CURRICULUM INTENT 2027-2028

At The Bicester School, our curriculum is driven by our belief that every student should feel a strong sense of belonging, be fully engaged in their learning, and be empowered to aspire and achieve.

We aim to develop young people who are not only successful academically, but who grow into resilient, aware, enterprising, professional and confident individuals, ready to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world. Our curriculum is carefully designed to nurture curiosity, build cultural and social understanding, and ensure that every student sees themselves reflected in, and valued by, their school experience.

Learning at The Bicester School extends beyond the classroom. We create an inclusive environment where students feel safe, respected and inspired, because when students experience belonging, they are more motivated to engage deeply and succeed. Through this culture, we foster resilience, encourage ambition, and support students in developing the confidence to take risks and embrace challenge.

A Broad, Inclusive and Aspiring Curriculum

Our curriculum provides a broad and balanced foundation that enables all students to achieve and aspire, regardless of their starting point.

- At Key Stage 3, students follow a three-year curriculum that prioritises depth of understanding and sustained engagement across a wide range of subjects.
- We recognise that Literacy and Numeracy are key to success in every subject. At KS3 we seek to address any deficits in reading and writing skills through SEN screening, targeted SEN help, Lexia, That Reading Thing, Accelerated Reader and Reader Plus.
- At Key Stage 4 and 5, students begin to specialise, making informed choices that reflect both their strengths and aspirations, supported by clear guidance and personalised pathways.
- A focus for 2027–2028 is incorporating oracy across the curriculum, ensuring that pupils are given structured and regular opportunities to develop their spoken language skills in a range of contexts. This will support confidence, reasoning, and articulation, enabling students to communicate ideas clearly, engage in discussion, and prepare effectively for future education, employment, and life beyond school.
- A bespoke set of interventions and supportive packages are provided to ensure that aspirational outcomes are achieved.
- Pockets of our catchment in Bicester are socially and economically deprived, and among the most educationally disadvantaged in the county. Nevertheless, we challenge all of our students to pursue as demanding a range of subjects as possible so that they are properly challenged and greater opportunities will be open to them in the future. We do, however, also seek to ensure that both the taught and wider curriculum is accessible for all our students. Providing a range of pathways that cater for students differing starting points is necessary for this to be achieved.

We are committed to inclusion and equity. Our curriculum is structured to ensure that every student, regardless of background, feels represented, supported and challenged to succeed. By maintaining high expectations for all, we cultivate resilience and the confidence to overcome barriers.

Engaging Teaching, Lasting Learning

Our teaching is rooted in evidence-informed practice, designed to promote deep engagement and sustained progress through adaptive teaching. Our BLIMPOS approach (which you can read more about **here**) prioritises:

- High expectations for behaviour and focus
- Strong literacy skills to unlock learning
- Opportunities to revisit and embed knowledge
- Expert modelling to build confidence and independence
- Effective questioning and reflection to deepen understanding
- Stretch and challenge to raise attainment

These approaches encourage students to take ownership of their learning, becoming confident and independent thinkers who are prepared for future challenges**.**

Developing the Whole Person

We believe that a sense of belonging is strengthened when students can explore their interests, develop their identity and contribute to a wider community.

Our curriculum is enriched through:

- A wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and trips
- Experiences that build cultural capital and broaden horizons
- Opportunities for leadership, teamwork and personal development

These experiences allow students to practise being enterprising and confident, while strengthening relationships and community pride.

Preparation for Life Beyond School

Preparing students for the future is central to our mission. Through a comprehensive CEIAG programme, integrated across subjects and supported by tailored guidance, we ensure that all students:

- Develop awareness of opportunities available to them
- Build professional behaviours and communication skills
- Engage meaningfully with employers and the local community

Students leave The Bicester School as aware and enterprising individuals, equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to thrive in further education, employment and life. Bicester is a rapidly growing, well-connected town with strong links to London and the wider Oxford–Cambridge region. Ongoing development, including major retail and business investment, is creating expanding opportunities in sectors such as retail, logistics, and professional services, making it an increasingly important hub for employment and economic growth.

- We recognise that valuable learning takes place beyond the curriculum and encourage extra-curricular activities and educational trips that build aspiration, confidence, tolerance, teamwork, cultural awareness, knowledge capital and a sense of community and belonging.

Values, Citizenship and Community

Our curriculum promotes a deep understanding of citizenship, diversity and responsibility. We actively cultivate:

- Respect, kindness and human dignity
- Awareness of social, environmental and global issues

- A commitment to equality and inclusion

Through subjects, PSHE, assemblies and enrichment, students learn to be aware and responsible citizens, contributing positively to society while developing a strong sense of identity and togetherness.

Our Commitment

At The Bicester School, our curriculum is more than a pathway to qualifications, it is a shared journey.

A journey where every student feels they belong.
A journey where engagement drives success.
A journey where all are supported to achieve and aspire.

Through this, we cultivate young people who are resilient in challenge, aware of the world, enterprising in thought, professional in conduct and confident in their future.

THE BICESTER SCHOOL
Aspire and Achieve