

Baines School

Curriculum Information

2022/23



Curriculum @ Baines

At Baines, we believe that young people thrive and achieve academic success when a strong learning environment and excellent personal development combine to provide the optimum conditions for learning. We want our students to be happy, well rounded young people who can develop positive relationships with people, be confident and have high aspirations for their future, know how to keep themselves safe and develop a healthy lifestyle through nutrition, physical activity and social activity as well as having a rounded view of the world. These provide the foundations for success in studies and in life. We believe that every child should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum with appropriate coverage of the EBACC subjects (including Geography, History, Languages and Computing) and the opportunity to study a full range of subjects for as long as possible. In the main, students will follow Key Stage 3 in years 7, 8 and 9 and Key Stage 4 in years 10 and 11. This will ensure they can develop an appreciation for all subjects and explore their strengths fully before selecting, narrowing their education and specialising more for Key Stage 4. Below are the curriculum strands at Baines to ensure they receive a full and balanced curriculum which combines an academic curriculum with the aspects of personal development that will develop knowledge, skills and education for life. A small number of students may follow a more personalised curriculum to meet specific individual needs.

Physical, Nutritional, Relationship, Mental & Emotional Health Education	A healthy mind and body can prevent illness and disease in later life. Therefore, it is important to develop good habits while young. We know that physical activity releases positive hormones that improve our mental and emotional health and make us feel positive as well as resilient. Making healthy food choices can lead to a sense of well-being, self-confidence and increased concentration levels. Students will learn about how the body works, how to stay healthy, about how food can contribute to a healthy lifestyle and how to develop a positive mind-set. They will learn an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships and sex education. They will learn and experience these through some of the subjects but also through form time, assemblies, Life Skills and through extra-curricular opportunities.
Careers Education	It is important that our students have high aspirations for their lives beyond Baines School. We develop their understanding of careers and the skills, personal attributes and qualifications they require to achieve their dream and their next stage in their education. They will experience these through form time activities, Life Skill lessons, careers interviews, events and conventions, through their academic subjects and extra-curricular opportunities. It is our vision that we know where every one of our students progressed to after leaving school. We have a group of Former Pupils who visit the school and talk about their lives and careers after they left Baines School, this provides a further enhancement.



Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural Education	<p>Developing the social, moral, spiritual and cultural skills where learners appreciate differences and understand the society in which we live will help them to live fulfilling lives as adults. At Baines it is very important that students learn about cultural diversity and respect for cultural and individual differences. At Baines we help our students to develop positive social activity through relationships with peers and the Baines wider community. They will learn about being a responsible, respectful and active citizen, have an understanding of the world we live in with respect and tolerance for individuals and their views, feelings and faiths. We want students to have an understanding about British Values and to appreciate the rich cultures in our society. We help our students to develop their character and values. We are an inclusive school and promote equality of opportunity so we can all thrive together. Students will also learn about the difference between right and wrong, including the laws and consequences. Students will learn through their Life Skills lessons, form time, assemblies, academic lessons, extracurricular activities and through the ethos and values we have in school that we model every day at Baines School.</p>
Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication Education (LORIC)	<p>We recognise that the components of LORIC are valuable skills that are needed in all aspects of life. The National Careers Service have identified these to be in to the top ten soft skills that employers look for. We want all of our students to be successful so aim to develop these to complement the other areas of our curriculum. Students will learn these in form time and have the opportunity to enhance and develop them further through Life Skill lessons, academic lessons, House activities and extra-curricular activities.</p>
Academic Education	<p>All aspects of the curriculum that lead to increased knowledge, understanding and development of new skills. The subjects form the core of the Academic Curriculum (a broad range of subjects are studied and students are encouraged to continue to study the EBACC subjects) and the qualifications studied fit into this aspect of our education. In addition to the subjects and qualifications are literacy and numeracy as these are fundamental life skills that students will need throughout their life.</p>
Safety Education	<p>It is important that students know how to keep themselves safe both in and out of school. This includes an age-appropriate understanding of safe practice on the internet and use of social media, safe use of substances and safe practice decisions and encounters they will come across in everyday life. They will learn about safety such as in physical activity, the workshop, the kitchen, transport and about keeping themselves safe in the community. Students will learn this through Life Skills lessons, academic lessons, form time, assemblies, extra-curricular activities and following our code of conduct and safeguarding advice.</p>



English

All pupils study English throughout Years 7 – 11. The number of lessons varies per year group, with Year 7s allocated seven sessions per fortnight.

In Year 7, pupils are placed in setted ability teaching groups. This is based on data provided by our feeder schools. Years 8 and 9 are also setted, using a combination of assessment and teacher judgement to determine the most suitable group for each child. Regular reviews of progress ensure that placements are correct and pupils are encouraged to reach the highest possible levels of attainment in each group.

To enable pupils to achieve their very best, a programme of reading, writing, and speaking and listening activities is provided in line with the National Curriculum. A wide range of topics in Key Stage 3 meet the demands of the Curriculum and help prepare the students for GCSE. The English Department's aim is to develop and build upon the skills our pupils have been taught at Key Stage 2 in an engaging and fun way, whilst preparing them for Key Stage 4 and beyond. Our programme of study is evolving all of the time, but some of the topics that Year 7 will study include, amongst others, a unit on 'School Life', 'Gothic Tales', and 'Heroes and Villains'. In line with the National Curriculum, we also look at the life and works of William Shakespeare. We follow the Lancashire method of assessing work by banding in reading and writing, in line with the vast majority of other schools in the county.

We believe that good reading habits are central to success at English. In addition to studying a range of authors and texts across Key Stage 3 (and 4), all pupils in Year 7 will have a timetabled ILC/library lesson. This ensures that pupils will always have a reading book and the ILC lesson allows us to track what and how they read. The use of the Independent Learning Centre is encouraged outside of class, too.

All pupils study English Language and English Literature at GCSE level.



Mathematics

We aim to develop the full potential of every pupil in mathematics. We aim to ensure that every pupil experiences success and enjoyment in the subject whether it be equipping them with sufficient mathematical skills for their day-to-day life or providing them with a firm foundation for those wishing to pursue Mathematics beyond GCSE. In addition, we hope that we can open our young people's eyes to the creative, imaginative and inspiring world of mathematics. Some key ideals are:

- To improve each student's sense of self-worth and independence.
- To improve each student's mathematical literacy commensurate to their ability.
- To engage a student so that they see the value in what they are learning, or be enjoying themselves.
- To provide a safe and joyous classroom, where every answer is treated with respect and attention and all students are equally valued.

Pupils will have opportunities to think for themselves in order to develop skills to correctly structure a mathematical skill and demonstrate their understanding. They are encouraged to try even when faced with challenging problems. Pupils will have opportunities to work both independently and interdependently to develop mathematical skills confidently. They will reason, generalise and make sense of solutions. The learning environment is calm, productive and engaging so that every pupil progresses as quickly as possible over a lesson or series of lessons. There are opportunities to practise fluency and problem-solving to develop a depth of understanding and mastery.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9)

Students are taught a range of topics from the five key strands of Mathematics: Number, Algebra, Geometry & measure, Ratio & proportion and Statistics & Probability. Our scheme of learning is designed with interleaving as a key element. For example, Year 7 starts with developing algebraic thinking and further development of algebraic skills is then woven throughout the years so students reinforce and extend their knowledge and understanding. Students sit a progress test after each topic to enable teachers to provide feedback on students' strengths and areas of improvement. In addition to this, a formal assessment at the end of each term will be sat to cover all topics taught throughout the year.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

The taught topics at key stage 3 are built on to further develop students' knowledge. Students in year 11 will be provided a detailed revision programme focusing on exam questions, and refining exam technique. Students will sit progress tests after each unit to enable teachers to provide detailed feedback. Students will also sit mock examinations throughout the year so they can be monitored and detailed analysis of their mock examinations will be given.



Mathematics (continued)

Qualifications available

- EdExcel GCSE Mathematics ○ Foundation Tier – grades 5 - 1 ○ Higher Tier – grades 9 - 4
- AQA Certificate Level 2 Further Mathematics

Students are assessed on a regular basis throughout the two years and are given individual feedback on what topics they need to focus on in order to improve. There are regular revision and booster classes for Year 11 in the run up to the GCSE and intervention classes are provided for those students identified as needing help to reach their potential.

Extra resources

- HegartyMaths
- DrFrostMaths
- Times Tables Rockstars

Extra-curricular

- UKMT Maths Challenges
- Maths Club



Science

In Science, we aim for our teaching to inspire students to solve world problems. Our high-quality science education builds upon the foundations from primary school, to help students understand the world around them through the study of biology, chemistry and physics. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all students from Year 7 to 11 are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. Through our teaching, students build up a body of knowledge, concepts and skills. We encourage our pupils to develop their scientific explanations, gaining a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. We guide our students to understand how science can be used to explain observations, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes. Students recognise that knowledge and understanding in science are rooted in evidence, and as such, ideas develop as more information is discovered and understood. Students are encouraged to develop their skills to critically evaluate the data with which they are presented, looking for alternative interpretations.

In Years 7 and 8, our science curriculum links practical experience with scientific ideas to enthuse and excite our learners. Students are usually taught by one teacher and are grouped by ability. Our lessons encourage students to think and work scientifically, developing and testing their ideas to refine their scientific understanding. Pupils are taught the different science subjects in topics and we use the Lancashire Assessment Model for assessment to check understanding and track the progress of our learners. During these formative years, we prepare students for the step up to GCSE with maths and literacy skills integrated throughout our course, and we work to build confidence in answering questions that involve extended writing.

During Year 9, pupils begin their transition to GCSE science courses. We continue to group students by ability and deliver the content in a topic-based way with each class having one specialist teacher for biology, chemistry and physics. We maintain the focus on using practical enquiry to check understanding and prove scientific facts. Regular assessments are used to check that students are on track to achieve their best.

With our help, students become increasingly independent in their learning, recognising the areas of study that they need to work on and review: together we develop strategies to ensure their progress.

From Year 10, students have the option to choose whether to study GCSE combined science or three separate science GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. Combined science is a dual award course and continues to be topic-based covering aspects of all three science subjects. The separate sciences are a popular choice for those wishing to continue to study science to A level. It is a source of great pride that the sciences continue to be a popular choice for students who progress to sixth form and many subsequently head onwards for studies in medicine, biochemistry, physics, zoology and chemistry at degree level.



Modern Languages

The importance of studying a foreign language in the current climate cannot be underestimated. At Baines we strive to ensure that our pupils follow courses that best prepare them to understand and use a foreign language in practical terms to give them the skills to pursue languages later in their lives, be it academically, vocationally or socially.

We believe that all our pupils have the ability to communicate with people who speak a different language and we work hard to ensure that our pupils progress according to their individual needs in their new language.

All our pupils currently study French in Year 7 in ability sets. All pupils are taught by French speakers. As they move into Year 8, most pupils pick up Spanish as a second foreign language.

In Key Stage 4, pupils may choose to study French or Spanish or a combination of these. Each year pupils choose to study French and Spanish at GCSE with some of them continuing to study their chosen language at A level and some students continue to study a foreign language at university.

We believe that contact with France and Spain is important to our pupils and we hope that they will participate in activities that enable contact with the target countries including visits abroad.

At Baines we strive to ensure that all of our pupils achieve their individual potential. In return, we expect that our pupils try their utmost and that parents/carers support both their son/daughter and the school in this aim.



History

All students study History throughout Key Stage 3 and it is a popular subject at GCSE.

Syllabus:

Year 7—What is History?, A History of Britain Before 1066, Britain c1066 - 1485, The Crusades, The Wars of the Roses, The Black Death, Henry VIII and the English Reformation, The Tudors, The History of Baines School.

Year 8—James I and the Gunpowder Plot, The English Civil Wars, The Restoration and England of Charles II, Crime and Punishment, The Industrial Revolution, Jack the Ripper, The British Empire and the Slave Trade, Black Civil Rights.

Year 9—The Edwardians, The Sinking of the Titanic, World War One, The Russian Revolution, Dictators of the Twentieth century, The Holocaust, World War Two, The assassination of JFK.

GCSE AQA GCSE History

America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975

Britain: Health and the People: c1000 to the present day

Norman England and the Historic Environment, c1066-c1100

Teaching Methods

The courses are taught by specialist teachers. By a variety of teaching and learning methods we endeavour to enable all pupils to learn historical knowledge and acquire skills to be well rounded historians. We endeavour to challenge pupils with a breadth of tasks and activities. These include discussion, role-play and drama, extended writing, use of visual and written historical sources, video, music and formal debate.



Geography

All students study Geography throughout Years 7,8 and 9 for either three or four periods over two weeks. During this time, they will follow the National Curriculum in Geography. The work is organised in topics. In Year 7 students study and learn about “What is a Geographer?”, “How do we use our planet as a natural resource?”, “What is an economy?”, “What is weather and climate?” and “Is Geography a curse or benefit?”

In Year 8 students study “Why are rivers important?”, “What is development?”, “One planet!”, “How many people?”, “What happens where the land meets the sea?” and “How is Asia being transformed?”

In Year 9 we study further big topics; “Will we ever know enough about earth- quakes and volcanoes to live safely?”, “What are the opportunities and challenges facing Africa?”, “How does ice change the world?”, a fieldwork study of how people impact the landscape at Beacon Fell, “Why is the Middle East an important world region?” and “What is the future of our planet?”

We aim to include fieldwork opportunities throughout the whole of key stage three and take every opportunity to show our students Geography in action.

In Year 10, students may opt to study Geography where we follow the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Geography A Syllabus. In Year 10 students study Global Development, Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Management, Changing Cities and Changing Landscapes of the UK, including a field study of the River Wyre.

In Year 11 we begin with a field study to Preston to investigate the changes to the central business district and then study Weather Hazards and Climate Change followed by Resource Management. The data that we collect in both field studies is used in an examination in Year 11. Students can also opt to study BTEC Travel and Tourism in Years 10 and 11 studying the UK Travel and Tourism Sector, UK Destinations, Worldwide Destinations and Customer Service.

Throughout Years 7-11, students are taught by highly qualified specialist Geography teachers, including a United Nations Accredited Climate Change Teacher. We aim to enable pupils to reach the highest possible standards throughout their time with us.



Creative Arts

The Creative Arts Department involves work in Art, Music, Performing Arts, Food Technology and Design Technology. Studying these areas helps to ensure that all pupils experience a balanced and broad curriculum. The department aims to stimulate and encourage pupils to work using their creativity and imagination.

What will pupils experience?

All lessons are taught in subject specialist rooms. There are currently two Art rooms and an additional computer area, with attached store rooms. Through KS3, pupils will experiment with colour, patterns, texture, portrait work, embark upon on a project called the “Green Man” and even produce a 3D African mask.

There are four Design Technology rooms, which comprise of a workshop, a construction room, a graphics room with networked PCs and a large combined workshop and computer room. This latter room can easily be turned into a photo- graphic studio, through the use of a dropdown background. Furthermore, recent developments have seen an increase in computer access in Design Technology, which will increase CAD/CAM opportunities for pupils (e.g. the installation of 3D printers and a laser cutter). Throughout KS3, pupils will design and produce wooden games and models, explore photography and photo manipulation, and produce fully functioning Passive Amplifiers. Design Technology also makes good use of computer-generated work, through ProDesktop, 2D Design and Photoshop. Neighbouring Design Technology we also have a large, well equipped specialist Food Technology room. Throughout KS3, pupils will develop knife skills, and understanding of nutrition and will carry out many practical tasks creating dishes such as stir fry and home-made pizza.

With regards to Music, there are two main teaching rooms and two practice rooms that are used for visiting instrumental and vocal teachers. One of the main classrooms has a full suite of keyboards for KS3 music. The second classroom has 17 PCs, again attached to keyboards, with this suite being used for KS3 and KS4 lessons. As for software, we run Mixcraft 9 and MuseScore. We are pleased to say that there has been a recent investment in wider equipment and resources in Music, and we now own a Samba kit, a class set of African djembes, a good selection of acoustic/electric guitars, a large amount of ukuleles and other classroom instruments (e.g. in excess of 20 glockenspiels). As a result of these recent developments in Music, throughout KS3 pupils will explore projects such African and Brazilian music, Gamelan, jazz, blues, Reggae, Film Music and song writing.



Creative Arts (continued)

At Key Stage 4 the department currently offers the following qualifications:

AQA Art and Design: Fine Art

AQA Art and Design: 3D Design

AQA Art and Design: Photography

Eduqas Level 2 Vocational Award: Hospitality and Catering

BTEC Level 2 Constructing The Built Environment

Eduqas Level 2 Performing Arts: Music, Drama, Drama & Musical Theatre

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Outside of the classrooms and workshops, the Creative Arts department provides a wide range of opportunities for students to get involved with. Our current provision includes:

Catering Club, School Choir, School of Rock, Unplugged (ukulele and acoustic guitar group) and KS3 Art Club.

Throughout the year there are several opportunities to showcase student work, including our Christmas and Summer Creative Arts Evenings and our Creative Arts Festival.



Computing

This course reflects the recent requirements of what employers want in the workplace with a real push towards the Computational Technology.

Pupils in Key stage 3 have two Computer Science lessons per fortnight for the whole year. In all years the topics studies build upon their previous learning. Throughout the course pupils are taught how to use Computer Science in order to assist them in a range of tasks from presenting information to programming and helping them to solve problems.

Facilities

Over 200 computers, in 4 dedicated computer rooms, which can all be accessed by pupils. All computers are networked to allow easy access to pupil's work. Colour and black/white printing facilities are available in all classrooms. All computers have Microsoft Office 2019 and supporting software installed. A wide range of educational software is available on the network. Standard programming languages including LOGO, HTML, Scratch and Python are taught. Filtered internet access is available on all the school computers. Every pupil has a private school email address. Digital cameras, scanners and graphics tablets are available. Digital projectors are used throughout the school with a large number of classrooms hosting Promethean boards.

Computing lessons

All students have two Computer Science lessons per fortnight in Years 7 – 9 with homework being set using IDEA (The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) Clear targets are set so pupils know what they are expected to be doing, and how they are going to be assessed. Pupils' work is assessed by the teacher, but we also encourage pupils to evaluate their own work. ICT resources are made available to pupils before and after school, at lunchtimes and at break times in the ILC and at set times in the dedicated suites.

Security and peace of mind

Every pupil is given their own storage area on the network as well as access to a shared area. Parents are asked to sign an Acceptable Usage Policy for their child. This policy will outline what is acceptable and what is not. This includes details on the safe use of the Internet and email facilities. Pupils will have to accept the policy when they log onto the network. In this way we can all help protect your child whilst they use this extremely powerful resource.



Physical Education

In Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have four lessons of PE over two weeks. They follow a National Curriculum course covering the following areas: Games, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Athletic Activities, Health Related Education, Dance, Orienteering and Team Building. In Years 9, 10 and 11, the pupils have the chance to experience a wider range of physical activities, including Volleyball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Weight Training, Aerobics, Yoga, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities and Dodgeball.

In Years 10 and 11, the pupils can choose to do GCSE or BTEC PE.

Both examination courses involve practical and theoretical work and are ideally suited to those pupils who have a keen interest in physical activity and sport.

Extra-curricular activities play an important role in the department and teams are entered in many sports throughout the Blackpool, Lancashire, and the North of England area.

Our main aim in the department is to show the pupils how they can maintain an active and healthy lifestyle and give them the necessary skills and enthusiasm with which to do this. We try to introduce the pupils to a wide range of physical activities and encourage them to maintain their interest in these outside of school time; the main focus being to ensure that each child realises their full potential in all areas of Sport and Physical Education.

If you have any questions about Physical Education at Baines please get in touch with Mrs Blackwell, the subject leader.



Religion, Ethics & Philosophy

The aim of REP is to support children and young people in affirming and developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experiences. They are also encouraged to consider the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world.

The 1988 Education Reform Act required that any locally agreed syllabus "shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in Great Britain". The schemes of learning designed for Baines Year 7 pupils take this into account and include much teaching of Christian beliefs, attitudes and values, whilst at the same time including the teachings of other religions, alongside other world views such as Humanism.

The Lancashire agreed syllabus of Religion Education is designed to support the pupils' personal search for meaning by engaging enquiry into the question "What is it to be human?" Pupils will deal with this question by exploring answers offered by religion and belief.

It is important that each child has the opportunity to become aware of the spiritual dimension of life and develop their own sense of identity and value as a person. REP lessons at Baines School is designed to allow growing awareness to take place in exciting, stimulating and thought-provoking lessons. In lessons, pupils are never required to believe a certain worldview, and their own views are fully respected. We ask that all pupils remain open minded and tolerant towards the different world views we explore.

In Year 7, pupils investigate the concept of belonging as a theme for the year, in Year 8 pupils take the concept of authority and guidance for life contained in sacred literature as their year theme; and in Year 9 pupils move on to exploring truth and what really matters in life. Pupils will be challenged by a series of ultimate questions which will give them the opportunity to reflect on their own value and beliefs.

Most importantly, REP at Baines is a fun and engaging subject, which enables the pupils to grapple with some of the key philosophical and ethical questions of our time. Pupils enjoy their work in REP and go on to achieve great things in this subject area. REP is taught by Ms Wild and Mrs Malone. If you have any questions about REP at Baines please get in touch with Ms Wild, the subject leader.



Independent Learning Centre (ILC)

Staff

Mrs Simmons, Librarian

Opening Times

Monday – Friday 8.00am 4.00pm

Lunchtime Activities—*Baines Blog*- A journalistic project run with the English department encouraging students to write about anything they feel passionate about, from football match reviews to original stories. *KS3 Book club & Ks4 Classics club*- An opportunity to encourage students who share an interest in reading to challenge themselves and read something different and discuss it with their peers. *Classics club* will focus on classic literature and explore analytic techniques vital for GCSEs. *ILC Unplugged*- One lunch time a week we will be providing games, encouraging reading for pleasure and nurturing a more relaxed environment with no technology being used.

After School Activities—*Study Group* - every day from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in the ILC. Pupils will receive support with their homework. *Baines Blog* will also run after school one night in the ILC.

Resources—We have a well-stocked library full of a variety of fiction and non-fiction. We encourage the students to borrow books both for reading for pleasure and to help with their school work. We also have PC's and iPads which can be used for school work or other educational purposes.

Reading for Pleasure—At Baines, we want all pupils to love reading. Reading helps to develop vocabulary, improves grammar and writing skills as well as stimulating the imagination. We hold events throughout the year to create excitement around reading. Last year we celebrated World Book Day in the ILC with a secret book club, cross school games, quizzes and some teachers read aloud from their favourite books. We also had visits from bestselling authors M.A. Griffin and Curtis Jobling who spoke in assemblies and ran creative writing work- shops to inspire our students to connect with reading and writing. All Year 7 pupils take part in Accelerated Reader, a computer program that helps manage and monitor independent reading practice. Pupils undertake a short computerised reading test to establish their reading level. Pupils pick a book at the recommended level and read it at their own pace. Pupils then take a short quiz on the computer. Passing the quiz is an indication that a pupil has understood what has been read. Feedback is given to both teachers and pupils and is used to help pupils set targets and improve reading skills.

Pupil Librarians—All pupils at Baines have the opportunity to help with the everyday running of the ILC whilst working as pupil librarians in their spare time. Pupil Librarians receive comprehensive training providing them with valuable work experience and the opportunity to develop skills required for the world of work.

Equipment Shop—The ILC Equipment shop is open throughout the school day, selling useful items at very reasonable prices.

