

# CURRICULUM POLICY

## Curriculum aims at The John Lyon School

The aims of the curriculum at John Lyon are to enable all pupils 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;
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development (SMSC) aspects, in part through the PSCE programme, to value each individual and to learn to live together in an atmosphere of mutual respect;
- the skills of working as an individual and as a member of a group or team;
- 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 the aims and ethos of the School do 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 Assistant Head (Academic). Heads of Department, Heads of Year, individual subject teachers and support staff also have key roles 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 setted classes; within all classes teachers provide differentiated learning, approaches and materials to cater for all their pupils' 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 pupils' 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 pupils with appropriate time given for all pupils to complete the work set. It is marked in line with the School's Assessment, Homework and Marking policy and departmental marking policies.

## Years 7 & 8

All pupils study the following subjects (number of periods given in brackets):

Mathematics (8)	English (8)	Digital Learning (4)
Biology (4)	Chemistry (4)	Physics (4)
Geography (4)	History (4)	RSP (4)
French (4)	Spanish (4)	Latin (4)
Art (3)	Drama (3)	Music (3)
PE (3)	Games (6)	CCP (6)
STEAM (3)		

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

French	Art
Spanish	Drama
Latin	Music
	STEAM

## Year 9

All pupils study the following subjects (number of periods given in brackets):

Mathematics (8)	English (8)	Digital Learning (4)	Academic Studies (2)
Biology (5)	Chemistry (5)	Physics (5)	
Geography (4)	History (4)	RSP (4)	
PE (3)	Games (6)	CCP (6)	

Additionally, they study 5 of the following subjects:

French (4)	Spanish (4)	Latin (4)
Art (4)	Drama (4)	Music (4)

## STEAM (4)

During Year 9, pupils 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 & Philosophy.
- 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.

## Years 10 & 11

### GCSE Core Subjects

English Language (IGCSE)

English Literature (IGCSE)

Mathematics (IGCSE)

### GCSE Optional Subjects

Biology (IGCSE)

Chemistry (IGCSE)

Music

Art

Drama (IGCSE)

Latin

French

Spanish

Religious Studies & Philosophy

Geography (IGCSE)

History (IGCSE)

Computer Science

Physics (IGCSE)

The majority of pupils study nine IGCSE/GCSE subjects. Studying nine (1)IGCSE subjects will allow pupils to access the top universities by achieving the highest grades across a range of subjects. Studying nine (1)IGCSE subjects will also give our pupils 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 pupils.

From the Spring Term in Year 10, all pupils learn the skills required to complete the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ). Pupils have the option of completing the award and many do so in Year 11.

### Non-examined subjects

PE

Games

Co-Curricular Programme

Study skills/careers work is delivered through the tutorial and Co-Curricular Programme.

### Sixth Form

Students entering the John Lyon Sixth Form select 3 A-Level subjects to study. Exceptional candidates are permitted to study a fourth subject by application via email to the Director of Studies and Head of Sixth Form during options selection.

The following subjects are available at A-Level:

Art

Economics

Music

Biology

English Literature

Music Technology

Business

French

Philosophy

Chemistry

Geography

Physics

Classical Civilisation

History

Politics

Classical Greek  
Computer Science  
Drama

Latin  
Mathematics  
Further Mathematics

Psychology  
Spanish

Attendance at the Goldhawk Lecture Series is compulsory.

Suitable students may be eligible to participate in the EPQ programme which commences in the Lower Sixth.

### **Non-examined subjects**

Games

Co-Curricular Programme

Study skills/careers work is delivered through the tutorial and Co-Curricular Programme.

### **Study leave**

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

### **Learning support/EAL curriculum provision**

The Learning Support Department assists and supports any pupils who have additional educational requirements whether this be learning difficulties or English as an additional language. The Learning Support Department supports all pupils 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 pupils have the right to access the curriculum, regardless of their ability. Pupils, whether they have learning difficulties or not, have an equal opportunity to participate in the full curriculum of the School and any additional activities. Pupils with learning difficulties are encouraged to become independent and take responsibility within School. Refer to the [SEND and EAL 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 within their department handbook. There is a cohort of Able, Gifted and Talented pupils, 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 pupils are encouraged to run workshops for younger pupils and act as leaders on trips. Refer to The Excellence Programme for more detail.

### **Co-Curricular Programme**

Pupils participate in the Co-Curricular Programme on Friday afternoons from 2.00-4.00pm.

During the two terms:

- Years 7-9 complete a range of compulsory PSCE and Academic Studies activities 2.00-2.40pm.
- Years 10 and 11 choose one weekly activity during the Autumn Term and a different weekly

activity for the Spring Term between 2.00-2.40pm.

- Years 7 and 8 complete a carousel of academic, physical and skills-based activities 2.40-4.00pm.
- Years 9 and 10 then complete a programme of activities from 2.40-4.00pm which include: Combined Cadet Force (CCF); Duke of Edinburgh's Award; Leadership and Learning Skills.
- The Lower Sixth spend the first 40 minutes in Independent Study sessions whilst the Upper Sixth complete a carousel of PSHCE activities.
- Year 11 have a second option from 2.40-4pm where they choose a new activity to take part in which may include the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) as part of an additional GCSE qualification. Lower Sixth have the similar options but also have the opportunity to lead an activity or volunteer externally, through school-based placements or ones organised by themselves. To do this they must apply to the Head of Sixth Form. There are also opportunities to lead small groups of Primary School children in a range of activities, both on site and in local schools.
- Currently the Upper Sixth can take part in an activity from 2.40-4pm or have the option to leave school, provided that they are not on the Sixth Form List. They will also have the option to take part in volunteering placements or our Primary School Partnerships, similarly to the Lower Sixth.

In the third 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/>

Revision sessions and clinics are offered at GCSE and A-Level across all subjects; these can be used by pupils 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  
Assistant Head (Academic)  
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