

CURRICULUM POLICY - KS5



September 2017 onwards

KS5 Curriculum aims

To establish and deliver an aspirational curriculum that enables our Post 16 learners to be successful. The pathways available are designed to provide high quality learning opportunities which will enable all students to maximise their individual potential.

Our Key Stage 5 curriculum policy reflects the changes in national A level reform, with specific focus to the:

- De-coupling of A levels from AS / A2 to 2 year linear Advanced GCE qualifications
- Non contribution of AS towards the final 2 year qualification

KS5 Curriculum from 2017 onwards:

- All students in Year 12 will take a minimum of 3 GCE Advanced level courses (or equivalent) with the expectation being that these courses will be studied up to completion at the end of Year 13, consequently making each course 2 year linear.
- An extended deadline for swapping courses (formerly the end of September) will be extended until the second week in October to allow for any required movement. After this time, only students wanting to move from GCE courses onto BTEC qualifications will be approved by the P16LT.
- No students will be permitted to complete courses in less than the suggested 2 year period.
- Students who are considered to be 'more able' based on GCSE outcomes (APE 52+) can choose to study 4 A levels, but again the assumption will be that these 4 courses are studied up to completion.
- Termly assessments, which are calendared across faculties, will accompany a final end of year assessment: the performance in these will determine students' suitability to remain in the sixth form / on courses into Year 13.

The Timetable

The school operates a 25 lesson per week, 2 week timetable. Where possible Week A and Week B are identical and will normally only differ where curriculum time demands it. It is envisaged that the school, will move towards a one week timetable from September 2018. Level 3 subjects are allocated between 8 and 9 hours per fortnight of taught lesson time, with the expectation being that students complete a similar amount of independent study in their own time. From September 2018 the school plans to increase the contact time at KS5 and each L3 subject will be given 10 hours per fortnight of taught lesson time.

Tutor periods

All sixth form students will attend tutor period between 8.50am and 9.10am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as do students in the main school. This time is imperative for the provision of a wider education on age appropriate material: careers, SMSC, current affairs, pathways, universities, driver awareness and a plethora of other topics.

Extended curriculum

Students will receive allocated time to broaden their curriculum through timetabled enrichment slots. During these periods, students will have an abundance of both academic and non-academic opportunities. The aim of the enrichment curriculum is to facilitate students enriching their time at school to ensure they have a portfolio of evidence which can supplement their studies on application to future education or employment.

GCSE English & Maths

From 2017 entry, all students who did not achieve a grade 4 in GCSE Maths or English must continue to study towards achieving this grade in the sixth form. From 2018 entry this requirement will move towards students requiring a grade 5 in both subjects. Adequate provision will be made for these students in the form of 4 taught periods per week.