



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

MERCHANT TAYLORS' GIRLS' SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

REVIEWED NOVEMBER 2016 J TYNDALL

CURRICULUM POLICY

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 to acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills and opportunities to embrace the arts, sciences, creative and physical activities.
3. We acknowledge that our pupils should gain experience in the following curriculum areas: linguistic, mathematical; scientific; technological; human and social; physical; aesthetic and creative:

Linguistic: This area is concerned with developing pupils' communication skills and increasing their command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Our pupils receive lessons throughout Key Stages 3+4 in written and spoken English. We also teach other languages, thereby offering pupils additional opportunities to develop their linguistic skills. At MTGS, all academic departments acknowledge a responsibility to further our pupils' linguistic abilities.

Mathematical: This area helps pupils to make calculations, to understand and appreciate relationships and patterns in number and space to develop their capacity to think logically and express themselves clearly. At MTGS, our pupils develop knowledge and understanding of mathematics in a variety of ways, including practical activity (such as "Horse Racing" Competitions), exploration and discussion.

Scientific: This area is concerned with increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces and with developing the skills associated with science as a process of enquiry: for example, observing, forming hypotheses, conducting experiments and recording their findings. We are proud that we offer individual scientific subject specialist education from well - qualified teachers as pupils join our school.

Technological: At MTGS, technological skills include the use of ICT; developing, planning and communicating ideas; working with tools, equipment, materials and components to produce good quality products; and evaluating processes and products.

Human and social: This area is concerned with people and their environment, and how human action, now and in the past, has influenced events and conditions. In our school, the subjects of Classical Civilisation, Geography, History and Religious Studies make a strong contribution to this area.

Physical: This area aims to develop the pupils' physical control and co-ordination as well as their tactical skills and imaginative responses and to help them to evaluate and improve their performance. Pupils should also acquire knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of fitness and health. This area of the curriculum is principally delivered through the Physical Education Department.

Aesthetic and creative: This area is concerned with the processes of making, composing and inventing. There are aesthetic and creative aspects of all subjects, but at MTGS, art, music, dance, drama and the study of literature make a particularly strong contribution, because they call for personal imaginative and practical responses.

4. 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.
5. We provide equality of access and opportunity for pupils to make progress.
SEND – where appropriate, measures will be taken to offer extra support sessions. An IEP will be devised and appropriate examination access arrangements will be made (please refer to SEND Policy).
AG & T – where appropriate, measures will be taken to support elite performers and academically gifted pupils to enable them to realise their potentiality (please refer to G & T Policy).
6. The curriculum is designed to meet statutory requirements, as and where appropriate, to teach the national curriculum, religious education and sex and relationships education where applicable. Within all aspects of our curriculum, due care and attention is given to the fundamental British Values of Democracy; Rule of Law; Individual liberty; Mutual respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths & beliefs.
7. The curriculum is enriched by providing extracurricular activities both inside and outside school, so that young people can explore their own interests.
8. The vast majority our students 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.
9. 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.
10. Work placement is offered to all girls at the end of years 11 and 12. All Sixth Form girls are given the opportunity to participate in Community Service for one afternoon per week.
11. All pupils have access to the library and computer equipment. The sixth form have areas for private study.
12. PSHEE is delivered which reflects the School's aims and ethos. This is outlined in the PSHEE scheme of work.
13. EAL – where appropriate, the following measures may be taken to support an individual student:
 - a. Personalised language support through weekly sessions with a qualified member of staff
 - b. Learning support sessions organized by Learning Support Co-ordinator
 - c. Revised curriculum where appropriate (differentiate or alternative TT)
 - d. Use of ICT and appropriate resources
14. Careers Education and Guidance: please refer to the separate Careers Policy and handbook for the SOW, aims and philosophy.

Year 7

All subjects are taught in mixed ability form groups following the same broadly based curriculum: English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, one MFL (from French, Spanish or German) History, Geography, Religious Studies, Classical Studies, Art, Music, ICT, Food and Textile Technology, Physical Education, Drama, PSHEE.

Year 8

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

Year 9

As for Year 8, but girls either continue with Latin or take Classical Studies instead.

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 made available to each girl and final decisions are made following two evening meetings 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 Trilogy 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), Computer Science, Drama. Physical Education

PSHEE carousels in Y10 & 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 ICT, Careers Education and Guidance, Political Awareness/Citizenship, Business Awareness and sex, drugs and alcohol awareness. General Religious Studies and Physical Education lessons are also provided.

Movement between sets in Mathematics and MFL occurs if staff feel that a girl would benefit from such a move.

Sixth Form – Years 12 and 13

A booklet setting out the aims and content of all subjects is made available to each girl and final decisions are made following an evening meeting involving girls, staff and parents. Parents are always consulted. From September 2016, girls will choose 3 Advanced Level Subjects. Following consultations post GCSE Results, girls may decide to add a fourth subject to their time table or may add an EPQ to their choices.

The following subjects may be studied at Advanced Level:

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

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

The Extended Project (EPQ) can be also taken on its own.

In Lower Sixth, students participate in a structured programme of PSHEE. Tutor time in Upper Sixth is used in a variety of ways such as personal contact time with the tutor, careers information, and, most importantly, preparation for university applications and life beyond school.

CURRICULUM: Years 7, 8 & 9

SUBJECTS	NUMBER OF PERIODS		
	Year 7 (4 forms)	Year 8 (3 forms)	Year 9 (3 forms)
English	5	4	5
Mathematics	5	5 (sets 1 – 4)	5 (sets 1 – 4)
MFL (F,G,Sp) 1 st Language	4	2	3
History	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
R.S.	2	2	2
Latin/Classical Studies	1 (C)	3 (L)	3 (L/C)
Physics	2	2	2
Chemistry	2	2	2
Biology	2	2	2
Spanish/French (2 nd MFL)		3 in sets	3 in sets
Music	2	1	1
Drama	1	1	1
Art	2	2	2
Food/Textile Technology	2 (½ classes)	2 (½ classes)	2*
I.C.T.	2	2	2*
Technology	-		2
P.E./Games	4	3	3
P.S.H.E.E	1	1	1
	41	41	41
			*In Year 9 Carousel (4 girls Fd/Fd/Tec/IT)

CURRICULUM: YEARS 10 & 11

SUBJECTS	NUMBER OF LESSONS	
	Year 10 (4 forms)	Year 11 (4 forms)
English (Language & Literature)	6 (4 groups)	6 (4 groups)
Mathematics	5 (sets 1 – 4)	5 (sets 1 – 4)
R.S.	1 (4 groups)	1 (4 grps)
P.S.H.E.E	2	2
Science: Trilogy	8*	8*
Physics, Chemistry, Biology	12	12
Humanity: H / G / RS / CC	4	4
M.F.L.: Fr / Sp / Gm	4	4
Option 1	4	4
Option 2 (only if Trilogy Sci.)	4*	4*
PE	2	2
	40	40

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

PSHEE: Rotation of Study Skills, Sex and Relationships; Careers, Citizenship; Business Awareness; Cookery; Self Esteem matters; Alcohol + Drugs Education.