



Policy:	<i>CURRICULUM POLICY</i>
Applies to:	<i>Warwick Senior School Pupils</i>
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Signed:	

CURRICULUM POLICY WARWICK SENIOR SCHOOL

Aims

Warwick Senior School provides full-time supervised education for pupils ages 11-18 which gives them experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative education. Every pupil at Warwick School should have the opportunity to learn and make progress. The School provides, through its curriculum, subject-matter appropriate for the 11-18 age range and caters for the aptitudes of all pupils in the school, including those with special educational needs (including where pupils have a statement) and those identified as Gifted and Talented. Through the curriculum provided, pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. In addition, Warwick School looks to provide a PSHEE curriculum that reflects the school’s aims and ethos, appropriate careers guidance for pupils in the Senior School and ensures that all pupils receive adequate preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British Society. In addition; a programme of activities that meets the needs of pupils above compulsory school age is provided.

At Warwick, it is our aim to maximise every pupil’s academic potential. While our curriculum is broad and encompassing of a full range subjects and examinations results consistently place us among the leading boys’ schools in the country, we recognise that to be successful requires our pupils to develop as learners.

To facilitate their learning, at whatever stage of their Warwick school career, all pupils are encouraged to adopt the school’s learning values.

Overview

The curriculum at Warwick School provides for pupils in full-time supervised education from the ages of 7 – 11 (in the Junior School) and 11- 18 (in the Senior School), thus covering pupils of compulsory school age. The curriculum is designed to provide a balance between subject areas (specifics detailed below) but also to encourage the wider development and experience of education in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative skills. While some specific subjects will naturally lend themselves to the acquisition of speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills, all subjects recognise their role in developing these.

All pupils follow a two week timetable of six, 50 minute periods a day. The full curriculum diagram, with numbers of periods allocated to each subject, is presented on the School Website and in the Staff Memoranda and Academic Guidance for parents.

The timetable allows time for selected year groups to undertake specialist lessons. These include such areas as well-being, careers and the extended project qualification which is undertaken by vast majority of the Lower Sixth year group on a topic of their choosing. In addition, each Friday afternoon is reserved for Activities. This provides opportunities for pupils to participate in a wide ranging extra-curricular programme of school and community based activities.

All pupils attend one Chapel Service per week, and one period of Theology and Philosophy is part of the compulsory core for Year 7 to the Year 10.

School assemblies, chapels and Form periods are timetabled for the start of the school day. PSHEE is taught in timetabled lessons by specialist teachers.

The PSHEE programme and policy is documented separately but provides the main vehicle through which British values are actively promoted and through which spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils is achieved. This includes the requirements of the values of British democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Appropriate consideration of the issues highlighted over racism in recent times is also given. Within the same PSHEE programme, consideration of differing political viewpoints and prevention of radicalisation are considered. While the PSHEE (and related programme of assemblies and chapels) is extensive in this regard, individual departments are required to demonstrate and document (through departmental documentation) how their particular subject areas contribute to SMSC and, where appropriate, the promotion of British values.

The curriculum from Year 7 to Year 11 covers a wide range of subjects and we ensure that it is balanced so that choice at Sixth Form level and higher will not have been unduly restricted by earlier decisions.

Most pupils enter the School at 11 (Year 7). The forms are not streamed on entry. The forms are the pastoral unit and are House based, with pupils staying on the same House for their school career. Currently all forms make up the 6 Houses in each year group but the school's strategic plan is to move to mixed age form groups within sections composed of boys from the same House. Teaching groups in years 8 -9 will be distinct from form groupings. Teaching groups are reorganised at the end of Year 7,8 and 9 (the latter being the creation of option groups and sets for GCSE subjects).

In addition to the formalised curriculum there is an extensive range of academic extension (for example through a timetabled academic enrichment period in Lower Sixth, subject specific societies) and support (through academic clinics, pupil mentors and revision classes). Provision for SEND, EAL and Gifted and Talented pupils is provided, details of which are documented separately.

The curriculum also provides the opportunity for an extensive array of Activities. From Year 9 - 13, a dedicated programme of Activities is provided for pupils (in Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form jointly with the King's High School). In Years 7 and 8, the extensive clubs and societies programme (which continues in the later years) also provides many opportunities for pupils outside of the classroom. The full details of the Activities programme are documented separately in school publications.

A dedicated Careers department with a Head of Careers and administrative secretary drive the provision of careers education within the school. This provision is documented separately, including the opportunities for work experience, careers related educational visits and where careers specific lessons are integrated into the curriculum.

The structure of the school day, schedule for pastoral periods and other significant curriculum information is contained with the Staff Memoranda and the Academic Information booklet provided for parents at the beginning of each school year.

Year 7

The Year 7 curriculum is designed to introduce pupils to a range of academic and creative subjects, while at the same time allow them time to settle and adjust to life in a busy school.

The year group is usually divided into six teaching groups, all following the same curriculum.

The subjects taken are English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Latin, Geography, History, Computing, Drama, Music, Art, Design Technology (DT), Religion and Philosophy and Physical Education. On entry two modern foreign languages are studied from a choice of French, German and Spanish. The Year Group has two sessions of games per week, with School team games played on a Saturday. In addition, all pupils have the opportunity to learn a new musical instrument free of charge.

One timetabled period a fortnight is devoted to personal and social development and one to IT specific skills.

Year 8

The Year 8 curriculum follows a similar pattern to Year 7, building upon the work undertaken and setting the foundations for GCSE level study.

The year group remains divided into six teaching groups. There may be some setting by subject, based on academic ability in that subject.

The Year Group has one afternoon session of games per week, with School team games played on a Saturday.

One timetabled period a fortnight is devoted to personal and social development and one period to critical thinking.

Year 9

Year 9 marks a significant point in a Warwick School pupil's education. While in the majority of subjects GCSE level content will be taught, there is a much greater element of choice regarding subjects taken.

The year group remains divided into six or seven teaching groups. There may be some setting by subject, based on academic ability in that subject. All forms take Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, a modern foreign language (French, German or Spanish) Geography, History, Theology and Philosophy and Physical Education.

In addition, pupils choose an additional four subjects from the following two groups (at least one subject from each group):

Group A French, German, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Classical Civilisation

Group B Computing DT, Art, Drama, Music

The year group has one afternoon session of games, with School team games played on Saturdays. One afternoon per week is reserved for the Activities programme. Various half/full day activities deliver the PHSEE programme in this year group.

Year 10 and Year 11

These are the main GCSE years. At Warwick we enter pupils for both GCSEs and International GCSEs. Departments are free to choose which courses they believe will best enthuse, challenge and suit Warwick School pupils. This policy is kept under constant review.

The year group is normally divided into six forms, and these are the base for administrative arrangements and pastoral care. However the teaching is organised on set or option principles. This allows different teaching groups for different subjects and permits, as appropriate, setting based on academic ability in those subjects.

All boys take a core curriculum of English (Language and Literature), Mathematics (Additional Mathematics will also be studied for the top sets), two separate science (chosen from Biology, Chemistry, Physics), a modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish) and in Year 10 only non-examined Philosophy.

One period a fortnight is devoted to the teaching of PHSEE in Year 10 and Year 11.

Pupils then choose 4 further options from the extensive list of subjects available:

Art, Biology, Chemistry Classical Civilisation, Computing, Design Technology, Drama, French, German, Greek, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Physics, Spanish.

Year 10 and Year 11 each have one afternoon session of games, with School team games played on Saturdays. One afternoon per week is reserved for the Activities programme.

Full details of the GCSE curriculum are available in the GCSE Curriculum booklet.

The Lower and Upper Sixth (Years 12 and 13)

The Sixth Form represents a significant change in lives of many of our pupils. Smaller teaching groups, university style seminars, time for private study as well as the introduction of new subjects for study, make the Sixth Form experience both challenging but hugely rewarding for Warwick School pupils.

In terms of curriculum, Warwick has looked to respond positively to the challenges presented by A level reform. All pupils are now entered for linear A levels and (with the exception of occasional individual circumstances) AS levels are not sat. We believe that focusing on the full A Level with a linear approach to subject choice will allow pupils to study in more depth their chosen subjects, be able to develop the school's learning values at a higher intellectual level and ultimately be much better prepared for university and life beyond.

All pupils are required to choose three subjects to study at A level. For more academically able pupils, a fourth subject may also be chosen. We endeavour to provide teaching for any desired combination of subjects from the following list:

Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Computing, Design Technology, Drama, Economics, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics*, German, Greek, Geography, Government and Politics, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Religion and Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Spanish.

*Pupils taking Further Mathematics must take 4 A levels.

In the Lower Sixth all pupils take part in the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme. A timetabled period of Academic Enrichment for all Lower Sixth pupils which is subject based take place once a week, combined with a short careers programme for all pupils in the year group. Pupils also have the opportunity to study for the Extended Project Qualification with supervision and the necessary skills lessons provided within curriculum time. All boys participate in an extended range of activities on one afternoon per week.

Games occupy one afternoon session and School teams have a full set of fixtures on Saturdays.

In some cases we collaborate with King's High School so that pupils of one school might be taught jointly and/or attend lessons at the other institution.

The Enrichment Programme continues in the Upper Sixth. In the Michaelmas Term, where lessons are offered in academic subjects for students interested in pursuing their subject knowledge beyond A level. Included in these periods are preparation for STEP, BMAT and other university aptitude tests.