CURRICULUM POLICY
2019 - 2020

Curriculum aims at The John Lyon School
The aims of the curriculum at John Lyon are to enable all students to develop:

• a practical understanding of the School Values: Ambition; Excellence; Innovation; Resolve; Heritage; Community; Enquiry; Creativity;
• a sense of enquiry, the ability to question, solve problems and argue rationally;
• a willingness to apply themselves and an aptitude for learning and progression;
• knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and employment in the changing world, including competence in ICT use;
• literacy, numeracy, speaking and listening skills (including linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative);
• creativity, critical awareness, empathy and sensitivity;
• a recognition of their own and others’ achievements, in School and beyond;
• self-worth, self-esteem, self-awareness and self-confidence;
• SMSC aspects, in part through the PSCHE / Union programmes;
• the skills of working as an individual and as a member of a group or team;
• appropriate moral, social, cultural and spiritual values; tolerance of others, to value each individual and to learn to live together in an atmosphere of mutual respect;
• an awareness of the pupil’s place in the community and opportunities for service to each other and to the community;
• British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
• preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

The curriculum policy and aims/ethos of the School does not discriminate against pupils contrary to Part 6 of the Equality Act 2010. Responsibility for the effective implementation of this policy lies with the Head who delegates to the Director of Studies. Heads of Department, Heads of Year, individual subject teachers and support staff also have a key role to play in its delivery.

The curriculum policy is reviewed annually.

The School timetable
The John Lyon School operates an 85-period week; there are 17 periods Monday to Friday with lessons typically lasting either 40 or 60 minutes depending on the subject being studied. Provision is made for assembly/tutor time in each year group.

Mixed ability teaching, setting and differentiation
Pupils are taught in both mixed ability and set groupings; within mixed ability and set groups teachers provide differentiated learning, approaches and materials to cater for all their students’ needs.
Class sizes
Class sizes vary depending on the subject and set/group but the teacher-pupil ratio is excellent ensuring greater focus on pupils as individuals within the class.

Schemes of work, lesson planning and homework
The curriculum policy is supported by schemes of work and each department has schemes of work for all of its courses/programmes related, where appropriate, to the National Curriculum and/or examination board requirements. Schemes of work are followed by all departmental staff and monitored by Heads of Department. Schemes of work establish how the course content is structured, so that students’ skills, knowledge and understanding are developed progressively. Schemes of work are supported by assessment strategies/methods for ensuring beneficial and informative assessment. Departments also have marking policies which all staff follow.

The curriculum policy and schemes of work take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those with an EHC Plan. Members of the Learning Support Department and occasionally Sixth Form subject mentors can also be allocated to specific pupils; they may attend lessons, when needed, in a supporting role.

Homework is provided for all students with appropriate time given for all students to complete the work set. It is marked in line with the whole school and departmental marking policies.

Year 7 & 8
All boys study the following subjects (number of periods given in brackets):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Learning (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSP (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Studies (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of Year 8, pupils are required to choose five subjects from the following:

- French
- Spanish
- Art
- Drama
- Latin
- Music

Year 9
All boys study the following subjects (number of periods given in brackets):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Learning (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Studies (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSP (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCP (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, they study 5 of the following subjects:

- French (4)
- Spanish (4)
- Latin (4)
During Year 9, boys choose six options for IGCSE/GCSE to add to their core curriculum under the following guidance:

- We strongly recommend that every pupil study at least two sciences from: Biology, Chemistry or Physics. All pupils must study at least one science.
- We recommend that every pupil study at least one humanities subject from: Geography, History or Religious Studies.
- We recommend that every pupil studies at least one creative subject: Art, Drama or Music.
- We recommend that every pupil studies at least one language from: French, Spanish or Latin.

**Year 10 & 11**

**GCSE CORE Subjects**
- English Language (IGCSE)
- English Literature (IGCSE)
- Mathematics (IGCSE)

**GCSE OPTIONAL SUBJECTS**
- Biology (IGCSE)
- Chemistry (IGCSE)
- Physics (IGCSE)
- Art
- Drama (IGCSE)
- Music
- French
- Spanish
- Latin
- Geography (IGCSE)
- History (IGCSE)
- Religious Studies/Philosophy
- Computer Science

The majority of pupils total study for nine IGCSE/GCSE subjects. Studying nine (I)GCSE subjects will allow students to access the top universities by achieving the highest grades across a range of subjects. Studying nine GCSE subjects will also give our students the best foundation for progression onto their A-Level studies, with plenty of opportunity for stretch and challenge within their curriculum.

An additional Mathematics qualification may be studied by selected top set Mathematics students. All pupils learn the skills required to complete The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) in the Summer of Year 10. Pupils have the option of completing the award and many do so in Year 11.

**Non–examined subjects**
- PE
- Games
- CCP

Study skills/careers work is delivered through the tutorial / CCP programme.

**Sixth Form**

Students entering the John Lyon Sixth Form have selected either 3 or 4 A-Level subjects to study. Students reduce this to 3 A-Level subjects, by the latest, following their University Prediction Examinations early in the Summer Term. From September 2020, starting with 4 subjects will only be available to exceptional candidates.

The following subjects are available at A-Level:
- Ancient Greek
- Economics
- Music Technology
Art       English Literature       Philosophy
Biology   French                 Physics
Business Studies   Geography       Politics
Chemistry          History        Psychology
Classical Civilisation Mathematics Spanish
Computer Science       Further Mathematics
Drama                Music

Attendance to the Union programme is compulsory, as part of the co-curricular programme. Suitable students may be eligible to participate in the EPQ programme which commences in the Lower Sixth.

Non–examined subjects
Core PE      Games        CCP

Study skills/careers work is delivered through the tutorial / CCP programme.

Study leave
A period of study leave is scheduled for students taking public examinations in the summer (Year 11 and Upper Sixth).

Learning support/EAL curriculum provision
Our Learning Support Department assists and supports any students who have additional educational requirements whether this be learning difficulties or English as an additional language. The Learning Support Department supports all students with an EHC Plan.

This sometimes involves a programme of lessons on a one-to-one or small group basis in addition to being monitored by subject staff during normal lessons.

All students have the right to access the curriculum, regardless of their ability. Students, whether they have learning difficulties or not, have an equal opportunity to participate in the full curriculum of our school and any additional activities. Students with learning difficulties are encouraged to become independent and take responsibility within School. Refer to the SEND and Learning Support Policy for more details.

Excellence - able, gifted and talented provision
John Lyon provides opportunities for pupils who are gifted in some way. Each department details their provision for Excellence – Gifted, Able and Talented students within their department handbook. There is a cohort of Able, Gifted and Talented students collated by the Excellence team, who benefit from extra-curricular activities to enrich and challenge them. This may involve trips to cultural events or mind-stimulating lectures as well as in-house workshops and discussion groups. The older Able, Gifted and Talented students are encouraged to run workshops for younger pupils and act as leaders on trips. Refer to the Excellence, Able, Gifted and Talented Policy for more detail.

Co-curricular/extra-curricular programme
All pupils participate in the Co-Curricular Programme on Friday afternoon from 14:00-16:00. During the Autumn and Spring Terms:
- Years 7 and 8 complete a carousel of academic, physical and skills-based activities for two hours.

- Years 9, 10 and 11 pupils choose one weekly activity during the Autumn Term and a different weekly activity that they attend during the Spring Term. These take place between 14:00-14:40.

- Years 9 & 10 complete a programme of activities from 14:40-16:00 which include: Combined Cadet Force (CCF); Duke of Edinburgh’s Award; Leadership; Learning Skills; Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) and Debating.

- The Sixth Form attend a weekly Union lecture from 14:00-14:40.

- Year 11 and the Sixth Form choose an activity which is based around gaining a qualification or serving the community from 14:40-16:00.

In the Summer Term, each year group carries out its own educational project. Full details of the Co-Curricular Programme, along with descriptions of the activities offered can be found here: [https://www.johnlyon.org/school-life/co-curricular-programme/](https://www.johnlyon.org/school-life/co-curricular-programme/)

Revision sessions and clinics are offered at GCSE and A-Level across all subjects; these can be used by students to gain additional one-to-one support, seek clarification of an aspect of their study and/or to simply reinforce their learning. These sessions are run by subject staff.

TJL
September 2019