



DUCHY COLLEGE  
HARROGATE

# LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM



INFORMATION BOOKLET

Since 1893



# DISCOVER LOWER SCHOOL AT DUCHY COLLEGE

**Our aim is for all pupils to love learning, so they discover their own passions, which will lead them onto their next phase of school and beyond.**

Learning new subjects, developing new skills and making new friends are all component parts of what makes Lower School at Duchy College Seniors such an exciting, educational phase. Our expert subject teachers, small class sizes and outstanding pastoral care all help our pupils to flourish.

Our pupils have the freedom and confidence to be themselves, and our environment encourages pupils to challenge themselves without fear of failure. Our ethos promotes openness, empathy and the building of friendships between age groups.

During their first three years at Duchy College Seniors, the pupils study a broad range of subjects, which starts to build the knowledge and skills required for later GCSE study. As well as familiar subjects such as Mathematics, English and Science, they study new subjects such as Food and Nutrition, Textiles and Design Technology. In Games, the pupils take part in a wide range of sports including football, cricket, swimming, netball and athletics; all of which offer the pupils the chance to represent the school in competitive fixtures.

Through our innovative Flourish programme, we prioritise our pupils' wellbeing. Flourish encompasses pastoral care, PSHE, wellness and mental health. It is interwoven with our academic offer, enabling our pupils to thrive in all aspects of school life. They feel fully supported and are provided with the skills and strategies to help them manage the demands and challenges of life within and beyond school.

We encourage all pupils to be intellectually curious and to develop their own thinking beyond the classroom. Whether that is learning coding, sign language or joining a book group, there is a school club to suit all interests. The Duchy Award is designed to promote a breadth of interest in our whole curriculum and our extensive extra-curricular offer. This includes academic strands, the creative and performing arts, community involvement, and leadership. We are mindful of the rapidly changing world of work and so offer our pupils the opportunity to take part in our 'Be Inspired' careers programme from Year 7. This includes industry specialists visiting to share their knowledge and experiences and aims to develop pupils' aspirations for the future.

The staff at Duchy College Seniors are fully committed to ensuring your child has the best possible learning experience. We look forward to sharing in your child's journey of discovery through the Lower School. Our motto "I AM ME" is an important part of our ethos and we want every Lower School pupil to embody this, feel valued and be true to themselves.

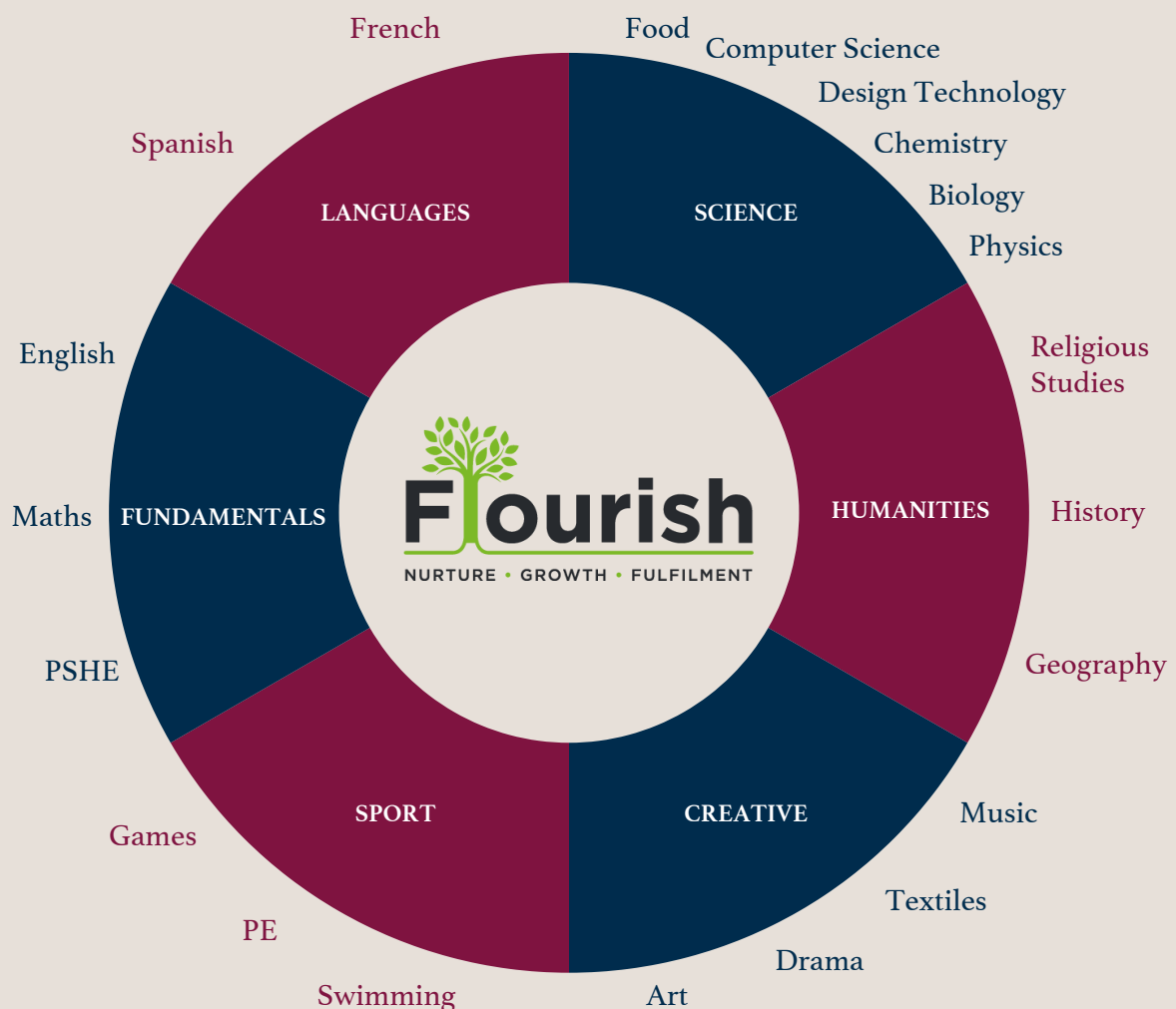


**Jo Griffin**  
Head of Lower School



## LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Pupils study a broad range of subjects designed to inspire, excite and challenge.



### Programme of Study

During Year 7 and Year 8, pupils study Textiles and Food & Nutrition for half of the year each. All of the other subjects are studied throughout the whole year. In Year 9, the pupils can choose to drop down to studying one language alongside Drama or continue with two languages without Drama.



# The Duchy Award

## NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

The Duchy Award is an innovative baccalaureate- style programme for pupils from Year 5 through to Year 9. It is designed to give purpose and focus to academic studies; to broaden wider experiences beyond the classroom; to encourage pupils to step out of their comfort zones; and to motivate, recognise and reward excellence in all its forms.

There are eight key themes or strands to the programme which encompass all aspects of our pupils' learning, extra-curricular experience, wellbeing and leadership responsibilities. The aim is for pupils to develop a broad range of skills and interests across all eight strands.

Through a system of Duchy Points, the pupils will work towards different levels (Pass, Merit and Distinction) whilst also building towards special recognition within the individual strands. In the Summer Term, the pupils will be formally recognised for their efforts at the Duchy Award prize giving event.

The award will restart each year with new opportunities within each strand becoming available as they progress through Years 7, 8 and 9. The Duchy Award is a unique feature of the Lower School experience at Duchy College Seniors that allows all pupils to fulfill their potential, not only within their learning but also as young people within the wider community.

### Key Themes

#### EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- > Music
- > Drama
- > Creative Arts

#### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHS

- > Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- > ICT
- > Food & Nutrition
- > Maths & Finance
- > Design Technology

#### LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- > English Language
- > Literacy
- > French
- > Spanish
- > EAL

#### HUMANITIES

- > History
- > Geography
- > Religious Studies

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

- > Physical Education
- > Competitive Sport
- > Games

#### WELLBEING, INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY

- > Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- > Community
- > Pupil Voice
- > Wellness
- > PSHE

#### CO-CURRICULAR AND CLUBS

- > Speech & Drama, Dance
- > Music & Choir
- > Sports Clubs
- > General Interest Clubs
- > Duke of Edinburgh

#### LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

- > Pupil Leadership
- > Tours and Events
- > Public Speaking
- > Peer Mentoring
- > Enterprise

# I AM ME



**Duchy College**

Clarence Drive  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
United Kingdom  
HG1 2QG

T: 01423 537045

E: [admissions@duchycollege.co.uk](mailto:admissions@duchycollege.co.uk)  
[duchycollege.org.uk](http://duchycollege.org.uk)

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