

ELLESMERE COLLEGE CURRICULUM POLICY

AIMS:

The school aims to:

- ensure that pupils develop the essential literacy and numeracy skills;
- provide pupils with a full and rounded entitlement to learning;
- foster pupils' creativity and develop essential skills, including learning skills;
- promote a healthy lifestyle;
- inspire pupils to a commitment to learning which will last a lifetime; and
- promote high standards in all learning and teaching.

The curriculum is planned to provide a broad and balanced education and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and of society and prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It is based on the guidance provided by the National Curriculum.

Pupils are expected to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy skills.

Personal, social, health and citizenship education reflecting the College's aims and ethos, Careers guidance is planned within the PHSE programme and through specific careers events

Religious education is provided for all pupils up to year 9 and is available as an option subject at KS4. As a Woodard school all pupils attend Christian Chapel services.

The College offers an appropriate programme of extra-curricular activity for all pupils.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the school aims to make the curriculum accessible to all pupils as far as is reasonably practicable.

DIFFERENTIATION:

A variety of differing teaching and learning methods and materials are used in all courses to suit pupils' different needs. The Learning Support department provides IEP's for all pupils identified with specific learning needs and these inform class teachers of individual learning styles.

A gifted and talented register is produced each academic year by the G & T Co-ordinator which informs class teachers of pupils particularly able in specific subject areas so that work can be set to stretch an enquiring mind. A Scholars' programme is scheduled each term to provide stimulating opportunities to pupils awarded Academic or Arts Scholarships.

SUBJECTS OFFERED:

The following subjects are compulsory in years 3 to 8:

English	Maths	Science	French
Design & Technology	ICT	Geography	PHSE
History	RS	PE	Music

In addition Latin and Spanish is introduced in year 7 and continues into year 8. Some pupils may be withdrawn from a subject, usually French or Latin for Learning Support/EAL lessons. This is only done in negotiation with parents.

Pupils sit an examination by the English Speaking Board in years 6, 8, 10 and 12.

Science is taught combined in years 4 to 7, but taught separately from year 8.

In year 9 the pupils have the opportunity to choose subjects to allow a pre-GCSE taster course, but the majority of subjects remain compulsory:

English	History
Maths	Geography
Biology	RS
Chemistry	ICT
Physics	PHSE/Careers

Pupils will sit national tests KS3 SATs, in the core subjects in May of year 9 and results are used to assist in tracking progress.

In addition 4 subjects chosen from:

French	Music	Spanish
Drama	Latin	Technology
Art	Classical Civilisation	Design Graphics

Pupils are encouraged to continue with MFL although those with dyslexia often choose not to continue with a language other than English.

In Years 10 and 11 all pupils study English, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They choose four subjects from:

Art & Design	History
Business Studies	Information Technology
Classical Civilisation	Latin
Design – Graphical Communication	Media Studies
Drama	Music
French	Physical Education (gcse)
Geography	Religious Studies
Spanish	

In addition all pupils in each year group will have a general PE and games lesson.

A number of overseas pupils (German) join us for one year in year 11 as a pre-IB course of study. This course stands separately to the two year GCSE course and will lead to either IGCSE or short course GCSE. The following subjects are compulsory in pre-IB; Maths, English, Science, History, Geography and German.

Post 16

Students entering the sixth form must have at least 5 grade C passes at GCSE and can choose between an A level path or IB. A small number of overseas students will follow a Sixth Form Foundation course which is designed to improve their English prior to starting A levels the following year. They will have intensive English lessons every morning and will join other classes, usually pre-ib classes, in the afternoon.

Students entering the Sixth Form to study AS levels must choose **one** subject from **four** of the six blocks shown below. All four will be taken at AS level.

All students will usually take AS General Studies, a certificate in English Speaking and the Key Skills of Information Technology.

AS Circuits September 2007 to July 2008

A	B	C	D	E	F*by negotiation
Art	Chemistry	Design	Business	Biology	Psychology
Biology	History	English	Geography	French	GCSE Eng
Business	Music	Geography	Maths	Media Studies	GCSE Maths.
Design	P.E.	Sociology	Govt & Politics	Physics	EAL
Economics	Spanish		Theatre Arts	P.E.	Further Maths
ICT					
Sociology					

IB Circuits September 2007 to July 2008

	Group 1 Native Language	Group 2 Second Language	Group 3 Individuals & Societies	Group 4 Experimental Sciences	Group 5 Mathematics	Group 6 The Arts and electives
Higher Level	English	English as a Second Language	History	Biology	Mathematics	Theatre Arts
	German	French as a Second Language (B)	Economics	Physics		Chemistry
	Self study native language		Business Studies			Geography
						Spanish second language (B)
						English as a second language
						Visual Arts
						Music
Standard Level	English	English as a Second Language	History	Biology	Mathematics	Theatre Arts
	German	French as a Second Language (B)	Economics	Physics	Mathematics Studies	Chemistry
	Self study native language	Spanish <i>ab initio</i> *	Business Studies	Eco Systems and Societies		Geography
						Spanish second language (B)
						English
						Visual Arts
						Music

DISAPPLICATION

The College has the right to respond to individual needs by modifying the Curriculum programmes, or disapplying the National Curriculum for the duration of Key Stage 4, to:

- allow a pupil with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area; and
- allow a pupil making significantly less progress than other pupils of his/her age to consolidate his/her learning and progress across the curriculum.

Decisions about any of the above will only be made after discussion with the pupil and parent.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education is compulsory for all pupils in years 3 to 9. As a Woodard school the curriculum emphasises Christianity in years 3 to 7 although other religions are included in part of the scheme of work. Year 8 pupils are provided with a programme of the study of World Religions leading to the opportunity to sit a short course GCSE in year 9.

Collective Worship:

All pupils are expected to take part in collective worship. The school has a programme of collective worship involving weekly Chapel services. School assemblies focus on the celebration of achievements and usually include a music or drama contribution by pupils

SEX EDUCATION:

The school provides sex education in the basic curriculum for all pupils, in which pupils are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. The science based aspects are taught through biology lessons and the wider aspects including relationships and respect are delivered through the PHSE programme.

A full statement of the school's sex education policy is available to parents. It has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and parents, and takes into account the views of representatives from the community.

In accordance with the law the biological aspects of human reproduction remain compulsory for all pupils, but parents may withdraw their children from any other part of the sex education provided without giving reasons.

POLITICAL EDUCATION:

The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school is forbidden by law. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner.

PE AND GAMES:

All pupils are expected to take part in the school's Physical Education and Games programme. Pupils can only be excused from PE and Games lessons for medical reasons, for which a note from a parent will suffice, or other reasons agreed with the school.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

The school has a wide and varied programme of cultural and sporting activities that take place outside the formal curriculum. All pupils are expected to take part in the programme and participate in the expeditions that are scheduled through the year.

PREP:

The school expects prep to be set as appropriate and there is a separate policy and schedule as an appendix.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school has a special educational needs policy for statemented and non-statemented pupils. The school will determine the appropriate courses in consultation with the parents.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS:

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of the curriculum should discuss these in the first instance with the pupil's tutor.

If the issue is not resolved parents should make an official complaint in writing to the Head.

MONITORING AND REVIEW:

This policy will be monitored by the Deputy Head Academic, who will report to the Head on its implementation on a regular basis.

The Head will report to the College governing body, the School Council on the progress of the policy and will recommend any changes.

Appendix 1

PREP TIMETABLE

2007/8

MIDDLE SCHOOL

All pupils are expected to enter their name onto the front page of their diary. They must copy their lesson timetable and prep timetable onto the appropriate pages and all prep set must be written in.

Year 9

20 minutes allocated per subject, per day.

	Yr 9	R	A	V	E	N
Monday	Science Block Z	Geog	History	History	History	RS
Tuesday	English Block W	RS	Geog	Geog	Geog	History
Wednesday	English Maths					
Thursday	Maths Block X	History	RS	RS	RS	Geog
Friday	Science Block Y					

		Set 1	2	3	4	5
<i>Monday</i>	Science	Chem	Biol	Phys	Biol	Phys
<i>Friday</i>	Science	Phys	Phys	Chem	Phys	Chem
<i>Friday</i>		Biol	Chem	Biol	Chem	Biol

Year 10

40 minutes allocated per subject, per day

Monday	Maths	Science				
Tuesday	Science	Option Block B				
Wednesday	Maths	Option Block A				
Thursday	English	Option Block D				
Friday	English	Option C	Science			
		Set 1	2	3	4	5
<i>Monday</i>	Science	Biol	Chem	Biol	Biol	Phys
<i>Tuesday</i>	Science	Phys	Biol	Phys	Phys	Biol
<i>Friday</i>	Science	Chem	Phys	Chem	Chem	Chem

Year 11

40 minutes allocated per subject, per day

Monday	Maths	Option Block B				
Tuesday	English	Science	Option Block A			
Wednesday	Maths	Option Block D				
Thursday	Science	Option Block C				
Friday	English	Science				
		Set 1	2	3	4	5
<i>Tuesday</i>	Science	Biol	Chem	Phys	Phys	Biol
<i>Thursday</i>	Science	Chem	Biol	Biol	Chem	Phys
<i>Friday</i>	Science	Phys	Phys	Chem	Biol	Chem

PREP TIMETABLE 2007/8 LOWER SCHOOL

Subject time for prep is **20 minutes** per subject.

Teachers please note
Tasks should normally be individual tasks that can be completed by the pupil in a supervised environment.
Research tasks should be set for weekend or holidays when pupils will be more able to access information. If a research task is set in the week please note that pupils have limited access to the library (breaks and lunch only) and will find it difficult to complete any lengthy research activity. They are not allowed to the library during prep time.

Form Tutors/English Teacher

Please ensure that all pupils have a reading book of their own choice with them when in supervised prep. They will be given reading time once they have finished their work.

YEAR 8	8N	8S	8E	8W
MONDAY	Maths French Physics	Maths French Physics	Maths French Geography	Maths French Geography
TUESDAY	Maths English History	Maths English Biology	Maths English Latin	Maths English History
THURSDAY	English Chemistry Latin	English History Latin	English Biology History	English Latin Physics
FRIDAY	Biology Geography	Chemistry Geography	Chemistry Physics	Biology Chemistry

YEAR 7	7N	7S	7E	7W
MONDAY	Maths Latin	Maths History	Maths Latin	Maths History
TUESDAY	Maths Science	Maths Science	Maths Geography	Maths Science
WEDNESDAY	English French	English French	English RS	English Latin
THURSDAY	English Geography	English Geography	English History	English RS
FRIDAY	History RS	Latin RS	French Science	French Geography

YEAR 6	
MONDAY	English
TUESDAY	French
WEDNESDAY	Maths
THURSDAY	English
FRIDAY	Maths

YEARS 5	
MONDAY	Maths
TUESDAY	English
WEDNESDAY	Spelling & Times Tables
THURSDAY	Maths
FRIDAY	French

YEARS 3 & 4	
MONDAY	Maths
TUESDAY	English
WEDNESDAY	Maths
THURSDAY	French
FRIDAY	Spelling & Times Tables