

## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

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1. The curriculum should be broad, balanced and relevant and should be appropriate to the needs of our pupils promoting their intellectual, physical and personal development.
2. Our intake is selective and we seek to stretch the pupils by offering them an academic curriculum and embracing arts, sciences, creative and physical activities.
3. Girls are expected and encouraged to work hard and independently, to study on their own, think for themselves and to enjoy as many forms of learning and skills as their gifts allow.
4. We provide equality of access and opportunity for pupils to make progress.
5. The curriculum is designed to meet statutory requirements, as and where appropriate, to teach the national curriculum, religious and sex education where applicable.
6. The Curriculum is enriched by providing extra curricular activities both inside and outside school, so that young people can explore their own interests.
7. Almost without exception our students all go on to study academic subjects at university and our curriculum is designed to prepare them in terms of knowledge and skills to make the most of higher education when they leave us.
8. We seek to avoid teaching groups which are too large for the individual to be heard or too small for creative interaction within the limits of what is financially possible.
9. Work placement is offered to all girls at the end of years 11 and 12. All Sixth Form girls are given the opportunity to do Community Service for one afternoon per week and we offer a Commerce Initiative for those who are interested.
10. All pupils have access to the library and computer equipment and in the sixth form areas for private study.

### **Year 7**

All subjects are taught in mixed ability form groups following the same broadly based curriculum: English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Classical Studies, Art, Music, ICT, Food and Textile Technology, Physical Education, Drama, PSHE.

### **Year 8**

Girls now take Latin instead of Classical Studies, and additionally they choose a second Modern Foreign Language (Spanish or German). Mathematics and French set from Year 8.

### **Year 9**

As for Year 8 but either continue with Latin or take Classical Studies instead. Drama is now offered only as an extra-curricular activity.

## **Years 10 and 11**

All pupils have equal entitlement to the curriculum and follow a programme of studies leading generally to examination in 9 GCSE subjects. Staff advise girls on subject choices at GCSE level, encouraging as varied a curriculum as possible in order to allow both a wide choice of A-level subjects and a wide choice of career opportunities later. Parents are always consulted. A booklet setting out the aims and content of all subjects is issued to each girl and final decisions are made following an evening meeting involving girls, staff and parents.

All girls up to Year 11 continue with English, English Literature, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German) and the Sciences (either 3 separate Sciences or Core & Additional Science).

In addition, either 3 or 4 subjects (at least one from the Humanities) are chosen from the following:

History, Geography, Classical Civilisation, Religious Studies, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Art and Design, Music, Home Economics (Food), ICT, Drama.

General Studies in Years 10 and 11 provide all girls with the opportunities for further work in interesting, creative and practical topics separate from the mainstream academic curriculum. This non-examination programme includes Physical Education, ICT, Dance, Drama, Art and Craft, Food, Religious Studies, Political Awareness, Business Awareness, PSHE.

The PSHE programme includes Sex Education and Careers advice. Movement between sets in Mathematics and French occurs if staff feel that a girl would benefit from such a move.

## **Sixth Form – Years 12 and 13**

Girls usually choose 3 subjects to A2 level (throughout Years 12 and 13) and a fourth subject to AS level (for Year 12 only). All girls follow a General Studies course which aims to broaden and enhance advanced study and may take the AS or A2 General Studies examination at the end of Year 13.

A booklet setting out the aims and content of all subjects is issued to each girl and final decisions are made following an evening meeting involving girls, staff and parents. Parents are always consulted. The following subjects may be studied as AS and/or A2 level:

Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Drama and Theatre Studies, English Language and Literature, English Literature, French, Geography, German, Government and Politics, History, Home Economics, ICT, Latin, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies, Spanish.

Small groups may be taught jointly with Merchant Taylors' School.

AS level consists of 3 modules to be followed in Year 12 with examinations of about 1 hour duration and A2 level consists of 3 further modules and examinations in Year 13. The final examination is expected to include a synoptic element (i.e. covering the whole course). In some subjects the first module will be taken in January of Year 12, while in others no modules will be taken until May/June i.e. the end of the AS course. This pattern will also apply at A2 level, in Year 13.

## CURRICULUM 2006 / 07 : YEARS 7, 8 & 9

SUBJECTS	NUMBER OF PERIODS		
	Year 7 (3 forms)	Year 8 (3 forms)	Year 9 (3 forms)
English	4	4	5
Mathematics	5	5 (sets 1 – 4)	5 (sets 1 – 4)
French	4	3 (sets 1 – 3)	3 (sets 1 – 4)
History	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
R.S.	2	2	2
Latin / Classical Studies	2 (C)	3 (L)	3 (L/C)
Physics	2	2	2
Chemistry	2	2	2
Biology	2	2	2
Spanish / German		2	3
Music	2	1	2
Drama	1	1	
Art	2	2	2
Food / Textile Technology	2 (½ classes)	2*	2*
I.C.T.	2	2	2*
Control Technology	-	2*	-
P.E.	4	3	3
P.S.H.E.	1	1	1
	41	41	41
		*Half classes for 2 P per week Food / Control Technology	*2 forms (½) year split into 3 groups. Food / Textiles / ICT 3 forms split into 4 groups for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Art

## CURRICULUM 2006 / 07 : YEARS 10 & 11

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SUBJECTS	NUMBER OF LESSONS	
	Year 10 (4 forms)	Year 11 (4 forms)
English (Language & Literature)	6 (5 groups)	6 (4 groups)
Mathematics	5 (sets 1 – 5)	5 (sets 1 – 5)
R.S.	1 (5 groups)	1 (5 groups)
P.S.H.E.	1	1
General	2	2
Science: Core & Additional Science	8	8
Or Physics, Chemistry, Biology	12	12
Humanity: H / G / RS / CC	4	4
M.F.L.: Fr / Sp / Gn	4	4
Option 1	4	4
Option 2 (on if D.A.)	4	4
	41	41

**OPTIONS:** History, Geography, R.S., Classical Civilisation, Latin, German, French, Spanish, Art & Design, Music, Home Economics (Food), Drama, ICT.

**GENERAL:** Choice of 5 out 7 (one term per subject)

Drama, Art & Craft, Food, ICT

Political Awareness, Dance, Business Awareness