

Curriculum Policy (Senior)



Policy Authors:

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range of cultural activities and events to attend – participation is monitored by tutors and via a regular co-curricular audit. Many pupils learn a musical instrument and/or take LAMDA lessons. The EDGE curriculum has creativity as one of its core values and both encourages creative outcomes as well as exploring the processes behind it.

Physical: all pupils have timetabled PE and Games in First to Fifth Years, and timetabled Games in Fifth Year.

Spiritual: all pupils have lessons in Philosophy and Theology during First, Second and Third Years and attend regular assemblies, which collectively provide a key means of developing human and social education and promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Timetabled Wellbeing lessons are provided in First to Fifth Years.

It should be emphasised that many of the subjects listed above help to develop more than the key area of experience to which they have been attached. For example, linguistic skills including oracy are developed in all subjects, not merely in English or in Modern or Ancient Languages.

All curriculum subject matter is tailored to the age and aptitudes of the pupils in each school year, including any pupils with an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan whose needs are reviewed annually. Our curriculum provision enables all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress, including those with special educational needs. Every opportunity, for all pupils, is provided to enable them to develop their speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills, as set out in the schemes of work for each curriculum area.

The curriculum provides for the teaching of Wellbeing which is taught to class groups as a timetabled discrete subject, working concurrently with the Wellbeing Policy and schemes of work where further details can be found. The Wellbeing curriculum reflects the School's aims and ethos (Purpose Statement). These documents should be read in conjunction with one another, along with Teaching and Learning, Special Educational Needs/Disabilities and the provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education.

Lesson Disposition

All pupils study a core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science, a Modern Language and a Humanity until the end of Key Stage 4, and there is also the opportunity for them to build around that a combination of other optional subjects. Quite deliberately, the school chooses each year to construct Third, Fourth and Fifth Year timetables around pupils' choices, and not the other way around; thus there are no predetermined 'Option Blocks'. The School

English (4)

Science (5) (taught by subject specialists in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in half-termly rotations in the Second Year)

One European Modern Language (3) (two European modern languages in the Second Year (2))

Mandarin (1)

Latin (3 in the current First Year, who will have 2 when in the Second year; 3 in the current Second Year)

History (2)

Geography (2)

Philosophy and Theology (2)

Art (1.5 in the First Year; 2 in the Second Year)

Design & Technology (1.5 in the First Year; 2 in the Second Year – inc. EDGE)

Music (1)

Drama (1)

PE and Games (4/3)

Wellbeing (1)

Computer Science (1)

EDGE (3 in the First Year; 2 for one term in the Second Year as part of D&T)

NB The EDGE course consists of three strands – Learning to Learn, Big Ideas and Problem-solving in Action. It seeks to develop pupils' collaborative, creative, oracy and digital skills.

In the First Year, pupils will participate in extended interdisciplinary projects and in the Second Year will engage with a design thinking project.

Third Year

A full timetable of 40 x 35-45 minute lessons. An element of choice is introduced to enable pupils to explore those subjects more fully for which they have a natural enthusiasm and/or

Mandarin), Art, Design and Technology, Computer Science, Music and Drama. An options booklet is provided to help pupils and their parents to make informed choices.

Fourth and Fifth Years

A full timetable of 40 x 35-45 minute lessons, in which subjects falling into three categories are studied. A mixture of GCSEs and IGCSEs are taken.

Compulsory examination subjects:

The following 26 subjects are offered:

Art: Fine Art

Art: Photography

Art: Textiles

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

Drama

Economics

English Literature

French

German

Geography

Greek

History

Latin

Mathematics

Further Mathematics

Music

P.E.

Philosophy, Ethics and Theology

Physics

Politics

Product Design

Psychology

Spanish

Advice is given to all pupils regarding their A Level choices and in the Fifth Year this advice includes an individual interview with the Head of Year, their Assistant or a member of the Senior or pastoral team. An options booklet is provided to help pupils and their parents to make informed choices, and a Sixth Form Open Evening allows them to experience first-hand the flavour of different A Level lessons before committing themselves to specific subjects.

paper or artefact; those who make the shortlist then present to an independent panel of judges at the IRP finals evening, where awards are decided. The Sixth Form curriculum of examination subjects is further supplemented by an innovative non-examined 'Forum' programme, including expert-led lectures and seminars on topics such as drug abuse, sexual health and safe driving. This programme is designed to prepare pupils for the responsibilities and opportunities of adult life.

Appropriateness

At each level the School seeks to ensure that the subject matter is appropriate for the ages and aptitudes of the pupils. Opportunities exist to acquire and develop skills in speaking and listening (most obviously in modern languages, at least one of which is compulsory to GCSE), literacy (most obviously in English) and numeracy (most obviously in Mathematics and the sciences). The principal language of instruction is English, except in some Modern Language lessons where the target language is used as appropriate.

The curriculum requires the majority of pupils to take GCSEs or IGCSEs in 9 to 11 subjects. Sixth Form pupils typically start A Level courses in 4 subjects. A majority of pupils will drop a subject at the end of the first half term of the Lower Sixth. Typically, up to 5% continue with all 4 subjects through to the end of the course.

All pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress through the ways in which tasks

may find academic work challenging are as worthy of recognition as those pupils who attain a suite of top grades.

Options Booklets