

The Beechwood Award

Concept

To present a cohesive program of study to supplement the Sixth Form curriculum. It is envisaged that elements of the Extended Curriculum have worth that can be measured in UCAS points or additional qualifications. Some elements would be considered compulsory whilst others are opted for. The Award should be able to stretch our more able pupils, whilst affording some variety and sense of achievement for others.

How is the Award awarded?

In order for any type of internally regulated work to have genuine worth we believe that its core should be made up of nationally recognised, and certificated, Key Components. These can then be added to with the Additional Elements. As a starting point we could suggest that the Beechwood Award should be made up of the following elements in order to be successfully completed. At least one of the following:

- EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)
- Gold Arts Award (Trinity Laben)
- Further Maths
- EAL leading to IELTS
- Level 2 Certificate in Financial Education (LIBF)

With the addition of:

- 20 hours of community service of the two years
- 80% attendance of the Enrichment Lectures
- Successful completion of a Personal Statement and/or C.V.

Key Component Options in detail:

Students will choose one of the following Nationally recognised qualifications

- **EPQ – Independent research in any specialist area (equivalent of half an A level)**

The EPQ is recognised by universities and employers and carries a maximum of 28 UCAS points. The EPQ offers pupils an opportunity to undertake a project in a subject area of personal interest beyond the confines of their A level or BTEC curriculums. It provides evidence of critical thinking, research and project management which are all widely transferable. The EPQ is a one-year course, currently running from January to January. All pupils have an EPQ supervisor to oversee the 30 taught hours and 90 independent hours required to complete the research and project.

- **Gold Arts Award – Flexible personalised learning programme that explores challenges in an art form (16 UCAS points)**

This is a Level 3 qualification which carries 16 UCAS points. It recognises all art forms ranging from fashion to poetry, rapping to dance, sculpture to film and arts administration to backstage roles, providing assessment opportunities for many different learners and offering freedom of choice within the framework. Pupils undertake two projects; a Personal Arts Development which extends their arts knowledge in a particular area and a Leadership project which will involve organising and delivering an arts project or public showing of work. The Award is led by a specialist co-ordinator and mentor who oversees the 90 hours of guided learning and 60 hours of independent learning to complete the portfolio and the project.

Key Component Options in detail:

Students will choose one of the following Nationally recognised qualifications

- **A-Level Further Maths Exam Board: Edexcel**

Further Maths is a full A Level subject in its own right and is studied alongside A Level Maths. Further Maths is a demanding but satisfying course and is recommended for any potential engineer, scientist or anyone thinking of reading mathematics at university. Anyone who is considering reading STEM subjects at Cambridge or Oxford is strongly recommended to take Further Maths. The entry requirement for Further Maths is Grade 8 or above at GCSE.

- **English as an Additional Language leading to IELTS**

This is a programme for international pupils to both improve their English and to gain an English qualification to meet university entry requirements.

- **LIBF Level 2 Certificate in Financial Education Awarding Body: The London Institute of Banking and Finance**

As a technical award, this qualification introduces, and preparation for, further study through developing an understanding of the economy, financial management skills, employability and enterprise. The recommended Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for the average student to complete is 130 hours. This unit provides pupils with an understanding of how businesses manage money and the relationship between personal money management and business money management.

Additional Elements

- **Study Skills**, leading to either EPQ or Arts Award

A proportion of the pupils' non-contact time will be allocated to supervised study within our own Sixth Form Centre. This is the hub of Sixth Form activity, with pupils being advised and supported by staff within the centre to support their independent learning.

- **Academic Mentoring**

The purpose of this is to encourage a holistic approach to the pupils' learning and studies, monitoring and supporting the pupils in addition to the subject teachers and therefore improving academic attainment. It will involve an initial 1:1 meeting with the pupils, chatting to them about their studies and helping put strategies in place to ensure they fulfil their potential. Mentors will be recruited from the SLT and wider management team to offer a variety of different perspectives.

- Community Service
- Lecture Series
- UCAS Applications and Personal Statement Workshops
- PE
- Leadership activities