



LOUGHBOROUGH High School

CURRICULUM POLICY

Reviewed August 2018

The curriculum at Loughborough High school aims to provide:

- full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age;
- for pupils to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;
- subject matter appropriate for the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils including those with an EHC plan;
- for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy;
- personal, social, health and citizenship education which reflects the school's aims and ethos including the promotion of fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act;
- accurate, up-to-date careers guidance which is presented in an impartial manner, enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and helps and encourages them to fulfil their potential;
- a programme of activities which is appropriate to the needs of pupils above compulsory school age;
- for all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress;
- effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

An overview of the curriculum

Linguistic education and the development of communication skills are provided mainly by the English, modern languages and classics departments although promoting effective communication is a part of every aspect of school life. Lessons in English, French, German and Spanish include specific teaching of listening, speaking, reading and writing. All teaching, except for the use of target languages, is in English.

Mathematics courses provide the main source of mathematical education although many other subjects (sciences, economics, psychology etc) also contribute to this and the development of numeracy skills. The mathematics department aims to enable students to develop a genuine feeling for how numbers fit together, to apply mathematics in everyday situations and to other subjects, to carry out calculations and solve problems, estimating whether or not an answer is reasonable and understanding the significance of results.

Schemes of work for year 7 and 8 science, biology, chemistry and physics give details of the provision of scientific education in the school. The acquisition of knowledge and

understanding about forces, materials and nature underlies the curriculum in these subjects but the development of experimental skills is considered equally important. Students engage in practical work in all science courses, designing and carrying out experiments, then recording and interpreting the results. Students are encouraged to formulate well-informed opinions on scientific issues.

Courses in food, ICT and computer science contribute to the technological education of students but the use of ICT pervades the curriculum through the 1:1 iPad project. In food students are able to develop their ability to plan, create and evaluate their work and communicate their findings. The ICT curriculum provides the skills needed for effective communication through electronic means. Computer science includes programming products, which are evaluated and improved.

Human and social education is mainly provided through the teaching of courses in history, geography, religious studies, classics and psychology. History gives students an understanding of the past and how the values and actions of our predecessors have shaped the present. Geography covers the study of the human and physical world, helping students to develop informed concern about the quality of the environment, the future of the earth's habitat and the global effects of human actions.

Physical education is taught throughout years 7-11 and recreational activities afternoons continue this provision for the sixth form. PE aims to promote healthy lifestyles, making students exercise conscious and aware of the benefits for both physical development and stress relief. The development of motor skills and body awareness take place alongside learning tactics in team games and creativity in gymnastics.

Art, music and drama play a major part in providing aesthetic and creative education. Literature is studied in classical civilisation and ancient and modern languages as well as English literature. Students are enabled to express their personal responses to established works and create, compose and write using their original ideas, both individually and in groups.

All year groups follow a PSHCE programme appropriate to their age and needs which includes economic education. This consists of work in groups with a specialist PSHCE teacher, form tutors and other staff (including matron). Visiting speakers and external agencies work with whole year groups on appropriate occasions. Topics covered include diversity, drink and drugs education, homophobia, mutual respect, personal security, relationships, stereotyping and study techniques.

Careers education starts formally in year 9 as pupils choose their GCSE options and encourages them to explore their personal strengths and interests as they progress. Futurewise testing is used to assist with this before sixth form courses are chosen and pupils are encouraged to use ISCO resources in selecting careers and HE courses.

The head of learning support is in regular communication with those pupils with EHC plans, their parents and teachers to ensure that the requirements of their plans are met, they are taking appropriate courses and able to make progress.

The school does not keep a formal gifted and talented register, believing that extension and enrichment activities should be available to all pupils. For more details, refer to the Able, Gifted and Talented Learners policy.

The curriculum is reviewed frequently to ensure that changing needs are addressed and, where relevant, changes are implemented to promote the pursuit of excellent standards for all the pupils.

The curriculum by year group

In year 7 all pupils study art and design, drama, English, food, geography, history, ICT, Latin, mathematics, music, physical education, religious studies and science. All pupils study each of French, German and Spanish on a rotation basis.

In year 8 all pupils continue with these subjects including one language and take up Latin.

From year 9, science is taught as biology, chemistry and physics. This is the start of the IGCSE courses in these subjects. In this year pupils choose a second language from French, German, Spanish and Classical Greek, and select whether to continue studying Latin or take classical civilisation. They also chose two subjects from: art and design, drama, food, computer science or music. Careers lessons and interviews with staff help pupils to choose their GCSE option subjects.

In the years 10 and 11 the majority of pupils study ten subjects at GCSE level. Seven of these are the core subjects of English, English literature, a modern language, mathematics and the three sciences. Option choices are: art and design, classical civilisation, classical Greek, computer science, drama, French, geography, German, history, home economics (food and nutrition), Latin, music, physical education, religious studies and Spanish.

Physical education lessons continue for both years and religious education for year 10.

In the sixth form pupils normally pursue AS, or equivalent, courses in year 12 and A level courses in year 13. Most pupils choose four subjects for AS, taking the exam in one subject in the summer of year 12 and continue with the other three for A level in year 13.

The subjects offered are: applied science, art, biology, business, chemistry, classical civilisation, classical Greek, computing, drama and theatre studies, economics, English literature, French, food science and nutrition, further mathematics, geography, German, government and politics, history, history of art, Latin, mathematics, music, music technology, physical education, physics, psychology, religious studies and sociology, Spanish. Some subjects in the sixth form are taught jointly with Loughborough Grammar school and Amherst school.

The timetable is constructed as far as possible around the pupils' choice of subjects but groups for subjects need to be viable, usually comprising at least seven pupils.

Ability setting is used where appropriate in years 7-11 but the majority of teaching is in mixed ability groups.

To broaden their horizons further all pupils in the sixth form follow a course of enrichment in years 12 and 13. This provides opportunities to pursue a variety of activities, some leading to additional qualifications. The options currently include joining the CCF, Young Enterprise, EPQ and core maths. One afternoon a week is spent on recreational activities in the sixth form.

Additional qualifications are offered on an extra-curricular basis at appropriate points in the upper part of school. These currently include Financial Capability and Sports Leadership qualifications.

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Related documents

Departmental schemes of work

SMSC grid