



400 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Teaching & Learning Policy

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Policy Lead	Louise Morris
Governor or SLT approval	SLT
Governor committee responsible for policy	Curriculum

Teaching and Learning Policy

The aim of the Teaching and Learning policy is for all students to reach their full academic potential whilst at Richard Hale School. We educate our students to become independent, motivated and confident learners, who are enthusiastic and curious about what they learn.

We recognise that learning involves not just the gaining of knowledge, but also the understanding of concepts, the acquirement and application of skills, a positive and resilient attitude and the appreciation of values. By providing our students with the opportunities to develop these strengths, we equip them with the skills and knowledge to achieve economic well-being in a changing world and the desire and ability to contribute to society.

In order for effective learning to take place, our teaching staff:

- Have high expectations of all students
- Have excellent, up-to-date subject knowledge
- Are aware of each students' abilities in their subject from a range of data sources, and differentiate for all abilities, allowing all students to succeed
- Give students clear learning objectives for each lesson
- Ensure students understand the purpose of the lesson and its content
- Plan lessons that are varied, inspiring and challenging
- Use a range of Assessment for Learning (AFL) techniques to constantly monitor progress and inform future teaching
- Mark work regularly, advising students of their next steps to further their learning and provide sufficient time for them to respond to this, allowing them to 'close the gap' between their current and future attainment
- Praise students, give rewards for excellence and celebrate their achievements
- Apply Behaviour for Learning strategies to ensure students are ready to learn
- Use a range of resources to stimulate interest, demonstrate concepts and develop skills
- Regularly consolidate and test students' knowledge
- Set homework tasks that are varied, inspiring and support learning
- Promote literacy and numeracy throughout their lessons
- Provide a safe, positive and stimulating environment for learning.

In order for effective learning to take place, our students are expected to:

- Arrive at lessons on time and take their assigned seat
- Bring all the required equipment to the lesson including stationery, calculators and books
- Listen carefully to the teacher and follow all instructions promptly
- Complete all work to the best of their ability
- Complete homework tasks given on Google Classroom and submit them on time
- Respond to teachers' advice on what their next steps should be to make further progress
- Show respect for all individuals in the classroom

Many academic enrichment opportunities are available for all students outside of lessons throughout their school career. These include trips, visiting speakers, attending university lectures, competitions and workshops. Our Super Curriculum programme allows students to develop and widen their knowledge not only in subjects they study, but also in those they have not opted to continue at GCSE. In Years 11 and 12, students can enter our Scholars' Society programme to learn about university life and how to prepare to make a competitive application. Groups and societies for potential Oxbridge students and specific degree courses including Medicine also run in the sixth form, and students are encouraged to lead these sessions. Sixth form students are also given the opportunity to study for an EPQ outside of their timetabled lessons. This process, which begins in Year 12, enables students to carry out a project of their own choice under the guidance of a teacher mentor to achieve a qualification worth half an A Level.

Special provision is also made for students with particular talents who require our support to fulfil their potential at national and international level. This includes talents in the fields of sport, drama and music for example. Provision will be allocated on an individual basis and may include authorised time away from school and our support in ensuring this does not have a negative impact on their academic progress.

The Richard Hale Teaching and Learning Policy is supported by the policies for SEND, Homework and Independent Study, and Feedback, Marking and Assessment.