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Wetherby Senior School

Curriculum Policy

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Job title: Deputy Head Academic

Last review date: June 2024

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Relevant ISI coding (if applicable):



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Background

Wetherby Senior School is an 11-18 boys', academically selective, independent day school. It provides full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age.

In accordance with The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations, DfE 2014 the curriculum offered incorporates experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. It embraces both the prescribed and optional learning opportunities provided by the school.

This policy outlines the Wetherby Senior School curriculum in terms of its aims and construction. It should be read in conjunction with the:

- Individual subject departments' schemes of work
- Learning Support and Special Educational Needs Policy
- English as an Additional Language Policy
- PSHE policy and schemes of work
- Careers Education Policy

For further details regarding implementation, please refer to the following policies and procedures:

- Assessment Policy;
- Literacy Policy;
- Presentation of Work;
- Homework Policy;
- Marking Policy;
- Examinations Policy;
- Tracking Academic Performance Policy;
- Reporting Policy;
- Monitoring and Evaluating Teaching and Learning;
- Monitoring and Supporting Departments

Wetherby Senior School runs a two-week timetable, and students may not have precisely the same lessons in Week A as they do in Week B.

Principles and Aims

The aims of the Wetherby Senior School curriculum are:



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- to provide an excellent education to all pupils, whatever their individual needs, which will develop their capability for academic growth;
- to provide a broad and balanced range of subjects and learning opportunities appropriate to pupils' ages and levels of study, in stimulating learning environments which inspire enthusiastic participation;
- to empower all pupils to learn effectively and make good progress whatever their aptitudes, aspirations and abilities, including those with special educational needs and those with particular abilities;
- to enable pupils to acquire and develop learning skills and transferrable skills such as speaking and listening, literacy, numeracy and digital skills in the teaching of the subjects offered, maintaining focus upon academic progress;
- to provide, progressively, a level of choice in the curriculum offer which meets
 - individuals' needs, abilities and interests;
- to enable pupils to develop logical, critical and imaginative thinking skills to a high level across a full range of academic disciplines including philosophy;
- to facilitate and support each pupil's development personally, socially and culturally;
- to encourage the growth of healthy, balanced and well-adjusted pupils who enjoy their time at school;
- to foster energetic and positive pastoral care and ensure that the personal, social and health education helps pupils to develop resilience as they learn to exercise choice and to take personal responsibility in the adult world
- to encourage and provide opportunities to serve the school community and develop personal qualities of leadership, initiative, judgement, sensitivity, tolerance and understanding of the needs of others;
- to promote fundamental British values, such as democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance amongst those of different faiths and beliefs;
- to provide a framework which enables pupils to achieve excellence in the sports
 - offered;
- to further cultural and aesthetic understanding and appreciation through the visual arts, music, drama and language and to continue to achieve this beyond the formal framework of provision, for example in concerts, dramatic productions and exhibitions;
- to provide appropriate and up to date careers guidance and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life so that they can make informed choices about a broad range of career and study options and have agency in their lives.

Vision

In this way the curriculum serves the school's aims of:

- To cultivate the belief that excellent progress in all areas of School life is the reward of effort. In particular, we aim to instil in our pupils an understanding that the right effort put into developing key learning habits and taking responsibility for academic work leads to excellent progress; learning how to learn is the best preparation for a happy and successful future in a changing world; everyone has the potential for personal and academic growth.



- To provide excellent teaching, supported by excellent resources, which enables our pupils to attain high levels of academic achievement. Significant value-added performance will produce outstanding examination results that enable our pupils to gain places at top universities in the UK and abroad.
- Through high quality pastoral care, to provide an environment in which all members of the community feel supported and secure enabling the School to equip the boys to make the most of their lives and to contribute positively to the lives of others. Guided by a PSHE programme that develops an understanding of the importance of physical, emotional and mental well-being, the boys are helped to develop the self-reflective capacities and pursue proven strategies which will allow them to maintain their well-being now and preserve it in their future lives.
- To provide a diverse, high quality co-curricular programme that helps every pupil discover and develop their talents. The programme challenges the boys, encourages a breadth of interests and develops character, creativity and teamwork.
- To provide a range of leadership opportunities that will allow our pupils to develop the skills necessary to have a positive impact on the lives of others.

Objectives

To fulfil our aims, our objectives are:

To provide academic lessons in 6, 55-minute periods each school day, according to the shape of the day, below:

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
9.05-10.00	10.05-11.00	11.20-12.15	12.20-13.15	14.15-15.10	15.15-16.10

Between 8.25 and 9.05, an additional session will run which incorporates independent study, Public Speaking, Assemblies and time for students to spend with their with tutors on pastoral and academic matters, or additional PSHE.

Break is between 11.00 and 11.20, and Lunch between 13.14 and 14.15.

Within the timetable, all students in Years 9-13 have 2 periods of Games and 1 period of P.E. onsite. Year 7 and 8 students have 4 weekly periods of Games. These and other exceptions to academic lessons taking place in p1-6 are as follows:



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
1	CYCLE TEST – whole school	Y11X PE or	Y10X PE or	Y9X PE Onsite	Y7 + 8 Games	
		Y11Y CYCLE TEST	Y10 Y CYCLE TEST			
2	Y12/13 CYCLE TEST	Y11Y PE or	Y10Y PE or	Y9Y PE Onsite		
		Y11X CYCLE TEST	Y10X CYCLE TEST			
3	Y12 PE onsite	Y13 PE onsite	PSHE – whole school			
4						
5	Y7 + 8 Games	Y9 Games offsite	Y11, 12, 13 Games on/ offsite	Y10 Games offsite		
6					ACTIVITIES – whole school	

Sixth Form students may also receive some private study lessons to complete independent work in their A Level courses.

Curriculum Content

In the Lower School, all students study English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Latin, Drama, Art and Design, Music, Philosophy, Computing, PSHE, Careers Education and RSE, and two Modern Foreign Languages from French, German and Spanish.

In Year 9, all students study English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, Drama, Art and Design, Music, Philosophy, Computing, PSHE, Careers Education and RSE, and two Languages from Latin, French, German and Spanish.



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In Year 10, all students study English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and four GCSE options in addition to PSHE and RSE, Careers Education and Philosophy. GCSE options must contain a Humanities subject (History, Geography or Classical Civilisation) and a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish). 2 further GCSE options are then selected from the following list:

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Graphic Design
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Another modern foreign language
- Additional humanity subjects

In Year 11, students continue with their programme of study from Year 10, with the exception of Philosophy, which is not offered in Year 11.

In Years 12 and 13, students study 3 A Levels and either Further Maths or the EPQ, in addition to PSHE, RSE, and the A Level+ Programme which contains lectures, Liberal Studies, UCAS support and Careers Education.

It is not customary to take 4 A Levels outside this framework but a student with a language of fluency may make an application through the Head of Sixth Form to take this language as a 4th option rather than the EPQ or Further Maths. The final decision as to whether a 4th A Level that is not EPQ/Further Maths is possible for a student, lies with the Deputy Head; Academic.

Summary of Curriculum Across School – periods per fortnight

Please see the following page



Year	English	Maths	Science	MFL (2)	Latin	Geography	History	Computing	Drama	Art and Design	Music	Philosophy	Games	Prep	PSHE	Cycle Testing	Activities	Total	
7	6	6	8	6	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	8	1	2	2	2	2	60
8	6	6	8	6	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	8	1	2	2	2	2	60
9	6	6	9	8		3	3	3	2	3	2	2	6	1	2	2	2	2	60
				MFL	Humanity	Option 3	Option 4					Philosophy	Games		PSHE	Cycle Testing	Activities	Total	
10	6	7	12	5	5	5	5					1	6		2	4	2	2	60
11	7	7	12	5	5	5	5						6		2	4	2	2	60
	Option 1*	Option 2*	Option 3*	Option 4*	Liberal Studies	Additional Private Study							Games	Prep	PSHE and A Level+	Cycle Testing	Activities	Total	
12	11	11	11	11	2								6		2	4	2	2	60
13	11	11	11	11	0	2							6		2	4	2	2	60

* unless the student takes 4 A Levels, one of these 4 option blocks will comprise 4x EPQ and 7x Private Study in Y12, or 11x Private Study in Y13