

The Archbishop's School

Curriculum Policy

2015-16

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VISION – To provide a curriculum that enables all students to develop:

- *A willingness to apply themselves and an aptitude for learning*
- *Creativity, empathy and sensitivity*
- *A sense of enquiry, the ability to question, solve problems and argue rationally*
- *Knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in the changing world*
- *Self-worth, self-esteem, self-awareness and self-confidence*
- *Literacy, numeracy and competence in ICT use*
- *The ability to work as an individual and as a member of a group*
- *A recognition of their own and others' achievements*
- *Appropriate moral, social, cultural and spiritual values*
- *A sense of community and a willingness to serve each other and the wider community*

School Timetable

The school timetable consists of a two-week cycle of 50 one-hour periods. There is full school assembly 3 times a week and weekly house assemblies and tutor times. Students in Year 11 also received a fortnightly assembly focused on exam preparation, Year 10 have half termly assemblies to assist for the transition to KS4 and those students in the Sixth Form receive a weekly assembly. Registration takes place twice-daily enabling students regular contact with their form tutors.

Setting Arrangements

Pupils are taught in ability groups in English, Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages based on data collected from KS2 results and teacher assessments. Sets are reviewed regularly to ensure that pupils are making best progress.

Class sizes

Students are placed in form groups of 24. In KS3 students are taught in form groups or in sets of varying size dependent on ability. In KS4 group size is determined by option choices; set group sizes vary with an average of 20 students per group. KS5 group sizes vary depending on option choices with an average group size of 10 students.

Home Learning

Home Learning is set according to the Home Learning timetable published annually. At KS3 pupils are expected to spend between 30-45 minutes completing work in English, Maths and Languages as well as 30 minutes per night completing their weekly Home Learning Task (see Home Learning Policy). At KS4 pupils are expected to spend at least 45 minutes per subject.

Curriculum Plan

KS3

SUBJECT	NUMBER OF 1 HOUR PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT		
	Y7	Y8	Y9
English	7	6	6
Mathematics	7	6	6
Science	6	6	6
Art	2	3	2
Drama	1	1	1
French	6	5	5
Geography	3	3	3
History	3	3	3
Computing	3	2	2
Music	1	1	2
PE	5	5	5
RS	2	2	2
Technology	2	4	4
Spanish/German/Literacy	0	3	3
Learning to Learn	1	0	0
PSHE/Citizenship	1	1	1

KS4

SUBJECT	NUMBER OF 1 HOUR PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT	
	Y10	Y11
English	7	7
Maths	7	7
Science	10	10
PSHE/Citizenship	1	1
PE	3	3
RS	2	2
Options*	5	5

*Option Subjects:

Art, BTEC Business Studies, Classics, Design Technology (Graphics), Design Technology (Resistant Materials), Drama, Geography, History, Home Economics (Food & Nutrition), ICT (ECDL), BTEC Travel & Tourism, Modern Languages, BTEC Music, Physical Education, Full and Half Course Religious Studies.

KS5

Students take a maximum of 4 AS subjects in Y12 leading to 2 or 3 A2 subjects in Y13. Each subject has 8 teaching hours a fortnight. For subjects under the new linear syllabus the subject must be taken for the whole two years. Students also supplement their timetable through organised work experience and extra-curricular activities in order to help them prepare for their next steps.

Y12 OPTION BLOCKS				
A	B	C	D	E
Biology	Art	Communication & Culture	Art	Biology
English	Chemistry	History	French	Drama
Maths	Hospitality	PE	Government & Politics	Geography
Music	Psychology	Physics	Philosophy	History
		Philosophy		IT

Y13 OPTION BLOCKS				
A	B	C	D	E
Art	Chemistry	Biology	Maths	History
Geography	English	Communication & Culture	Photography	Physics
Music	IT	History	Religious Studies	Government & Politics
Photography	PE			Hospitality
Psychology				

Examinations

GCSE

Most pupils take traditional, academic GCSEs and they are encouraged to study the eBacc subjects (English, Maths, Science, MFL and History or Geography). There are also a number of alternatives to GCSE on offer including BTEC, Cambridge Nationals and ECDL.

Controlled assessment for GCSE courses takes place in Y10 and Y11 and there is a published timetable of controlled assessment dates available to staff, pupils and parents.

Sixth Form

English and maths GCSE resits take place throughout the year. Students who are not yet at a Grade C for English and Maths will have to resit the subject and have to attend weekly timetabled afterschool sessions to help with their preparation.

Study Leave

Y11, 12 & 13 students have study leave in May in preparation for their public examinations. The dates are published annually.

SEN (including VI)/EAL Curriculum Provision

In addition to being monitored by subject staff, the learning support department assist and support any pupils who have additional educational requirements. All pupils participate in the curriculum as far as possible. There are also a number of alternative provisions including smaller group sizes, one-to-one support, homework club and reading support. Students with learning difficulties are encouraged to become independent and take responsibility within the school.

Extra-curricular Activities

The school provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities to give students the broadest possible educational experience. This includes a large number of trips and visits both in the UK and abroad. There are a whole variety of clubs taking place at lunchtimes and after school and pupils are also encouraged to take part in competitions and sporting events. Academic extra-curricular activities also take place to provide enrichment and to help pupils with revision.