human world. Our learners should be encouraged to develop a greater knowledge and understanding of the world of which they form a part of and be afforded the opportunity to cement this knowledge about their environment, giving them a sense of ownership and belonging.

Social sciences, and especially Geography, offer skills within the curriculum, transferrable to many other subject areas. Learning Geography is an investment into a broader understanding of everyday concepts, knowledge, and skills which we require daily just living life.



So, it must be our intent to inspire our learners, igniting their curiosity and engaging them to formulate empathy and consideration for global issues and their fellow humans. We should be refining their passions and understanding of the ever-changing diversities within sometimes contrasting but growing worlds, and base these on a solid foundation of

objective understanding as to how our earth orchestrates key physical and human processes without us even noticing how or when it does so.



Progressing through the course, they should achieve a framework which will offer them a sequenced understanding of explanations as to how global evolution is all interconnected. What they learn will be lifelong skills equipping them for their future and opening doors to a myriad of careers.

History

History at MKA empowers students to be better citizens and to prepare them for the rapidly changing world in which we live. A better understanding of our world enables students to have empathy and respect all cultures and communities. We aim to enable students to form opinions based on research and knowledge. Students will be exposed to many types of sources from the distant and recent past in their lessons. This could include an art piece from the Battle of Hastings to a poem from WW1. Students will also be able to develop skills of literacy and communication, preparing pupils for the world of work, and the wider world.

Through the study of History our students will be inspired by those of the past, learning from their successes and failures. Recent conflicts such as the war in Ukraine will be compared to similar events such as in Afghanistan and Vietnam. History should be enjoyed by our pupils; each lesson should leave a student with a “What happened next?” question, eagerly looking forward to the next lesson.





Do now tasks in following lessons will aim to build on this interest thus maintaining engagement. Students will develop the various skills associated with History in with a planned approach, starting in year 7 all the way to year 13.

Good Historical skills will enable pupils to unpick the mass media they face to form well-grounded opinions. In the modern world it is important that students can make sensible decisions based on the vast information they are exposed to each day. Teachers at MKA remember that it is a privilege to share historical knowledge and they have the ability to inspire with content that is new to pupils.

Maths

In a rapidly changing world, mathematics remains a constant, essential element of success for both individuals and society as a whole.

At MKA we aim to provide students with the mathematical knowledge and skill that they need in order to thrive at whatever level they operate. We also aim to work together to develop the attributes essential to making a positive contribution to wider society, such as team-working, resilience, problem-solving and communication.

Our curriculum is specifically set out to provide a structured, progressive framework to a student's development and to build all of these elements over time. It aims to inspire and enthuse students and, where possible, create a love of maths and a desire in each student to



be the best that they can be.

We believe that this approach will lead to the greatest success for students, both in formal exams and in wider life.

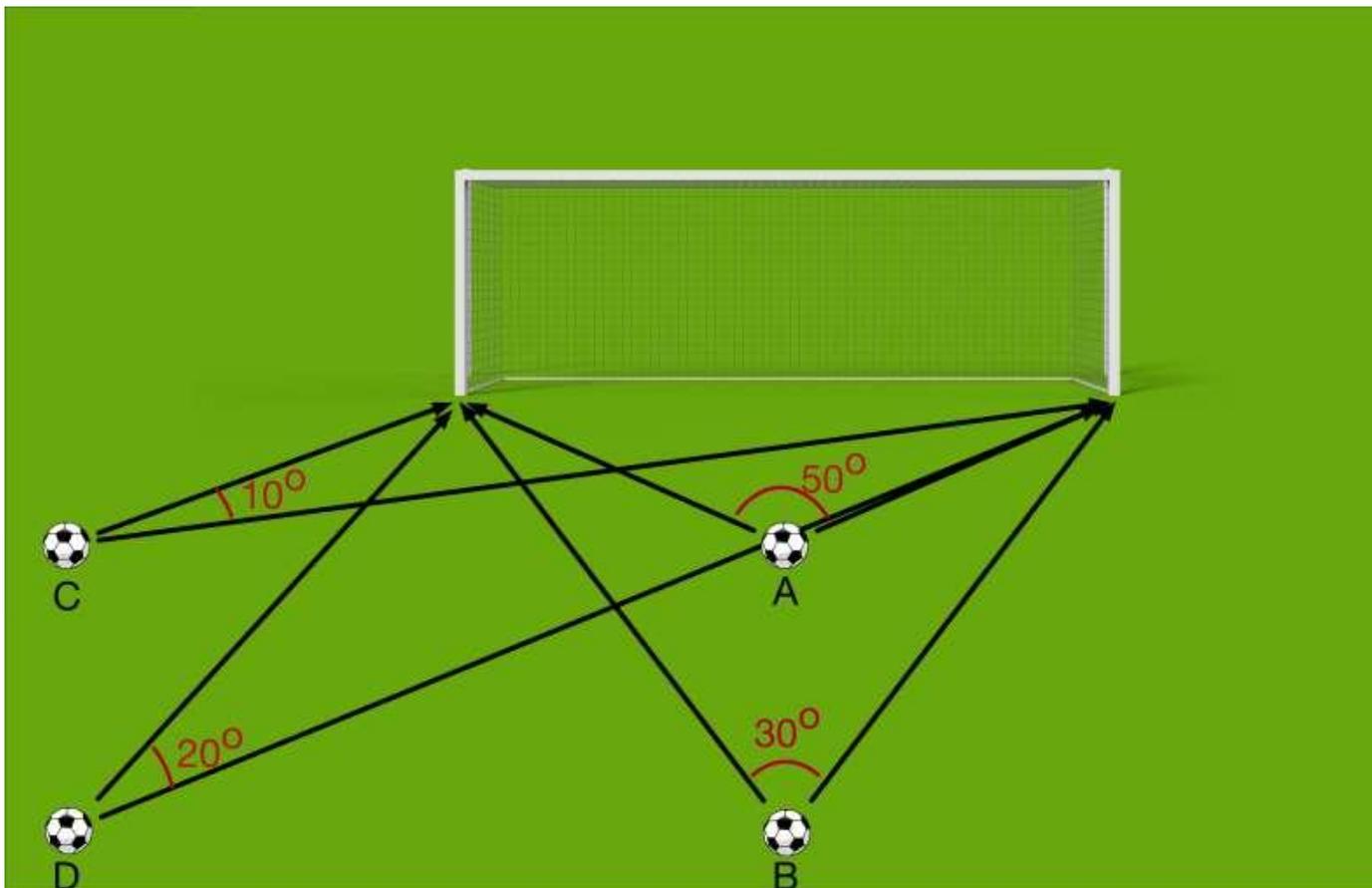
The KS3 programme of work has been designed to help the students become confident and competent in all the skills and techniques required by the National Curriculum. Students will also begin to connect different areas of the curriculum and to apply their skills to complex

problem-solving. Teaching and activities aim to engage, challenge and enthuse every student.

At KS4 our students focus on four areas:

- Learning more advanced skills and techniques
- Applying knowledge to solve more complex, multi-topic problems
- Developing mathematical communication skills
- Developing “enquiring minds”

Through each of these, our students will maximise their potential in exams, further studies and their future careers.



Modern Foreign Languages

We aspire to deliver a broad and ambitious Modern Foreign Languages curriculum, which is rich in knowledge and skills. It aims to develop independence, promotes curiosity and an appreciation and understanding of our own and others' diversity, languages and cultures as global citizens.

Our Modern Foreign Languages curriculum gives pupils the opportunity to: use language skills receptively and productively, for communication in the real world, for practical purposes, for their immediate needs, and to support their interests and beyond.

At MKA, we also work to help to develop their confidence, autonomy and resilience to access new and unfamiliar language through the use of decoding skills brought about by the explicit teaching of phonics and sound patterns. Pupils reinforce literacy skills and build upon grammar knowledge to apply independently across a wide range of linguistic contexts.

We work to support our students towards becoming a confident, fluent and spontaneous speaker of the foreign language.



Music

In Music at Milton Keynes Academy we want students to have a broad knowledge and understanding of diversity and culture within the arts; by offering a rich and varied curriculum we aim to give all learners the knowledge and cultural capital to succeed in life. Our Music curriculum covers repertoire from a large cross section of cultures, including Pop, African, Jazz, Classical and many more genres.

Music links with other subjects and utilises transferable skills that are used in everyday life. Students gain, confidence, communication, listening skills, patience, persistence and many more character traits which can be used in the future for employment.



Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity, and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with distinction, and to the best of their ability.

Physical Education

The Milton Keynes Academy Physical Education department is committed to providing a safe, challenging and inclusive learning environment, where all students feel comfortable and confident to try new things and develop lifelong skills. We aim to instil them with a passion for sport, health and fitness and engage in a suitable pathway where they can participate and enjoy physical activity outside of and beyond school.



We aim for students to develop values and transferable skills, such as fairness and respect, as well as rule, techniques, tactics, knowledge and understanding across a wide range of activities. In lessons, students will have opportunities to develop personal and social skills such as; communication, co-operation, leadership, tolerance, integrity and the ability to solve problems and evaluate their skills and performance as well as others.

In year 7, 8 and 9 students are learning and developing fundamental skills and techniques, components of fitness as well as increasing their knowledge of the rules across a wide range of sports. In year 10 and 11 Students are focusing on consolidating skills and developing more advanced techniques. Students are given more autonomy of their learning

and provided with opportunities to develop their leadership and employability skills through the sports education approach, where each student has a key role and responsibility within a team.

As a department we offer a comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities and inter-form events throughout the year, open to all students. These give students the opportunity to develop their skills and techniques further, develop a sense of belonging by being part of a team and students are given the opportunity to represent the



Academy against other schools and compete at local and county level. With have many opportunities for students to thrive in sport, not just as a performer, but as a leader. The Sports Ambassadors Programme provides students the opportunity to build on their confidence in leading, coaching and running sporting events for other students. In the summer term we also facilitate an extremely inclusive and enjoyable sports day where students at all levels can engage and thrive in a variety of events where there is something for everyone.

PE is a key subject for developing independent learners who develop levels of confidence and self-esteem through the provision of a range of sports and fitness. We endeavour to ensure that when they leave the academy students will understand the importance of leading a healthy active lifestyle, and the importance of following rules within sport and the wider community within society. It is also hoped that students will view their vast experience in PE and sport at the Academy as a positive one and that this will shape future behaviour.

Science

In Science at Milton Keynes Academy we encourage students inquisitiveness about the world we experience every day, aiming to inspire curiosity, and enjoyment in learning. By working to help students to understand the importance of evidence, validity and accuracy, we work to empower our students with the tools to challenge misinformation, and navigate their world with credibility and confidence.



We work to provide all students with opportunities to build their problem-solving skills and challenge themselves, as well and to give students opportunities to develop skills for analysis, evaluation, data processing, drawing accurate conclusions and understanding scientific reporting.



We strive to build a culture where everyone is heard and valued in Science. We work to inspire diversity in Science- diversity in gender, diversity in culture, diversity in specialism and how they link together.

Importantly, we want to give our students the tools to make a difference to the world in the future - when they leave, we want them to understand climate change, and aspects of medicine, ensuring their own and others' health and wellbeing, and how to integrate and utilise new technologies of the future.