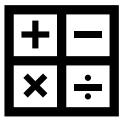
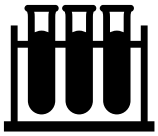
St Michael's Church of England High School

Our Curriculum

Our Big Ideas

Our 'Big Ideas' describe the fundamental concepts that are delivered through the curriculum. They provide a conceptual framework for the substantive and disciplinary knowledge that is needed for pupil progression within subject areas. The 'Big Ideas' build on prior learning from KS2 and are revisited frequently during KS3 and into KS4 through careful sequencing. Each time these are delivered as part of the scheme of learning, the concepts become more complex in theory or in the way pupils examine them and so facilitates the development of pupils' higher order skills such as problem solving and critical reasoning.

Subject Area	Big Ideas
Art 	• Developing creativity • Exploring a wide range of media • Knowledge of art and artists • Independent decision making
Computing/ICT 	• Staying safe online • Being effective digital citizens • Knowledge of hardware, software and networks • Develop coding/programming skills to produce solutions to a range of problems • Analysing existing artefacts and products • Understanding and demonstrating principles of good design • Developing a high level of proficiency across a wide range of software types • Evaluating own products and artefacts for success, improvements and developments
Design Technology 	• Designing • Problem solving • Systems • Manufacturing techniques • CAD/CAM • User needs • Tools & Equipment
English 	• Poetry • Narrative/story telling • Shakespeare • Non-fiction • Rhetoric • Texts and their contexts • Writer's craft
Geography 	• Place, Space, Scale • Changing Physical and Human Processes • Interdependence • Environmental impact and Sustainability • Cultural understanding, diversity and perspectives

History 	• Chronology • Change and continuity • Causation and Significance • Using historical evidence • Analysing historical interpretations • Understanding historical perspectives
Maths 	• Number • Geometry and measures • Ratio proportion & Rates of Change • Algebra • Statistics • Probability
MFL 	• High Frequency Words • Verbs and Tenses • Gender of Nouns • Pronunciation, Intonation and Fluency • Asking for, Giving and Justifying Opinions • Intercultural Understanding
Music 	• Performing • Composing • Appraising (Listening & Knowledge)
PE 	• Creating a love for Physical Education • Embedding skills and knowledge within PE • Refining physical performance • Broadening sporting experiences • Promoting lifelong participation
Religious Studies 	• Continuity, Change and Diversity • Worlds and beyond • A Good Life • Making Sense of Life's Experiences • Influence, Community, Culture and Power • The Big Picture
Science 	• All material in the Universe is made of very small particles. • Objects can affect other objects at a distance. Changing the movement of an object requires a net force to be acting on it. • The total amount of energy in the Universe is the same but energy can be transformed when things change or are made to happen. • The composition of the Earth and its atmosphere and the process occurring within them shape the Earth's surface and its climate. • The solar system is a very small part of one of millions of galaxies in the Universe. • Organisms are organised on a cellular basis. • Organisms require a supply of energy and materials for which they are often dependent on or in competition with other organisms. • Genetic information is passed down from one generation of organisms to another. The diversity of organisms, living and extinct, is the result of evolution.