

**Looe Community Academy**  
**Curriculum Policy Statement**  
**Revised January 2016**

Looe Community Academy offers a broad and balanced curriculum for all students regardless of gender, race, religion, social-class, culture or ability. Our aim is to provide excellent learning opportunities that will develop our young people into confident, independent, lifelong learners, who make a positive contribution and are prepared for leading a good and successful life.

Close links with our feeder primary schools ensure that students in year 7 settle in quickly and build on the skills they have learnt during KS2. In Key Stages 3 and 4, and in particular during the autumn and spring of year 9, students receive guidance ahead of their choices for Year 10. In Key Stages 3 and 4 a comprehensive Careers Education Guidance Programme, offering independent advice, ensures that students are fully briefed on the opportunities available following their KS4 courses of study.

We are educating today's young people for tomorrow's world. Students need to acquire skills, knowledge, attitudes and values which will help them play a full and useful role in all aspects of adult society. The development of Independent Learning and Thinking Skills is considered an important aspect of every subject's curriculum. The curriculum is also supported by an established Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme, including elements of the 'Be the Best you can Be' and Work Related Learning across both Key Stages. The Academy works hard to ensure that students take a pride in their work and become resilient learners who will always strive for the best.

Students should be encouraged to work hard and contribute to the wider academic and social life of the school and the local community. Through the work that is completed there is also an acceptance of the differences between the people and cultures within our community. We have high expectations of our students and provide each student with an academic mentor in KS4 to help them set realistic but challenging targets. We expect all teachers to utilise a variety of teaching and learning styles so that all students can gain from different creative approaches and challenges. We also aim to help students gain a general economic well-being.

#### Curriculum Principles

- Every student will have equal access to a broad and balanced mainly academic curriculum with opportunities for vocational studies where appropriate.
- Groups may be based on prior attainment data, student aspirations and challenging targets. The students are provided with learning opportunities appropriate to their recognised needs with a range of relevant qualifications and accreditations.
- Our provision will give appropriate balance to the development of attitudes to learning, skills, knowledge and understanding.
- In Key Stage 4, we offer a range of courses, which reflect the national expectations for young people.

### **Key Stage 3**

In years 7, 8 and 9 all students follow a curriculum of:

English

Mathematics

Science

Art and Design

Citizenship

Dance

Design Technology (Including Resistant Materials, Food, Textiles and Graphics)

Drama

French

Geography

History

Information Communication Technology and Computer Science

Music

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Physical Education

Ethics, Philosophy and Religion (EPR)

In years 8 and 9 Spanish is the second modern language studied by more able linguists and is offered to some as an alternative to French.

The Academy starts students on GCSE courses early in Year 9 in English, Mathematics, Science and EPR.

### **Key Stage 4**

In the spring of year 9 students are asked to choose their Key Stage 4 courses. Guidance and counselling play an important part in the decision making process. To assist parents / carers and students, an annual Year 9 parents evening is held in March and provides them with an opportunity to discuss, with all subject teachers, the choice of option subjects. A general information evening is also held for parents of year 9 students. Before students make their final choices they also meet with their Academic Mentor. Opportunities are also made available for students to meet with a representative from Careers South West to discuss their future educational needs.

All students follow a compulsory core consisting of GCSE English, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Science, GCSE Religious Education (EPR), PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) and Physical Education. Students should encounter ICT through all their subjects.

In addition students have the option to study up to 4 further courses outlined in an annual option choices booklet. (A copy of the most recent booklet can be requested from the school). The school ensures that all students are able to choose from choices which include the Arts, Modern Foreign Languages, the Humanities, Technology, and Applied Learning choices. To broaden our offer we will, on occasion, group multiple year groups together and provide opportunities for early entry. The range of options should be as rich as possible to meet the needs and aspirations of our learners.

Currently available option courses:

#### **GCSE:**

Art & Design, Astronomy, Business Studies, Catering, Computer Science, Dance, Drama and Theatre Arts, Engineering, French, Geography, Graphic Design, History, Hospitality, Music, Physical Education, Resistant Materials, Spanish, Textiles and Triple Science.

**Applied Learning Courses:**

BTEC First Awards: Information and Creative Technology, Music, Performing Arts (Dance). Other applied learning courses may be negotiated in order to personalise the learning for specific individuals.

**The Whole School Curriculum:**

Looe Community Academy strives to ensure that the curriculum offer is enhanced by opportunities that extend beyond the 25 timetabled hours of formal teaching. During the year there are calendared events for each year group. This allows students to participate in experiences where they can explore Social Issues, Learning to Learn, Enterprise Education, ICT, Citizenship, Relationships and Sex Education etc. This also provides an opportunity for all learners to develop and promote shared ideals and values. It allows learners to challenge prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping through working together on social and educational ideas.

In addition Year 10 students undertake 5 days of Work Experience. The school's Work Related Policy details further opportunities for Work Related Learning and Careers Education.

This policy is to be updated annually.

# LOOE COMMUNITY ACADEMY

