

Secondary

Key Stage 3 is the collective name given to Years 7, 8 and 9. All students follow the British National Curriculum

The Key Stage 3 curriculum builds on the experiences students have had at their primary school. Our aim is to maintain the strengths of the primary approach as we introduce teaching by subject specialists. In particular, we want our students to use their skills across the curriculum and not to confine them to the subject in which they happen to be learned.

Twelve subjects are offered : English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, History, Geography, French, Arabic, Islamic Studies or Citizenship, P.E., Art, PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) and English, Science and Mathematics are taught each day of the academic week.

Within the structure of the National Strategies, the Programmes of Study sets out what students should be taught, and the attainment target sets out the expected standards of students' performance. The aim of KS3 is to focus upon the practical development of the skills needed as to develop the students to become successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve; confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

English

A core subjects in Key Stage 3, the National Curriculum of England and Wales will be followed, covering all essential areas of study.

This year at Newton International School, students will receive 5 English lessons per week, comprising written work; comprehension and language, speaking and listening and literature. Extra attention will be given to spelling and vocabulary in an effort to raise Literacy levels across the Key Stage. All students are encouraged to read privately on a daily basis and two English homework tasks will be set each week.

We are a student centred, dynamic faculty and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, both for the students and ourselves

Mathematics

Years 7, 8 and 9 are following the National Curriculum for England and Wales. Every week the students receive 5 lessons in mathematics, each being topic based. Class work is then consolidated by homework given twice a week to each student. Homework is an integral part of the course as it helps to highlight any problems the student may be experiencing and can be quickly rectified. A class test is given at the end of each topic.

The topics come under the headings of Number, Algebra, Shape, Space & Measure and Handling Data all of which are examined at the end of each calendar year and end of school year. We also participate in a Mathematics Challenge and Mathematics Quizzes which the students thoroughly enjoy.

By the end of Year 9 students should be able to accurately apply mathematics in the classroom, communicate mathematics effectively and use mathematics tools and methods preparing them for entry into KS4 in Year 10.

Science

The Key Stage 3 Science offers opportunities for students to enjoy and experience a broad, well rounded introduction to Science. The course is split into discrete units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics spaced throughout the year. These are arranged specific topics which will then build into the contents taught at GCSE.

Students will :

build in their Scientific knowledge and understanding from Key Stage 2 and make connections between different areas of Science

use Scientific ideas and models to explain phenomena and events

understand a range of familiar applications of Science

think about the advantages and drawbacks of Scientific and technological developments for the environment and in other contexts, considering the reasons for different opinions

carry out investigations of different types, on their own and in groups, making use of reference sources and evaluation their work.

Communicate what they did and its significance

Learn how Scientists work and the importance of experimental evidence in supporting Scientific ideas.

The Science Department look forward to welcoming all students this academic year and we want them to share our goal of continued excellence and progression.

History

The teaching of History follows the National Curriculum of England and Wales. The development of society is studied via the role of explorers, writers, composers, artists, soldiers and politicians, amongst others. However, as of this year, each year group has included a unit on the History of Qatar.

Topics take a thematic approach, helping students to see links between topics, spot changes, and note continuity over time. Students are taught the importance and relevance of the more significant periods. Students will have 3 lessons per week and will be expected to complete one hour of homework as well.

History has always been regarded as an ideal training for the brain. Students are taught methods and processes which make them best suited for jobs as varied as lawyers, politicians, soldiers and journalists.

Geography

The teaching of Geography in Key Stage 3 follows the National Curriculum and it is a subject that stimulates an interest in and a sense of wonder about places. It helps young people make sense of a complex and changing world. Geographical issues are examined in the local, regional and global scales, and students have opportunities to investigate a variety of themes.

Topics such as physical landscapes and mapping are studied in Year 7, population and weather in Year 8, while earth forces and resources are taken in Year 9.

In addition to classroom teaching students are encouraged to carry out individual research, and there will be fieldwork activities done outside of the classroom. There are 2 classroom lessons each week and students will be expected to complete one homework assignment each week.

Arabic

In KS3, all students are taught Arabic twice a week and homework is handed on regular basis. They are two classes of Arabic in this school: Easy Arabic and Hard Arabic. In Hard Arabic students are taught grammar rules, reading comprehension and composition. The books used for this subject are provided from the government. In Easy Arabic students are taught spelling, speaking and writing skills.

An excursion will be organised in KS3 to Souq Waqif to promote the Arab culture and enhance their descriptive abilities.

French

In KS3, all students are taught French twice a week and homework is usually set once a week as to reinforce what has been taught in class previously. The lessons are mainly taught in the target language for the learners to adapt and get more familiar with the French sounds. Students are assessed in four skills: listening, speaking, writing and reading. Students are encouraged to work in groups as it is an important tool for the future. The coursebook used in KS3 is "Equipe Nouvelle" and students are taught different topics every term however students will also be working on projects.

Excursions and Trips will be organised in KS3 as to promote the French culture and give students the opportunity to practice their oral skills.

ICT

The course followed is based on the National Curriculum of England and Wales. Students will have the opportunity to learn about different devices; the effects of ICT in society; they will use the Internet & Web design packages, Microsoft Office, Network topology and computer graphics.

Upon completion of this ICT course, KS-4 students will be able to further pursue this course in their AS & A levels. This will enable them to have the job opportunity to be a System Analysis, Web Designer, Programmer, System maintenance, IT Technician, Software Developer etc.

Art and Design

The programs of study in Art and Design; knowledge, skills and understanding set out what students should be taught and provide the basis for schemes of work.

Teaching should insure that investigating and making includes exploring and developing ideas and evaluating and developing work. Knowledge and understanding should inform this process

Art and Design covers such topics as: drawing, painting, 3-D construction, design, collage and printmaking. Students take two lessons of Art and Design a week and develop their creativity and imagination through skills and extend their knowledge and experience of materials, processes and practices.

Homework is mandatory and an important process of Art and Design. Out of school trips are organized to support and enhance learning in a given topic.

P.E.

The P.E department follows the National Curriculum for England & Wales, therefore all students will take part in 2 PE lessons per week. Practical lessons are split into three main parts. Each lesson begins with a warm up and stretch for all students, followed by the lesson objectives. The students then are led through practical demonstrations of specific skills relating to the sport and are then given a chance to put the practical demonstrations into play during a game situation.

At present the students take part in a wide range of ball games such as Football, Rugby, Basketball, Volleyball, Uni-hockey Handball and Badminton, Fitness lessons that include swimming, gymnastics and athletics take place during practical PE lessons. In order to promote a healthy active lifestyle and increase the fitness of all our students, there will be no theoretical lessons in KS3. However students will be informed about the functions and structure of the muscles and the skeleton as well as the benefits of healthy eating and regular exercise.

All students in secondary have the opportunity to take part in sports within the ECA (Extra Curricular Activities) programme after school throughout all three terms. Students will also be chosen to represent Newton School in sporting competitions throughout Qatar involving a number of different schools.

Recent competitions have included

Under 13 & 14 boys and girls basketball

Under 13, 14 & 16 boys football

Under 12 & 14 girls football

Table tennis

Athletics

Islamic Studies

Islamic Studies in Secondary is taught once a week for Muslims students. Homework is given once a week. Islamic Studies is provided only for Arabic students. The books used for this subject are provided by the government. Students learn skills such as: listening and understanding the Qu'ran and on how to lead a good life as a Muslim.

An excursion will be organised to the Islamic Centre and to the Islamic Museum to explore and understand the Arab heritage.

Citizenship

Non-Muslim students in Years 7-9 take one period of Citizenship every week. Citizenship is an important part of the National Curriculum as it equips young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding to play an effective part in public life.

The subject encourages students to take an interest in topical issues and to discuss/debate these interesting matters.

Throughout Key Stage 3 students will learn about rights and responsibilities, laws and justice, democracy and respect for different cultures and beliefs, as well as how to play an active role in their school and local communities.