



Moorcroft School

Learning for life

KS 3

CURRICULUM

HANDBOOK

Curriculum subjects

In Key Stage 3 students work on the following subjects:

- English, including:
 - Speaking
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Literature

- Maths, including:
 - Number
 - Shape Space Measure
 - Using and Applying

- Digital Literacy

- Skills for Learning and Life (including Community programme)

- Cooking

- World Around Us

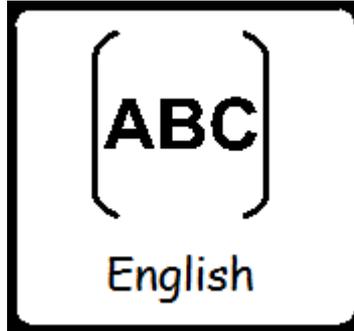
- Creativity

- Current Affairs

- Health and Fitness

* Science – cross-curricular, not timetabled

- English

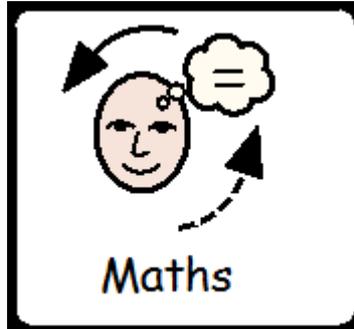


including:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Literature

In KS3 we want pupils to continue to make progress. While in primary school students have been exposed mostly to children's fiction books, in KS 3 we put equal emphasis on fiction and non-fiction. Non-fiction includes both age appropriate books and stories, as well as original or adapted newspaper articles (which can be also utilised in a Current Affairs lesson)

- **Maths**

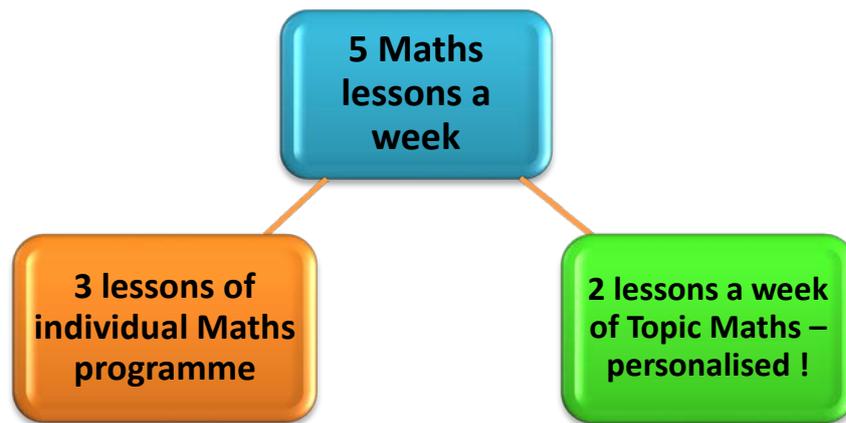


including:

- Number
- Shape Space Measure
- Using and Applying

In Key Stage 3 there are 3 sessions a week of personalised Maths programme and two lessons a week of Topic Maths:

- ❖ Each student follows their personalised Maths programme, which involves a selection of Maths Number, SSM (and U&A activities. For some students these are presented in TEACCH trays to enhance independent learning skills. Personalised Maths programme usually contains several short activities to be covered within one lesson, however this is not a rule.
- ❖ Topic Maths is an opportunity for our students to practice their Number, SSM and especially U&A skills in a motivating and exciting context. The topic changes half-terminly. In contrast to Special Project, the topic is not the same for each department. Each teacher chooses a topic from a bank of KS3 topics. Topics are not sorted by year groups, but the same topic should not be chosen more than once for the same student while in KS3. To choose a topic a teacher keeps in mind both current level of student, their interests and the Pathway that they follow. There are no separate targets for Topic Maths, as it is a platform to continue working on personalised core Maths targets. The focus of Topic Maths is Maths skills, not the knowledge of the topic. Although a topic may be the same for the whole class, a teacher has to ensure that topic activities are differentiated and personalised to match the skills of the student.



Topics Maths allows us to:

- make learning more exciting
- ensure that students can practice their skills in a functional context
- prepare for functional curriculum in Key Stage 4
- ensure breadth and work on generalisation (repetition without the risk of boredom)
- ensure students have access to differentiated resources

KS 3 Maths topic bank:

- Changes
- Harvest
- Pack your bags
- Fill it up
- Everyday objects
- Make it work
- Rhythm
- Construction
- Celebration!
- Print & pattern
- Store it right (storing)
- Surprises
- Best fit
- Magic
- Christmas time
- Collection
- Gold rush
- Treasure

- **Digital Literacy**



In today's world it is essential for our students to be able to use ICT devices:

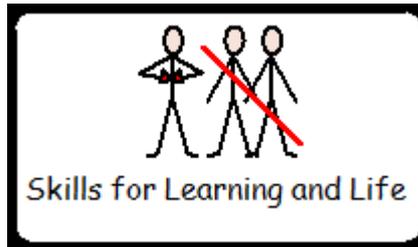
- As a learning tool
- As a communication tool
- For leisure
- In daily living and for access

Our students learn these skills both in a distinct lesson and cross-curricular in other subjects.

At Moorcroft we are creative both with how we perceive Digital Literacy skills and with how we teach them. This involves:

- Use of laptops and PCs
- Use of tablets and iPads
- Use of switches
- Daily applications, e.g. bus app, weather app, alarm, calendar
- Use of smartphones, mobile phones and stationary phones
- Use of electric devices, such as printers, photocopiers, shredders, label makers, kitchen appliances, music players, remote controls
- Use of cameras and video cameras
- School's **Pinterest** page to advertise Enterprise produces across the Academy
- **E-Twinning** project with Hungarian School
- Use of Skype and Face-Time
- Use of technology in the community, e.g. Oyster card machines, self-checkouts, vending machines, touch screens in Argos, etc.
- Use of the Internet, e.g. to find images, to find offers in the shop, opening hours, etc.
- Student Moorcroft swipe cards

- **Skills for Learning and Life**



Focus on independence is embedded in everything we do. We equip our students with the skills in the following areas

- Community programme
- College
- Meal preparation
- PSHEC
- Daily living skills
- Hidden curriculum
- Behaviour for learning

- **Cooking**



Cooking is taught in our specialist cooking room in a block 2x45 min. This subject allows our students to practice their Maths skills, English skills and Skills for Life in a functional context.

We follow a rolling programme for Cooking, showing progressions of skills over the year:

If some students master certain skills before the end of key stage, they move on to develop more advanced Cooking skills.

SKILL AND FUNCTION EMPHASIS		
KS3	KS4	SIXTH FORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pouring • Washing • Sprinkling • Spooning • Mixing • Spreading and layering • Kneading and rolling 	KS3 skills + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grating • Chopping • Peeling • Draining • Hot meals • Food for different purposes and occasions • Following recipes 	KS4 skills + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot drinks • Portioning

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
KS3	No bake recipes	Milkshakes and drinks	Salads	Cakes and Cookies	Savoury snacks	One dish meals

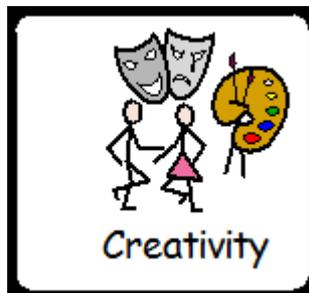
- **World Around Us**



The World Around Us is a subject with a half-termly theme. The theme allows us to address personalised Science, Art, D&T, History, Geography and Music targets in a meaningful and highly motivating contexts.

Why do we teach the World Around Us:

- To ensure breadth of curriculum
 - For our students to secure necessary skills to be successful in Sixth Form
 - To be able to make informed choice for hobbies and leisure activities in the community.
 - To develop Science skills necessary for self-reliance, e.g. meal preparation, looking after clothes, etc.
 - To develop creative skills necessary to Enterprise and Making Contributions / Work training
 - To develop understanding of own and different religions to develop tolerance and spirituality, which is included in Personal Growth course,
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- **Creativity**



Creativity is a subject in which students have opportunities to practice their skills through Art, Music, Performance and D&T activities.

- **Current Affairs**



The purpose of Current Affairs is to discuss matters arising locally and nationally, e.g. latest news on TV, upcoming festival or celebration, life events of students or staff provoking an

interesting social story, positive school ‘gossips’ etc. This subject aims at Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development and at developing citizenship skills. It provides our students with breadth of knowledge about the wider world. It also ensures a weekly element of novelty in the curriculum.

The purpose of Current Affairs may differ depending on the ability of the students:

➤ **Community access – additional guidance:**

At Moorcroft we ensure progressive and varied community programme to all students. Each key stage has a specific focuses on different places in the community:

KS 3	KS4	SIXTH FORM
Cafes	Libraries	--High Street--
Supermarkets	Supermarkets	Clothes stores and shoe shops
Garden Centres	Mini farm, zoo	Household stores (incl.Argos)
Parks		Online shopping – promotions, opening times
		Beauty / drugstore
		Public transport
		DASH, HACS
		West Thames and Local Offer Colleges
		Market stalls, bazaars
Museum / gallery Theatre / musical event Places of religion Sports centres, e.g. bowling OUTINGS LINKED TO WORLD AROUND US THEMES		

- **Health and Fitness**



In KS 3 our students not only develop gross and fine motor skills in, but they also learn about healthy and moderate lifestyle as well as healthy nutrition.

- The targets for Health and Fitness may, but do not have to, stem from Physiotherapy programme.
- Other termly targets for Health and Fitness may be based on the following areas listed below -
 - Choice of sport and fitness activities
 - Choice of places where sports activities can be accessed in local community
 - Healthy food choices and nutrition
 - Healthy lifestyle
 - Illness management
- H&F targets focus on development of physical ability or understanding of healthy lifestyle.

All students are expected to change for Health and Fitness lessons. Each students should have their own PE kit.

- Science



In KS 3 and KS 4 there is an overarching Science theme in each half-term. Each student has personalised half-termly Science targets linked to each theme. Depending on the ability, the Science theme may be addressed as a part of Special Projects or across other strands in of the curriculum. E.g. some students may find it easier to understand forces in the context of Health and Fitness. Additionally, the “Let’s get messy” Maths topic links well with Properties.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
KS 3	Pattern	Push and pull	Properties of material	Properties of material	Sound and Light	Experiments and changes

6. Timetabling

There is a suggested number of hours of each subject area in a weekly timetable. It is at teacher's discretion which time slots will be allocated to which subject. However, usually English and Maths take place in the mornings, when students are more alert. Some classes choose to start the day with Health and Fitness. Apart from Food Technology and community outings, lessons are not joined in 1.5 hour block, as the attention span of our students is usually quite short.

Within the same class, the timetable may differ from student to student. This is because students within one class may have therapy or hydro sessions at different times and the teacher has to consider the balance of their timetable looking at the 'big picture'.

Subject	Times a week
English	5
Maths	5
Digital Literacy	1
Health and Fitness	4
SLL incl. Community	3
World Around Us	4
Current Affairs	1
Cooking	2 (block)