

# CURRICULUM

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There are usually two tutorial forms in each year, streamed according to ability at KS3, and into social groups at KS4 and Vith form. The maximum class size is 20, although most classes have around 16 pupils and GCSE class sizes can be much smaller dependent on the option choices of pupils. In the sixth form the teaching class varies again dependent on the pupil options. However, the majority of classes have between 5 and 10 pupils, although some can be significantly smaller.

The curriculum is broadly based, balanced and relevant, adhering to the requirements of the English National Curriculum at KS3. Years 7 and 8 follow a similar curriculum, with the vast majority of students taking 12 subjects along with Games. Year 8 is slightly different due to the introduction of 2 lessons of German with a reduction in the French teaching allocation. An element of choice is introduced in Year 9; for the academic year 2011/12, pupils may choose between German and Drama and French and Design. For pupils with English as an additional language, and pupils with learning difficulties, a slightly amended curriculum is followed.

In the majority of subjects the GCSE is a two year course with pupils choosing from a wide range of subjects. Mathematics, an English course, (usually English Language and English Literature), and a Science course form the core, together with non-examinable courses in PSHCE and Games. Pupils choose from a number of optional subjects (see following section), after which the majority of pupils take eight or nine examinations. Some will do more or less than the norm depending upon their particular needs and abilities.

A wide range of AS level courses are available for study in Year 12. However, it is recommended that pupils have a minimum of a grade C at GCSE to follow a subject at AS, although this requirement may be waived in individual cases dependent on circumstances. Usually four subjects are chosen but three or five options may be more appropriate for some pupils.

Resit GCSEs are offered in Mathematics and English in November of Year 12.

Those pupils with good AS passes are encouraged to study A2 levels in the upper sixth. Three subjects is the usual choice for those aiming to enter the traditional universities. However, several universities require less so it is not necessary to study three A2s to enter higher education.

Pupils for whom English is an additional language receive small group instruction throughout by a qualified specialist and are entered for internationally recognised examinations.

More detailed information on the KS4 curriculum, GCSE options, and sixth form choices, can be found in the Y10 and Y12 Option handbooks available from the school office. A breakdown of the curriculum for each year group is given below.

## Senior School Curriculum

The school operates on a 10 period day, resulting in a 50 period week - Monday to Friday (45 teaching and 5 lunch periods). The following outlines the number of lessons (in brackets) allocated to each subject:

### Years 12 & 13

Each AS/A2 subject is normally allocated 7 periods each week. The following subjects were available for study:

English Literature	English Language	Sports studies
Mathematics	Further mathematics	Geography
Biology	French	History
Chemistry	German	ICT
Physics	Fine Art	Music

### Key Stage Four (Years 10 & 11)

The following subjects were taught to GCSE:

English Literature and Language (7)	Mathematics (5)
Separate Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) (12)	Music (4)
Science (8)	French (4)
Additional Science (8)	German (4)
Sports studies (4)	Business Studies (4)
Design and Technology (4)	Art (4)
	Geography (4)
	History (4)
	ICT (4)

Statistics is also offered to an accelerated year 10. Non-examinable courses are followed in PSHCE, and Games (6)

**Key Stage Three:**

The following subjects are currently taught at Key Stage 3:

**Years 7 & 8**

English (5)  
Religious Studies (2)  
Music (1)  
PSHCE (2)  
French (4) – Year7  
French (2) - Year8

Mathematics (5)  
Art & Design (3)  
Games (6)  
ICT (2)  
German (2) – Year 8

Science (6)  
Geography (3)  
History (3)  
Drama (2)  
Arts Award (1)

**Year 9**

English (5)  
Mathematics (5)  
Science (6)  
ICT (2)

German or Drama (4)  
French or DT (4)  
Games (6)  
Religious Studies (1)  
Music (2)

Geography (3)  
History (3)  
Art & Design (2)  
PSHCE (1)

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