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WARWICK JUNIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

Warwick Junior School provides full-time supervised education for boys aged 7-11. The WJS curriculum and our teaching aim to offer an academic challenge which enables each boy to realise his potential and caters for the aptitudes of all pupils in the school, including those with special educational needs and those identified as the most able. Knowing the boys as individuals and attending to their physical and mental well-being underpins all that we do.

WJS provides an engaging and stimulating learning environment which encourages all boys to acquire a love of learning and promotes an independent work ethic. Pupils enjoy a wide range of sporting, cultural and adventurous activities, through which they can learn to work co-operatively and take a lead. Through the academic and co-curricular programmes, pupils acquire the key skills of speaking, listening, literacy, IT and numeracy, as well as developing, particularly in PSHEE and RE but also in other subjects, their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding, and their knowledge and understanding of fundamental British values.

All boys take part in our Developing Learning Strengths programme, which is embedded across the curriculum. This focuses on 8 learning strengths: independence, resilience, reflectiveness, focus, empathy, communication, responsibility and creativity. By developing these aspects of their character, our aim is for the boys to be more effective in all situations, both in school and their wider lives, thus helping them to rise successfully to new challenges.

Overview

Most boys enter the School at 7 (Year 3) and the vast majority transfer to the Senior School at 11. Boys are arranged in mixed-ability classes throughout the school; provision for SEND, EAL and More Able pupils is provided, details of which are documented separately. All boys follow a weekly timetable of ten 30 minute periods a day. School Assemblies, Chapel, PSHEE and Form periods are timetabled throughout the week.

The curriculum is designed to provide an appropriate balance across subject areas (see table below) and to foster the wider development of our pupils' linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative understanding and skills. Generous lesson allocation is given to sporting, creative and practical subjects, while ensuring that Maths, English and Science are given sufficient time befitting their core

subject status. All subjects are taught throughout the year.

Lower School – Year 3 and Year 4

The Lower School curriculum is designed to introduce pupils to a range of academic and creative subjects, while at the same time allowing them to settle and adjust to life in a busy school. The year groups are divided into three forms, all following the same curriculum.

Subjects studied are English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Languages (French in Year 3; two terms of French, one term Spanish in Year 4), RE, Music, Art, Design & Technology, PE & Games, PSHEE and Performing Arts.

Lower School boys spend much of their day with their Form Tutors, who will teach them for the core subjects (English, Maths and Science), PSHEE and at least one other subject. Subject specialists also teach Languages, Computing, Music, Art, Design & Technology, PE & Games.

Upper School – Year 5 and Year 6

The year groups are divided into three forms, all following the same curriculum.

The subjects studied are English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Languages (two terms of French, one term of Italian/German in Year 5 or Spanish in Year 6), RE, Music, Art, Design & Technology, PE & Games, PSHEE and Performing Arts. From the summer term of year 5 to the senior school entrance examination in the November of Year 6, boys are prepared for ability tests in verbal and non-verbal reasoning instead of the weekly RE lesson. Boys in the Upper School are taught by subject specialists; PSHEE is taught by the Form tutors.

After the senior school examinations, Year 6 boys are involved in a range of activities to complement their normal lessons. This includes transition work, a collaborative, cross-curricular group project leading to a public presentation and involvement in the Year 6 play.

All curriculum content is documented in the Termly Curriculum Overviews issued to parents for each year group.

Curriculum Planning

Our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum but is adapted to suit our pupil profile and give them the best educational experience possible. The curriculum is kept under on-going review by the Director of Studies with the Subject Leaders - we keep abreast of educational reform and consider new initiatives, adopting those we feel will enhance our curriculum.

Each subject leader is responsible for the long and medium term planning for their subject, which underpin the short-term weekly/lesson plans written by the subject planning lead for the year group. The Subject Leader is responsible for writing and implementing an annual subject development plan, in consultation with the Director of Studies.

Co-curricular activities

A wide range of enrichment activities complement the timetabled curriculum. Boys are taken to places of interest and specialist workshops are arranged in school which link to the taught curriculum. Residential visits are organised annually for pupils in all year groups. These help to develop teamwork, responsibility, resilience and independence, in a very different environment from school.

From Year 3 to Year 6 all boys work towards achieving their awards for the WJS Diploma. The Diploma encourages and recognises participation, independence, ‘having a go’, aiming higher, community involvement, self-reflection and goal-setting.

An extensive range of clubs and activities enhances the curriculum; boys have numerous opportunities to develop interests and talents in music, sport, drama, art, chess, fencing, martial arts, engineering, critical thinking and many other areas.

Each WJS year group has a Link day with Warwick Preparatory School at least once a year. Staff from both schools plan and deliver sessions to enable boys and girls to get to know one another and collaborate on purposeful activities.

Timetabled Curriculum Overview 2023-4

| | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Subject | Hours per week or equivalent | Hours per week or equivalent | Hours per week or equivalent | Hours per week or equivalent |
| English | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Maths | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Science | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Geography | 0.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| History | 0.5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Languages | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSHEE | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| RE | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Computing | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Art | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Design & Technology | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Music | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Performing Arts | 0.75 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Games | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| PE | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |