

Princes Risborough School

KS5 Curriculum Summary



Aspire & Achieve

Our Curriculum Intent

The aim of our curriculum is to ensure that all students leave Princes Risborough School with **excellent academic outcomes** and go on to be:

- **Positive** in their future choices and ambitions
- **Responsible** and active citizens in their communities
- **Successful** in the world beyond the school gates

Aspire & Achieve

The PRS Programme

Our Sixth Form offers all of its applicants a strong chance of success. A Level and Level 3 BTEC programmes, as well as the chance to combine the two, open the doors to a wider range of future pathways, from Oxbridge to graduate apprenticeships. To ensure that all students have an engaging & challenging experience in the sixth form students benefit from the following programme of study:

- **3 A Level or BTEC Subjects** (27 options)
- **Additional Optional Qualifications**
 - Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
 - Online University Courses (MOOCS)
 - 4th A Level/BTEC
 - GCSE English & Maths
 - Duke of Edinburgh's Awards
 - Sports Coaching Certificates - FA Playmaker, Sports Coaching Level 1-3
- **Independent Study & Home Study**
 - Free device September 2022 to ensure access to digital resources
- **Student Leadership**
 - Head Students & Deputy Head Students
 - Interact
 - Leading Clubs
- **Extra-curricular**
 - Debating Society
 - Young Enterprise
 - Book Club
 - Sports Clubs, Performing Arts Clubs & many more
- **Volunteering**
 - Community Volunteering Programme
 - In-school Volunteering Programme
- **Trips**
 - World Challenge 2023
 - Departmental Trips
- **Career Support**
 - Work Experience
 - Careers Days & Meet the Employer

There are significant opportunities for student leadership through our Head Students and Deputy Head Students but also through Interact and Young Enterprise. Students also have the opportunity to develop a broader portfolio of skills by volunteering to help in lower school lessons and by running lunchtime clubs.

Types of Sixth Form Course

A Level: The majority of the courses on offer are traditional A Levels. At least two, and normally three A Level passes [or BTEC Level 3 equivalent] are needed for progression onto a degree course. Traditional A Levels are assessed either completely on exams or a mixture of exams and coursework.

BTEC National Level 3: This course is the equivalent of one, two or three A Levels, depending upon the number of units studied. Almost all universities accept BTEC National on equal footing with A Levels. Passes are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* which are equivalent to E, C, A and A* at A Level. An Extended Certificate in BTEC National is worth the same as one A Level, a Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and an Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels.

Mixing A Levels and BTEC: At Princes Risborough, students are encouraged either to study all A Levels or BTEC Nationals or to mix A Levels with BTEC National. Many of our students have gained entry to Russell Group universities studying A Levels but also mixing A Level and BTEC National. This year we are offering courses in the following subjects:

Applied Science	Dance	Geography	Politics
Art & Design	Drama	Health & Social Care	Psychology
Biology	Economics	History	Sociology
Business Studies A Level	English Language	Information Technology	Sport
Business Studies Single	English Literature	Mathematics	Sport Double
Business Studies Double	Fashion & Textiles	Further Mathematics	Sport Triple
Chemistry	Film Studies	Physics	

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

In addition to A Level and BTEC subjects, students have the option of completing the EPQ, which involves personal research and study on a topic of their choice. The EPQ is highly regarded by universities as it demonstrates students' ability to manage an extended research project.

Study

Post-16 study requires independent learners. In addition to timetabled classes, Sixth Form students work in the purpose built Sixth Form Study Centre for private study. This is a quiet environment and its design is based on good practice found in university libraries. This is supervised full time to support students.

Students will be timetabled for lessons for three or four subjects plus eight hours per week of private study which must be spent in the Sixth Form Study Centre. Students have greater freedom with the remaining few study periods and can choose to leave early and study at home if they prefer.

Work Experience

All Year 12 students are expected to undertake a week of work experience in July. Ideally, this should be something linked to future career aspirations and which can feature significantly on a job or university application.

PSHE

PSHE & Relationship and Sex Education and Religious Education is delivered through assemblies, tutor time and a series of drop-down days throughout Y12 & Y13.

Timetable at Key Stage 5

The school operates a two week timetable cycle. There are five one hour teaching periods each day and therefore fifty periods in total per fortnight. Each course is allocated periods per fortnight.

KS5 Lesson Allocation

Subject	Number of periods per fortnight (1 period = 1 hour)	Number of periods per year
Option A	8	156
Option B	8	156
Option C	8	156
Supervised Study	16	156
Enrichment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPQ• Duke of Edinburgh (Gold)• Maths/English Resit• Volunteering	2	39
Tutor Time (equiv.)	2.08	4.16
Total	38.08	706.16

Homework at Key Stage 5

Homework is a central element of the school's Teaching and Learning Policy. It is not always appropriate for staff to issue homework to a prescribed schedule. However the minimum expectation is that 2 hour per week for each qualification studied. The only subject which is not expected to set homework is core PE. Homework will be set via Google Classroom.

Google Classroom

Staff assign homework through Google Classroom and students will be able to access the details via the internet and on their devices. Google Classroom can also send push notifications to students to remind them of deadlines. Parents will also be able to see what is set. In some cases, homework will also be submitted via this platform.

Parents are requested that if their child has been absent from school, to ensure that they catch up on the work missed as soon as possible on return, prior to the next lesson if possible. Google Classroom is the first port of call for this. Teachers can explain the work if the student requires additional support.

Assessment at Key Stage 5

Student attainment can be assessed in a variety of ways. Homework submissions, tests and examinations can all be marked and then an attainment level assigned. However, in a number of subjects performance can also be assessed by the teacher in lessons.

Written work will routinely be assessed for the accuracy of literacy and/or numeracy in addition to subject specific criteria and teachers will provide written/verbal feedback in the form of a target. Students will then often be provided with time in lessons to act on the suggestions they have received from their teacher. Periodically written work, tests or examinations will receive graded feedback against the A Level/BTec assessment criteria.

When students commence their KS5 studies their Key Stage 4 test results and teacher assessments are used to generate target grades. PRS uses FFT20 benchmark estimates as targets for students which are based on how similar pupils nationally performed in the subject last year. The KS5 target grades for each student are published on their reports alongside their predicted attainment to enable parents to judge their progress towards their targets.

Reporting in KS5

Princes Risborough School is keen to ensure that parents & carers are kept informed about their child's progress by providing regular information on progress and effort in class. As each subject has a higher curriculum allocation, parents will receive reports each half term. In KS5, parents will receive:

- Assessment Point 1 Report (AP1): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 2 Report (AP2): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 3 Report (AP3): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 1 Report (AP4): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 2 Report (AP5): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Assessment Point 3 Report (AP6): Progress Target & Learner Profile
- Progress Evenings
- An annual written report

The Assessment Point reports will also provide information about attendance, minutes late, Achievement Points & Behaviour Points. Depending on the time of year the report may also include trial examination grades. To ensure that students do not miss key parts of the curriculum, it is important that all students aim for 100% attendance with no lates. The school target is to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance.

Progress Target

In each subject students are assessed relative to externally-set target grades. Reports will show the KS5 target grade for each subject. For each Assessment Point, students will be given a 'Working Towards' grade showing how they are progressing relative to this target. This is a prediction of what the student is expected to get at the end of the course.

Subject Information

Further information for both the GCSE and the non-examination students can be found in the KS4 Options Booklets on the school [website](#).

Learner Profile

PRS 1 students: You always invest in your own learning. You ..

- Complete **all** work to the best of your ability
- Always meet deadlines
- Follow instructions from staff
- Show respect to staff and students
- Show a willingness to learn
- Contribute positively to your class and school

Students who meet every expectation. You do everything your parents, carers, and staff expect; you are a role model for other students.

PRS 2 students: You usually invest in your own learning. You ..

- Complete most work to the best of your ability
- Always try your best to meet deadlines
- Follow instructions from staff
- Show respect to staff and students
- Show a willingness to learn
- Contribute positively to your class and school

Students who show staff, parents, carers and other students that they want to learn and meet most expectations.

PRS 3 students: You are neglecting your learning in some way. You sometimes (do **one or more** of the following) ...

- Fail to complete work
- Fail to follow instructions from staff
- Show a lack of respect to staff and/or students
- Fail to make positive contributions to your class and school
- Arrive late or truant lessons.
- Distract other students and get distracted

You may also exhibit other behaviour which prevents learning for yourself or others.

PRS 4 students: You require help in valuing your own learning. You regularly disrupt the learning of yourself or others. You frequently (do **one or more** of the following) ...

- Fail to complete work
- Fail to follow instructions from staff
- Show a lack of respect to staff and/or students
- Fail to make positive contributions to your class and school
- Arrive late or truant lessons.
- Distract other students and get distracted

You may also regularly exhibit other behaviour which prevents learning for yourself or others.

When deciding upon a Learning Profile for a student, staff will take a 'best fit' approach. In addition, staff may indicate a further two concerns on the AP reports to help students and parents/carers understand areas for improvement.

Homework concern

You have failed to hand in or complete homework assignments on more than one occasion in the assessment period.

Attendance Concern

Your attendance is less than 90%. As a result, staff are concerned about the impact this could have on your learning.

Staff at Key Stage 5

Contact details for Heads of Year & Heads of Department can be found via our [website](#).