



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, with further change to the Lower School curriculum planned over the coming two years. Most lessons last 60 minutes, although there are 30 minute lessons for some subjects in Year 7. 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.

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 (Year 7)

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English (incorporating Drama)	6
Maths	5
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
MFL (French & German)	5
Latin	3
Religion & Philosophy	3
History	3
Geography	3
Music	2
Core PE	2
Design, Engineering & Technology	2
Art & Design	2
Computer Science	2
PSHE	2
Curriculum Games (Fri p5 for all Y7)	4
TOTAL	50

The Upper Third Form (Year 8)

Subject	Hours per fortnight
English (incorporating Drama)	6
Maths	5
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
MFL (French, German & Spanish)	5
Latin	3
Religion & Philosophy	3
History	3
Geography	3
Music	2
Core PE	2
Design, Engineering & Technology	2
Art & Design	2
Drama	0
Computer Science	2
Year group assembly / Form Time / Study Skills	0
PSHE+	2
Curriculum Games (Tue & Thu)	4
TOTAL	50

The Fourth Form (Year 9) (until May of the academic year)

Subject	Hours per fortnight at present
English Language & Literature	5
Maths	5
Biology	3
Chemistry	3
Physics	3
History	3
Geography	3
Religion & Philosophy	2
Art & Design	2
Design, Engineering & Technology	2
Computing	2
MFL choice (French, German, Spanish)	4
Further Option 1	4
Further Option 2	4
PSHE	1
PE & Curriculum Games	4
TOTAL	50

Fourth Form optional subjects as follows:

Classical Civilisation

Drama

French

German

Greek/Gratin

Latin

Music

Spanish

Sport Science

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
PSHE	1
Option	5
Option	5
Option	5
Curriculum Games	4
TOTAL	50

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)
August 2026