



NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

Curriculum Statement

2022/2023

At NUSA, our curriculum furnishes our students with the subject knowledge and personal development to empower them to 'write their own life story'. The key foci throughout our curriculum emphasizes embedding literacy and numeracy across all the subjects that we teach. We firmly believe that both literacy and numeracy are the keys to opening the door to learning and access to a broad range of opportunities beyond NUSA. Each subject place specialist vocabulary, reading and class talk at the heart of their curriculum planning to create confident, articulate young people who are empowered to write, and own, their story. We carefully select ambitious knowledge to be taught across all subjects and ensure that this builds on the knowledge learnt at KS2. Alongside the subject specific knowledge, we also ensure that students are provided with the opportunities to develop their understanding of careers in each of the subject areas, so that they are fully equipped to make ambitious choices for their future beyond NUSA.

Curriculum Intent

At NUSA all students have an entitlement to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is aligned with the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 and highly effective pathways at Key Stage 4. We are an inclusive school which recognises the diverse needs of our students; enabling all of them to have access to a core curriculum.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Encourage an interest in learning that will last a lifetime.
- Build new knowledge in a sequential manner, based upon what our students have learnt previously.
- Build knowledge that students need to use in later life using clear start points and clear end points.
- Equip students with the skills, knowledge and qualifications needed to progress to further and higher education, apprenticeships or work-based training.
- Provide all students the opportunity to pursue the English Baccalaureate Route at Key Stage 4.
- Encourage students to take risks and be prepared to make mistakes in order to be successful.
- Enable students to make positive choices about their futures.
- Prepare students for the world of work.
- Broaden students' horizons and aspirations and open their minds.
- Help students to make a positive contribution to modern British society as active citizens.
- Actively promote British values.
- Help students become healthy and active adults.
- Raise standards of attainment, over time.

Our curriculum reflects the needs of our community, our local area and national priorities. All courses cater for students' individual needs, abilities and interests, which results in motivated young people leaving NUSA with the best possible outcomes.

Curriculum Principles

Our curriculum principles focus on the following:

- ✓ Clear progress across all key stages, where students learn more, know more and remember more.
- ✓ There should be depth before breadth. Maximise learning time in all subjects.

- ✓ Additional time provided to English and Mathematics to ensure that students have the essential numeracy and literacy knowledge and skills to access the full curriculum, as well as the essential knowledge in skills needed to function in life.
- ✓ Targeted support and additional challenge to ensure that provision is in place to enable all students make progress in line with national expectations.
- ✓ Zero narrowing of the curriculum for SEND students, whenever appropriate.
- ✓ To support induction into secondary school for all Year 7 students, with specialised provision for students with SEND and other specific needs.
- ✓ Additional time will be offered for sports, arts, catch-up and master classes through an extended intervention and curriculum programme.

Our curriculum is designed to provide opportunities to continue learning post-16, via academic and/or vocational routes, either via our NUSA Sixth Form, colleges in the local region, or via apprenticeships. The NUSA curriculum is broad enough to enable students to change direction in the future without being hampered by choices made at 14 years old. For each area of the curriculum, we have Subject Leads who are highly skilled and passionate that our students receive the best experience of the subject possible, with teaching staff who are continuously developing their expert practice, ensuring that students learn more, know more and remember more.

To aid transition to our Sixth Form, other further education opportunities, or employment with training after Year 11 (age 16), we work closely with local colleges, local businesses, sixth forms and training providers. Whichever route our students choose to take when completing their students at the end of Key Stage 4 at NUSA, our transition programme ensures that no-one leaves NUSA without having positive and appropriate post-16 destinations.

Curriculum Implementation

It is essential that the curriculum is organised in such a way that it provides students with the opportunity to learn the essential knowledge and expected behaviours to be successful in their learning so that we can deliver our mission and aims. The implementation of our curriculum is driven by quality first expert teaching and learning in the classroom, led by expertly skilled teachers who are passionate about sharing their subject knowledge, built upon great relationships with our students, thereby encouraging a love of learning.

Our curriculum provides a core of essential knowledge, skills and understanding how to apply the aforementioned. In Key Stage 3 (years 7 to 9), we use mixed ability groups, as appropriate, and have high expectations for learning. Subject Leads ensure that learning is sequential through schemes of learning that follow a logical progression model and that are demanding. Learning is reviewed on a continuum of assessments that cumulatively build knowledge with 'next steps' feedback for improvement provided by teaching staff undertaken to secure understanding in the long-term memory.

We have a broad Key Stage 3 Curriculum covering 15 subjects meeting all the national curriculum requirements. This is taught in 30 lessons of contact time each week.

Key Stage 3 (Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9)

The curriculum includes:

English

Mathematics

Science

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) – Spanish

History

Geography

Religious Education.

Music

Art and Design

Drama
Design and Technology (Resistant Materials and Food & Nutrition)
Enterprise (Computing)
Physical Education
PSHE

At NUSA, we follow a one-week-timetable and the amount of lessons allocated to each subject per week in years 7 to 9 are as follows:

Subject	Lessons Per Week
Mathematics	5
English	5
Science	4
History	2
Geography	2
Religious Education	1
MFL (Spanish)	2
PSHE	1
Physical Education	2
Art and Design	1
Drama	1
Music	1
Design & Technology	2
Enterprise	1
Total	30

Option Pathways and Key Stage 4

In Years 10 & 11 students continue with the Core Curriculum and choose 3 additional subjects from 11 options which build on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in the KS3 curriculum. Careful guidance is provided to all students with the support of parents and carers through a supportive option pathways choices process.

All options subjects are taught over 4 periods per week.

We provide each pupil the opportunity to follow individual subjects at that are most appropriate for them, including the full range of subjects required to achieve the English Baccalaureate. Courses normally lead to qualifications at GCSE or BTEC level 1 and level 2, but in addition, we offer a small number of externally accredited foundation level non-GCSE courses for students for whom a full set of GCSE courses may not be appropriate.

Specific courses are drawn from the following broad subject areas: Sciences, Humanities and Social Studies (HUMSOC), Creative Arts, Languages, Sport, Business and Enterprise, and Design and Technology.

The amount of lessons allocated to each subject per week in years 10 and 11 are as follows:

	Year 10	Year 11
Mathematics	5	5
English	6	6
Combined Science	5	5
Physical Education (Core)	1	1
PSHE	1	1
Option 1	4	4
Option 2	4	4
Option 3	4	4
Total	30	30

At Key Stage 4 core subjects have streamed sets but most option subjects normally cover a mixture of levels of attainment.

English, Mathematics & Science

The Core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science comprise 47% of lesson time in Key Stage 3 (year 7, year 8 and year 9) and 53% of lesson time in Key Stage 4 (year 10 and year 11).

Curriculum Impact

At NUSA, we are dedicated to improve the outcomes of all of our students and acknowledge that we are on a journey where only the highest standards are acceptable for our students.

Over the past three years, we have demonstrated substantial step-change through:

- ✓ Substantial improvement on our Progress 8 measure from 2019 to 2022.
- ✓ Rapidly improving standards in the quantity and quality of work produced by our students across the curriculum.
- ✓ High recognition from Trust Leaders who confirm that our expert teaching and learning has improved rapidly and, as a result, the learning experience of our students in the classroom is consistently high.

If you have any queries about our Curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact our Deputy Head of School, Mr Rollins, at the following email address: arollins@nusa.org.uk