



CURRICULUM POLICY – APPENDIX 1 CURRICULUM PLAN

The Curriculum at Merchant Taylors' School has seen significant changes over the last decade in order to remain the most effective for our pupils and their learning. Having experimented with 30 minute and 60 minute lessons, the settled pattern is now that most lessons last 60 minutes. There has been an increase in A Level teaching time, as well as timetabled provision for extension lessons and subject specialist supervision of this. The curriculum has a focus on pupil choice wherever possible and desirable. Pupils now make their choices for GCSE in the Spring of the Fourth Form and start their GCSE subjects during the Summer Term of that year. A broader review of the Fourth Form curriculum took place in the academic year 2021-22 and extra 30 minute lesson was added so that PSHE could be included in the fortnightly cycle.

The school operates a Week A / Week B timetable. In practice weeks are nearly identical for most pupils, but some lessons occur only in alternate weeks, and occasionally timetabling constraints mean that pupils may have a subject taught unequally over the two weeks, but averaged out to meet the allocated fortnightly hours established below. The following outlines the subject allocations for the various year groups in the School.

The Third Form and Upper Third Form (Years 7 & 8)

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English	6
Maths	5
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
MFL	4
Latin	4
Drama	1
Computing	1
Religious Studies	2
History	3
Geography	3
Music	2
PSHCE	1
PE	2
DT	2
Art	2
Year group assembly / Form Time / Study Skills	3
Curriculum Games	2
TOTAL	49

The Fourth Form (Year 9) – until early Summer Term

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English	5
Maths	5
Chemistry	3
Physics	3
Biology	3
Religious Studies	2
History	3
Geography	3
PE	2
DT	2
Art	2
Computing	2
PSHE	1
Option 1	4
Option 2	4
Option 3	4
Curriculum Games	2
TOTAL	50

Options – one must be a MFL
French
Spanish
German
Latin
Latin & Greek
Music
Drama
Sports Science
Classical Civilisation

Since the academic year 2019-20, pupils in the Fourths choose their GCSEs during the Spring Term, and move on to their GCSE timetable around Week 3 or 4 of the Summer Term.

The Middle School (Years 10 & 11)

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English	7
Maths	6
Chemistry	4
Physics	4
Biology	4
MFL	5
PSHCE	1
PE	1
Option	5
Option	5
Option	5
Curriculum Games	2
TOTAL	49

The Upper School (Years 12 & 13)

The Lower Sixth are taught for 10 x 60 minute lessons a fortnight for each of their 4 subjects in the Autumn Term. They also have an introductory extension programme and private study that term.

Most pupils step down to three subjects from January of the Lower Sixth. The hours which become available allow pupils to join our full extension and enrichment programme, which includes timetabled provision for an Independent Study Course, time with an Academic Supervisor, a weekly lecture and a choice of academic and broader extension lessons.

In the Upper Sixth, pupils continue to be taught for 10 x 60 minute lessons a fortnight per subject, but with more Private Study periods, alongside a few lectures. Many pupils opt to take an academic extension class in the Upper Sixth too, which runs through until Christmas.

Careers

Careers Education is provided in every year-group. It is delivered through assemblies, PSHE lessons, off-timetable days and Form times as well as via individual interviews and meetings. It is also taught in academic lessons, with curriculum links being drawn wherever possible.

Deputy Head (Academic)
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