

# DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

## CURRICULUM POLICY

### Introduction

The curriculum throughout the School is broad and balanced, encompassing an extensive range of subjects that takes into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils. It starts with a wide range for younger pupils, which gives a firm foundation on which to build gradual specialisation. The options system from Years 8 to 12 is then built around pupils' choices rather than fixed option blocks, which provides well for the different interests and aptitudes of all pupils. Pupils with a specific learning difficulty or with a statement of educational needs and overseas pupils requiring additional English lessons receive extra support as appropriate, without having to miss lessons. The needs of Able, Gifted and Talented pupils are accommodated in all year groups.

The curriculum supports the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Indeed, respect for other people not only runs through our whole curriculum and ethos as a school, but it is also particularly encouraged in our extensive PSHE programme. This is delivered in timetabled periods to all pupils in Years 7 to 10 as part of our Complementary Curriculum. That Curriculum reflects the school's aim and ethos, and pays particular regard to protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity). Elements of PSHE and British values are also actively incorporated in our Religious Studies curriculum, as well as in other appropriate events, such as assemblies, trips and visits.

The Complementary Curriculum also gives pupils access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance. A programme of guidance commences in Year 8 and continues throughout the pupils' time in the Upper School. This is delivered primarily by a dedicated Head of Careers, who also organises various careers events during the course of the year and offers a great deal of one-to-one support. Guidance is presented impartially, enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of careers options, and helps to encourage pupils to fulfil their potential.

The curriculum ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress, and that they are prepared effectively for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society. Lessons are delivered by specialist teachers in a challenging, stimulating environment that is conducive to a positive, enjoyable learning experience for the pupils. The School is keen to promote independent learning, enabling pupils to fulfil their potential and develop a range of key skills needed in later life. The timetable offers a great deal of flexibility with a well-structured weekly lesson arrangement. Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 10 take a timetabled double period of PE/swimming each week and all pupils in the School participate in two timetabled sessions of games. In addition to their weekly classes, a large number of pupils of all ages take music lessons and an extensive selection of clubs and societies supports and enriches the quality and breadth of education provided. There are eight thirty-five minute

periods on each weekday and six periods on a Saturday morning, giving a total of 46 periods in the weekly cycle.

The curriculum is organised in three sections to meet the needs of pupils of different ages: Years 7-9 (pre-GCSE), Years 10-11 (GCSE) and Years 12-13 (A-levels). The subjects studied at each level clearly reflect the fact that pupils have experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. They also acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills.

### **The Lower School: Years 7 to 9**

The emphasis in these important years is on breadth and challenge and a busy programme enables pupils to study a wide spread of subjects. The School takes advantage of its independence to deliver courses beyond the confines of the National Curriculum and there is much focus on making lessons interesting and enjoyable, with a variety of teaching styles in the classroom.

Pupils are taught in mixed ability classes of about twenty, except in Mathematics where pupils are banded in Year 7 and set by ability in Years 8 and 9. Languages are seen as an important curriculum area and pupils take classes in French, German, Spanish, and Latin in Year 7. In Years 8 and 9, most pupils opt for two of these subjects, while a small number continue with three. Year 9 pupils also participate in the popular Moonrakers programme of outdoor pursuits. PSHE is delivered through an innovative Complementary Curriculum, which teaches pupils about a whole host of broader topics and issues.

	PE	DRA	RS	HIS	ENG	GEO	MAT	PHY	CHE	BIO	LANG	ART	DT	COM	PSHE	MUS	GAM	MOON
Year 7	2	2	2	2	5	2	5	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	2	2	4	
Year 8	2	2	2	2	5	2	5	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	2	2	4	
Year 9		2*	2	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	6	2*	2*	1	1	1	4	2

N.B. \* carousel, with two terms for each subject

### **Years 10 and 11**

It is the firm policy of Dauntsey's that a strong and balanced programme for GCSE should be studied by pupils in Years 10 and 11. English, Mathematics and Science are compulsory, forming the core curriculum, and breadth of study is achieved by the provision of a wide range of option subjects arranged in five columns. In many subjects, students are taught the rigorous IGCSE courses and extra Science is an option, enabling pupils to study three separate sciences rather than the double award.

The majority of pupils take 9 subjects for GCSE, but each year a significant number take 10. A real strength of the system is that there are no set columns, giving pupils a completely free choice of subjects. This gives a great deal of flexibility in individual schedules and does not restrict subject combinations. A programme of careers lessons and guidance commences in Year 10 and continues throughout pupils' schooling. Pupils in both Years 10 and 11 take a course in Complementary Studies, involving Critical Thinking, Citizenship, Political and Global Issues, and Independent Study.

The options currently offered are:

- Art and Design
- Computing
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science Extra
- Spanish

Some pupils choose to follow an additional subject such as Greek, Mandarin, Russian, or Dance outside of timetabled classes.

### **The Sixth Form: Years 12 and 13**

The School follows the HMC recommended scheme of study with the majority of students currently taking either three or four courses in the Lower Sixth (often including an EPQ or alternative non-A-level option), then carrying three into the Upper Sixth. However, a small number of students opt to continue with all four subjects all the way through.

There are no set option columns, giving students a free choice from the 26 subjects available. This gives a great deal of flexibility and does not restrict subject combinations.

The options currently offered are:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- History of Art
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Mathematics (Further)
- Music
- Music Technology
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics
- Spanish
- Theatre Studies

The Complementary Curriculum adds breadth and enrichment to individual programmes. Pupils are also able to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), or our very own ‘Leadership, Sport and Adventure’ or ‘Maths for Science’ courses as timetabled options. International pupils may also opt to take IELTS as an option. In addition, there are many lectures and other activities of an academic nature to enhance and broaden students’ Sixth Form experience. Students applying for Oxbridge are monitored and supported by departments and both specialist teaching in timetabled periods and interview practice are provided as appropriate. All students receive extensive careers guidance throughout the two years of study.

Jon Tyler  
Deputy Head (Academic)

Reviewed: September 2020  
Next Review: September 2021