

CURRICULUM INTENT.

Stepney Green Sixth Form’s intent is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to our students. The curriculum offer is informed by a number of aspects: the interests of Stepney students, the local labour market, opportunities for student progression and staff expertise.

We are a comprehensive Sixth Form offering courses in A Level, BTEC Level 3 and BTEC Level 2. There is also excellent provision for L2 students to reach threshold in English or Maths GCSE.

The subject curriculum is enhanced by a planned programme of extracurricular activities. Students are prepared for progression to the next level so that they leave school as confident young people who will make a difference in the future.

All students are full time learners on a structured and challenging programme of study. They have timetabled lessons for study skills, interventions, sport & fitness, clubs & societies and careers.

Stepney Green Sixth Form provides sixth formers with 5 hours of lessons a week in each A-level subject in Year 12. In Year 13 the majority of A Level students are taught for almost 7 hours per week. This is over and above the guided learning hours recommended by the exam boards. We recognise the importance of incisive, focussed teaching. Stepney Green sits in an area which represents the lowest quintile for social deprivation, our students are ambitious and eager for success. The school provides additional hours of teaching as we recognise that our students generally do not have access to private tuition.

All A-Level learners in Year 12 study 4 subjects and most in Year 13 study 3 subjects. We recognise the importance of students following a broad curriculum for as long as possible; a fourth A Level studied in Year 12 allows for this.

A-Level students, joining Stepney Green Sixth Form from September 2021, will enrol onto an agreed learning programme of four A-levels in year 12 choosing from the following subjects:

Biology	Computing	English	Graphics	Sports Science	Mathematics	Geography
Chemistry	Economics	Literature	Fine Art		Further	History
Physics		Media Studies	Product Design		Mathematics	Philosophy and Ethics
						Psychology
						Sociology

Almost all L3 BTEC students follow an Extended Diploma in the subject of their choice. It is possible to mix and match so that students can do a combination of up to two BTEC subjects. Students can also mix and match BTEC with A Level subjects. The BTEC Diploma is in place to enable students to progress to Russell Group universities where it is recognised as on par with three A Levels.

Students are taught for 15 hours per week for an Extended BTEC Diploma, in year 12 and in year 13 there is additional teaching.

BTEC students choose from the following subjects:

Business	ICT	Sports
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L2 BTEC students follow a study programme incorporating Business and ICT. Most Level 2 students also study GCSE Maths and English. Students are taught for 20 hours a week in total.

There is a rich programme of enrichment which all students follow.

MULBERRY STEPNEY GREEN SIXTH FORM

BELIEVE, BELONG, BECOME.

Students are expected to work hard to achieve top grades and these grades allow students to open the door to the future of their choice.

Staff are dedicated in helping students to develop independence; students are challenged to do their best.

Students feel valued and known. Independent advice and guidance is central to guaranteeing that students are on the right learning programme for their needs.

We aim to help all believe in themselves, even when learning feels challenging. We recognise the value of belonging to a community and we are driven by helping to fire ambition in our students, for them to understand they can achieve the very best.

We aim to provide:

- outstanding teaching which fosters a love of learning for learning's sake.
- an excellent education which gives every student the very best chance of securing a place at a leading university;
- the most up to date and well researched guidance on university applications, apprenticeships and careers;
- an enthusiasm for the world beyond the classroom – including sport, community

Service and charities

- respect for difference in others and a recognition that the efforts and achievement of every individual in our community should be valued equally.

PROGRESSION.

All students progress from their starting points.

A Level curriculum.

The curriculum is tailored to suit academic students who aspire to going to Russell Group and other top universities. We offer a core of facilitating A-level subjects which will keep as many doors open as possible regarding degree choice.

All A Level subjects on offer, reflect the broad range of interest amongst young people in the local area. Arts, Computing and Sport offer pathways to relevant careers.

BTEC L3

This curriculum meets the needs of students whose style of learning is more suited to a vocational focus and who excel in coursework style assessment.

BTEC L2

Level 2 BTEC students study for one year and progress to Level, another course elsewhere or into employment.

PHSE

Personal, Health, Social and Economic Education takes place in a variety of contexts, both formal and informal. The formal curriculum offers specific PSHE delivered through the tutorial system. The informal curriculum provides a wide range of opportunities for PHSE. This comprises assemblies, Clubs & Societies, Outreach, lectures and school visits.

THE SHAPE OF THE WEEK

All students are full time students.

Lessons are timetabled throughout the day from 8.35 – 3.30 Monday – Thursday and from 8.35 – 12.45 on Friday. There are subject lessons, enrichment or PSHE lessons or lessons for supervised independent study. In other words, qualification activities or non-qualification activities

An extended day is in place for three evenings per week. Targeted students work in school on a taught intervention programme until at least 4.45.

OUR A-LEVEL OFFER

At enrolment, students choose 4 subjects that they will take to the end of Year 12. It is policy that most students will sit AS in one subject and continue with three A-levels in Year 13.

There is a rigorous process to ensure that students are on suitable courses including 1-2-1 interviews.

During the course of Year 12, it may become apparent that a student is better suited to a different combination of subjects or fewer subjects.

Stepney Green Sixth Form reserves the right to withdraw candidates from lessons and examinations in one or more subjects if it is deemed in the best interest of the student.

All students enrol on their Y13 subject programme at the end of their first year of A-level or BTEC L3, following their End of Year 12 exam results in June. Students must pass their subjects in order to progress to Year 13.

For most students, the transition meeting will result in them moving from 4 to 3 subjects. Students opt for their AS subject in Year 12. The course of study must be agreed by parents, Lead Teachers of relevant subjects and Sixth Form Leadership.

OUR BTEC OFFER

Students are encouraged to choose an Extended Diploma at Level 3 but there is the option to mix and match two BTECs. Students follow Level 3 BTEC for 2 years.

Level 2 students follow a core curriculum. The course is one year in length.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Stepney Green Sixth Form values learning outside the classroom and encourages teachers and tutors to organize educational visits. There are a number of residential trips for students of Biology and Geography.

DIFFERENT GROUPS OF LEARNERS

Stepney Green is committed to eliminating the gaps in attainment by different groups of learners and ensuring that all students meet their potential. All students have their prior attainment recorded, and they are given minimum target grade based on prior attainment at GCSE. ALPS is used as a monitoring tool.

The achievement of different groups is tracked using 3 assessment points a year. Targeted interventions are put into place. Where attainment gaps are identified interventions are put into place by the academic team. These interventions may include extra classes, Academic Report. Heads of Key Stage 5 have oversight of interventions in their own subject.

LEARNING SUPPORT

SEN profiles IEPs are available to all tutors and teachers on the MIS. Teachers are expected to take the needs of SEN and EAL earners into account in seating and lesson plans. For students with identified special needs one to one support can be provided.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS (MAGHAG)

All our students are expected to achieve excellent academic results and make positive progress throughout their time in Stepney Green Sixth Form. Students who have excellent prior attainment are mentored as members of the MAGHAG group; students receive tailored one to one support and interventions which are designed to prepare them for entrance to top universities.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE WORLD OF WORK AND UNIVERSITY

- ✓ UCAS process and timings.
- ✓ Students have access to impartial and independent advice about HE choices through their attendance at HE Fairs, Open Days and Conferences.
- ✓ All students are entitled to at least one in depth independent advice and guidance careers interview
- ✓ There is an annual UCAS information evening for Year 12 students and families.
- ✓ All students complete a UCAS form in Year 13 or at the end of Year 12.
- ✓ Current students are not permitted to apply as independent candidates and must have a reference and predicted grades from Stepney Green Sixth Form, not an external referee.
- ✓ Subject teachers and Heads of Key Stage 5 have responsibility for the production and collation of predicted grades and subject references while tutors and Sixth Form Leadership have responsibility for writing the UCAS reference and overseeing the completion of the UCAS form. Only Sixth Form Leadership can make the final approval and send the application to UCAS.
- ✓ Students will be told their UCAS predicted grades to assist them with making university choices.
- ✓ Students pay online for their application through UCAS Apply.
- ✓ The UCAS reference goes out in the name of a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team. All references contain information about the school context.
- ✓ The UCAS reference is confidential.

In some cases, it is in the candidate's best interest to see the reference (for example, as part of preparation for a university interview). In this case a tutor may use their judgment to show the reference to their tutee. This must be done on screen and the reference should not be given to the candidate as either a hard or soft copy.

If a tutor is not sure about whether to show a reference, then they should seek advice from the Sixth Form Leadership Team. A candidate has the right to see their reference under the Data Protection Act (2018) and can apply to UCAS (post-processing) for all information held on them. Any request for access to references must come from the applicant, not a parent/carer.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE AND OTHER EARLY APPLICATIONS

The Futures Leader has oversight of Oxford and Cambridge applications and oversight of the Medical admissions process (including Veterinary and Dentistry). There is a different schedule and process to accommodate this earlier deadline. Stepney Green Sixth Form works hard to ensure that those candidates are well prepared to make a strong application. Lead Teachers are responsible (where appropriate) for providing admissions testing preparation, interview practice and personal statement advice.

CAREERS GUIDANCE

At Stepney Green we are committed to offering all students an effective and impartial programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance to support them in making choices that will enhance their life chances, guide them in choosing career paths that suit their interests and abilities and help them to sustain employability throughout their working lives. This means developing in every young person the values, skills and behaviours they need to lead successful lives.

We encourage our students to take on part-time work in the holidays. It can be a beneficial experience, helping them to develop important personal and social skills, and enhancing their CVs for future job and course applications. However, Stepney Green education is full-time and students must not prioritise employment at the expense of their academic studies. Stepney Green strongly discourages students from working over 8 hours a week in term-time in year 12 and advises that they should not be in external employment at all after October half term in Year 13. Research by the Institute of Education, UCL, shows that students who work between 16 and 20 hours in Year 12 and between 11 and 15 hours in Year 13 are estimated to lose on average a total estimated loss of over four A level points, which could be easily enough to lose them their university place. Students who are in receipt of free school meals are entitled to apply for the Educational Bursary

From the initial stages at interview, to enrolment, right through to the transition from Year 12 to Year 13, all Stepney Green students will receive continuous guidance and support to choose the right courses that will ensure successful transition onto the most competitive university courses or other meaningful destinations.

Stepney Green students will receive a rich provision of careers education, both inside the classroom and within professional contexts, in accordance with the eight Gatsby Benchmarks. As intended by the Government, this will ensure that all Stepney Green students develop the character attributes which underpin success in education and employment.

REMOTE CURRICULUM

In the event of a critical incident, the Senior Leadership team (SLT) will do everything possible to keep Stepney Green open and run lessons. In exceptional circumstances such as inclement weather, or infectious disease, we may need to close the school. If Stepney Green is closed, we will continue to run, remotely, as much of our extended curriculum as is practical. This includes a timetabled teaching and learning programme, UCAS guidance and enrichment offer.