

Rivers Academy West London Curriculum Booklet



Active Engagement | Highest Expectations

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English Department at Rivers Academy

English Coordinator: Mr S Rehill

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The English curriculum at Rivers Academy improves and develops students' literacy skills to enable them to effectively access and explore the world around them. We equip our students with the ability to communicate their personal beliefs and ideas, both verbally and in writing. The texts

we study are chosen to foster a love of reading and an appreciation of different types of literature. Our extracurricular activities such as Book Club, poetry slams and short story competitions encourage students to continue their learning outside of the classroom.



Our Key Stage Three curriculum introduces students to the key skills required for analysing a range of texts. In their lessons, students explore the evolution of society and historical and global issues; from the ancient Greeks and Elizabethan England, to the Great Depression of the USA and Thatcherite Britain. To develop their own writing skills, students explore topics such as climate change, world journalism and expressive storytelling. Students are challenged to create texts in a range of formats such as speeches, articles, debates and stories.

Our Key Stage Four curriculum explores the foundations of British literature to further develop the critical skills of our students. An exploration of the contexts in which our key texts were written, allows students to reflect on the society they live in today through a social, historical and political lens. Our language curriculum allows students to become confident and creative communicators; preparing them for life in the 21st century.

Maths Department at Rivers Academy

Maths Coordinator: Mr G Wallace

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Maths lessons at Rivers Academy are delivered in an interactive and challenging way ensuring students are engaged. At each stage of every lesson students will be able to contribute to a group activity, work on their own or share ideas with a partner.

Maths at Key Stage 3 is all about concrete manipulation of objects at first, statistically shown to aid students' understanding, before moving to pictorial representations and gradually more abstract concepts. An emphasis is placed on discussion of the key components and barriers to understanding, rather than simple rote learning, which allows students to better access the much more robust problem solving required at GCSE level.

With this foundation, students are able to grasp more quickly complex GCSE topics. Regular testing in Years 9, 10 and 11 allows for gaps to be identified as soon as they appear and interventions are put in place immediately, leading to strong exam performance, and a depth of understanding that allows maths to be retained after leaving school.

Science Department at Rivers Academy

Science Coordinator: Ms Y Maynier

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From year 7 students start to follow our 5 year science journey leading to an exciting world of scientific discovery in our brand new state of the art laboratories. This study covers the 3 sciences consisting of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. This is taught with a practical 'How Science Works' focus throughout. Literacy and numeracy skills are developed throughout the year as students complete exciting assignments within topics. The Science teachers share their passion and enthusiasm for teaching and learning, among students, through enquiry and challenge. Students are given the opportunity to broaden their knowledge by attending after school Science clubs. Former students have gone on to study medicine, dentistry, and engineering degrees at top universities including Oxford and Imperial College London.

Students receive log-in details for Edmodo and Google classrooms which allows them to access uploaded work online, which we use in class. This allows students to revise at home and complete the set homework tasks. We recommend that students spend approximately one hour each week using the online resources uploaded to Google classrooms to revise work they have covered in lessons. Students who are unable to access the internet at home may use the library or computers in the Science department.



Applied Transdisciplinary Learning

No Limits Curriculum Lead: Ms P Patel

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Applied Transdisciplinary Learning (ATL) is taught in years 7 and 8 at Rivers Academy as part of the No Limits Curriculum. The driving philosophy behind this curriculum is a real need for education to help students develop the 'future skills' needed for the world of work in the 21st Century. These skills are: communication and interpersonal skills, resilience, critical thinking, initiative, complex problem solving and productivity and accountability.

Along with learning in discrete single subjects, students in years 7 and 8 work on a trans-discipline (multiple subjects) assignment. Students will access, analyse and synthesise information from several subjects in order to apply their learning to a real life assignment that is relevant in the world we live in.

The assignments are between 3 and 6 weeks long. All learning blocks last for two hours, 3 times a week. Students work in teams throughout the assignment, with opportunities for individual reflection on the future skills as well. Each sequence of learning starts with a 'wow' launch event, which could be a trip, demonstration or guest speaker, that allows students to ignite their curiosity. The final outcomes for the assignments will result in a presentation or performance, or exhibition to an expert audience. Each assignment is advertised and publicised around the academy through the use of posters.

Our first assignment in year 7 is called 'Demos Kratos' (Rule by the People). Students will understand the basis of democracy and learn the persuasive techniques needed for letter writing and speech giving, in order to prepare themselves for their presentation to peers and adults. Students will campaign to change something in the community and the final outcome will result in a recorded vlog or presentation to the Local Member of Parliament, Seema Malhotra.

ASPIRATIONS
PRESENTS

SHAKESPEARE RE-DESIGNED

DESCRIPTION

STUDENTS WILL RESEARCH, DESIGN, ACT, RECORD AND EDIT A KEY SCENE FROM "ROMEO AND JULIET". STUDENTS WILL DELIVER THREE SECTIONS OF THE PLAY AGAINST CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUNDS OF A DIFFERENT ERA, AND PREVIOUSLY STUDIED IN HISTORY.

START DATE 09/12/19 | **LENGTH** 6 WEEKS | **EXHIBITION** 3/02/20

SUBJECTS COVERED ENGLISH: Analysis of literature HISTORY: Significance, review and interpretation of texts BIOLOGY: Human reproduction	PRODUCTS Film (conceptual, different recorded scenes) PUBLIC AUDIENCE/ PARTNERS Local theatre companies, actors and authors	FUTURE SKILLS Communication, media literacy, productivity, and accountability. Creative and artistic thinking. Cognitive load management
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THE DRIVING QUESTION: HOW CAN WE, AS YEAR 7 STUDENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, IMAGINE KEY THEMES OF SHAKESPEARE'S WORK IN A DIFFERENT ERA?

Geography Department at Rivers Academy

Coordinator of Humanities: Ms L Jansen van Vuren
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"Geography is a subject that holds the key to our future." Michael Palin.

Geography is so much more than a school subject or academic discipline. It defines our everyday lives. From the moment we are born, a journey of interactions with people and places begins.

In year 7, pupils will learn key geographical skills such as cartography, orienteering and statistical analysis. They will then move on to study their immediate environment and the population and its rapid growth. As the seasons change we will be looking at weather and climate followed by the landscapes of the UK and how land is formed during the rock cycle.

As global warming is currently a big cause for concern we will be looking at the impacts and what we can do to minimise our carbon footprint. We will end the year looking at a case study of Africa and all the challenges and opportunities people living there face.

This grounding in geography will ensure that pupils at Rivers are equipped for an exciting yet challenging GCSE course. Pupils will study the AQA specification which entails in depth human and physical geography education, alongside two field trip studies.

History Department at Rivers Academy

Coordinator of Humanities: Ms L Jansen van Vuren

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The History department aims to help all students develop the skills needed to investigate the past as well as the world around them. Students explore and evaluate a variety of historical periods to gain an insight into the development of modern Britain.

The course will start with a skills unit to help students fully develop their analytical skills as historians and continue with breadth and depth studies in both world and British studies. Some of the topics to be investigated include: The Normans, The Middle Ages, the Industrial Period all the way through to the World Wars and modern day.

Students are guided to critically analyse and evaluate in order to reach well-reasoned conclusions about the given topics of study. All of these skills are embedded to enable students to achieve great success at GCSE. Former students have gone on to study history degrees at top universities including Edinburgh, Oxford and Imperial College London.

The History department offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities and trips which enhance the students' understanding of the subject. For example past trips have involved visits to the Imperial War Museum where students were tasked with creating a mini documentary on WWI using the exhibitions and source skills.

Spanish Department at Rivers Academy

MFL Coordinator: Ms L Hoskin

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¡Bienvenidos a español!

With 472 million Spanish speakers around the world it has become increasingly important to have the ability to communicate in Spanish.

At Rivers Academy we aim to develop independent and creative language learners who go on to maintain a lifelong interest in languages. The MFL team wants all of our students to enjoy language learning, make progress and achieve. We recognise that modern language skills are a prerequisite in today's professional job market and we promote the advanced study of languages. As well as achieving highly academically, we think that it is important to promote language confidence for real-life purposes. Our aim is that students develop openness towards other cultures and understanding through their learning of the richness unique to each language.

Students will have four lessons over two weeks in Years 7, 8 and 9 with 5 lessons in Year 10 and 11. Our curriculum is designed to motivate and increase confidence by comprising a mixture of new vocabulary and grammar, securing learning before building upon previous skills so that students feel a sense of achievement and can feel progress.

Outside of lessons, the MFL department offers a wide range of extracurricular opportunities and trips which enhance the students' understanding of the subject. Past visits include trips to Madrid where our students were fully immersed in Spanish culture and had lots of opportunities to practice their language skills.



Art Department at Rivers Academy

Art Coordinator: Ms Beadle

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Art allows students to explore their individual creativity, whilst honing their artistic skills. The course offers students a chance to develop inter-disciplinary skills in a range of mediums, including: drawing from observation, painting, artist studies and 3D work. Students will develop problem solving skills creatively as well as gaining confidence in their artistic ability.

There are a variety of popular extra-curricular clubs and activities that the Art department run at Rivers Academy, including: Year 7 & 8 Art Club, GCSE catch-up sessions and regular whole school Art competitions.

Having a creative and investigative approach helps our students to develop the skills required to succeed both in the Arts and the wider environment.



Business Studies Department at Rivers Academy

Head of Business & Economics: Mrs Angela Aggrey
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Would you like to set up your own business and be a successful entrepreneur? Would you like to be a manager in a business? Have you got an interest in the news and how the government and their policies affect your everyday life? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then Business Studies at GCSE is for you.

You will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about why and how new business ideas come about, the role of entrepreneurship, business revenue, costs and profit, sources of small business finance amongst others. You will also discover some of the methods and techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance.

Economics is about studying the world around us from a social, financial and cultural perspective. The subject looks at all the different factors that affect wealth and well-being. Some of the topics you will come across include:

How does a country decide how it should spend its money?
How do businesses ensure that they make a profit?

You will learn about the policies that governments put in place that affect businesses and the economy in general.

Our GCSE in Economics introduces students to economic concepts and helps them develop the appropriate range of analytical, critical and reasoning skills to enable them to think as economists. They learn how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally. There are many exciting opportunities to take part in extracurricular activities such as visits to various businesses and in-school guest lectures with real-life entrepreneurs.

In addition to GCSE Business and Economics we also offer a BTEC Business course.

BTEC Business involves a mixture of assignments and exam practice which asks students to apply their business theory to actual businesses operating at many different levels. It also then investigates in more detail key business operations such as promotion and finance.

ICT Department at Rivers Academy

Curriculum Team Leader: Mr S Labal

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The Computing and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) department offers a stimulating and dynamic learning environment using the most up to date software and creative technologies available. High-tech classrooms with interactive whiteboards enable students to excel in a multimedia rich society.

The Computing and ICT curriculum offered at Rivers Academy is designed to give an in-depth knowledge and a wide range of Computing and ICT skills. Excellent results and high expectations of success reflect the increased popularity of Computing and ICT, with many students now going on to do the subject in the sixth form.

The ICT curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation
- Can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems
- Can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- Are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology

Design Technology Department at Rivers Academy

Technology Coordinator: Mr T Bailey
tbailey@rivers-aspirations.org

Head of Food Technology: Ms Beadle
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“The best way to predict the future is to create it”

Design and Technology is taught at Key Stage 3 across two fully equipped workshops, two food technology rooms and two designated computer suites. In year 7, students are introduced to the world of design and the basic skills needed to be successful. In year 8, they develop their ability to create more detailed products and year 9 allows them to apply their learning into individualised solutions.

Students learn a range of skills throughout the different disciplines; Food Technology, Graphics and Resistant Materials. Students develop a range of creative and critical thinking skills which enable them to better understand the world around them. This is enhanced through the use of technologies such as CAD software, laser cutting and 3D printing. Students embark on a range of mini projects which allow them to develop designing, making and evaluating skills which build a solid foundation for GCSE and beyond.



Music Department at Rivers Academy

Curriculum Team Leader: Ms L Harvey

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Key stage 3 Music is taught as part of the Creative Arts carousel, where students complete a 9-week project. All KS3 pupils develop skills in singing, keyboard, ukulele, percussion and music technology through the study of a variety of different topics, including film music, popular music and world music.

Music is a great way for students to develop their confidence, creativity and concentration, as well as the sense of achievement that comes from learning a new skill.

Extra-curricular activities including choir, keyboard club and ukulele club, all of which are open to students from all year groups. The Music Department regularly arranges theatre trips, and in the last year has taken students from all year groups to a wide range of productions, including Wicked, Mamma Mia and A Christmas Carol.

There are several opportunities throughout the year to be involved in concerts, productions and assemblies. Pupils are also encouraged to learn an instrument of their choice through the Hounslow Music Service.



PE Department at Rivers Academy

PE/ Well-being Coordinator: Ms R Francis

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Physical Education is an inclusive subject that is considerate of the physical and mental well-being of all students within Rivers Academy. Students are provided with the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of sports and develop future skills including; leadership, communication and resilience. Throughout all year groups we practically teach theory components, working closely with the science department to develop students' understanding of human anatomy and physiology. The delivery of the curriculum begins with developing transferable skills that builds upon their physical ability in a variety of different sports. We then build on this by integrating the 'Games for Understanding' approach to provide all students with the opportunity to utilise these skills in a variety of alternative sports; examples include American Football, Ultimate Frisbee and Handball. This approach also gives us the opportunity to develop skills that will benefit our students in other subjects including teamwork, communication, confidence and self-awareness.

All students are given unlimited access to a wide range of extra-curricular clubs where we partake in a variety of fixtures and tournaments against other schools within our district; including district athletics and cross-country. We understand the life-long impact we have upon our students and therefore continuously encourage students to be aware of the positive effects that healthy eating and regular activity has upon physical and mental wellbeing.



PSHCE Department at Rivers Academy

Curriculum Team Leader: Rebecca Paterson

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PSHCE education is a whole Academy subject through which pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and prepare for life and work in modern Britain. Our aim is to foster students' wellbeing and self-care while promoting a culture of resilience. Learning environments aim to equip each child with the skills to succeed in this fast-changing world by developing written and verbal communication, reasoning skills, ability to work independently and with others. The PSHCE curriculum will lay the foundation of knowledge for options available to our students at GCSE and A Level.

PSHCE includes topics such as careers, employment, money management, as well as sex and relationship education, drug education and healthy lifestyles. We aim to ensure our pupils are well rounded individuals, prepared for the world they live in.

Citizenship education teaches young people about the political, legal and economic functions of adult society, and gives them the social and moral awareness to thrive. They can take Citizenship as GCSE option to further their studies to go on to study areas such as Law, Government and Politics and Sociology at A-Level.

Learning Development Department

SEND/CO: Miss S Llewellyn

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SEND Provision at Rivers Academy West London effectively supports and drives innovation for the most vulnerable learners. Through creative and personalised programmes of support, all SEND students regardless of their ability, thrive academically, personally and socially in line with the Aspirations Academies philosophy.

Effective SEND provision at Rivers Academy West London ensures that students with Special Educational Needs feel included and valued at all levels of the Academy:

- Personalised support will ensure that SEND students will be motivated to come to school
- Effective interventions will enable students to make progress in-line with their peers.
- Consistent and effective liaison and support between the SEND Team and subject departments will enable students to experience a rich, varied and appropriate curriculum.
- Engaging extra-curricular opportunities will ensure students are prepared for working life.

EAL Curriculum Team Leader: Ms I Derdun

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We have an increasing number of students who have English as an additional language (EAL). In the EAL department, students are offered language support to those at an early stage of their learning English, as well as to students who have more advanced language skills but may still be making language errors.

For pupils who are new to the UK and for those who move to Rivers Academy from another school, we have developed a support system which has proven to help and support students during this transition process.

