



KEY STAGE 3

(Years 7 to 9) The schemes of work in the Senior School are informed but not constrained by the National Curriculum. We provide a broad and balanced programme to include Mathematics, English Language, Science, Technology, ICT, French, A second modern foreign language from Year 8 (Spanish or German), History, Geography, Art, Music and Physical Education. During KS3 we also introduce subjects such as Classics, Latin and Drama. The three Sciences are taught separately by subject specialists. All students have a weekly PSHE lesson that includes Citizenship aspects that are also delivered across the curriculum and, in particular, are embedded in schemes of work for RS, Geography and History. Cross-curricular themes are pursued regularly with an emphasis upon breaking down barriers between subjects and the development of cross-curricular projects. Year 7 undertake an Integrated Studies course that seeks to develop a range of transferrable skills through a thematic approach.

KEY STAGE 4 (Years 10 and 11)

The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 is linked to the GCSE syllabuses. At present, unless there are extenuating circumstances, all our students follow GCSE syllabuses in English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language and either the three separate Sciences or a Science and Additional Science course. They also have the opportunity to choose other option subjects according to their interests, future career plans and the confines of the timetable. We advise girls to study as broad a curriculum as possible at this stage and their choices should include an humanity and a creative subject. The option system allows the flexibility for a student to study an additional humanity or a second modern foreign language or an additional creative subject or a third individual science. The current list of optional subjects on offer is available in the Upper School Academic Guide that is updated each September. The majority of students study 9 or 10 subjects while a minority studies 8 or 11 subjects. Students with English as an Additional Language are assessed for their ability to join the English Language and Literature GCSE courses and MFL GCSE courses or receive EAL support in preparation for IELTS qualifications. (See separate EAL and MFL policies). If appropriate and subject to ability and demand, students are able to study for an additional GCSE in Statistics, Further Mathematics, Greek, Mandarin or Chinese outside normal curriculum time. Year 10 Students are also able to undertake the Level 2 Project Qualification.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ETHICS

Irrespective of their personal commitment all girls attend lessons of Religious Education or Ethics up to and including Year 9. Religious Studies is available as a GCSE and A Level option and moral and ethical issues form a core component in the Life Skills programme for all students in Years 10 and 11. The Sixth Form Life Skills programme includes discussion of ethics and moral issues. The work covered is wide ranging both in approach and content. By studying many faiths it is hoped that the girls develop tolerance of others' views and a spiritual dimension. The School does not ever seek to impose specific views on any of the students but rather to widen their horizons in order that they can make their own choices.

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Information and Communications Technology is used across the curriculum and also taught as a subject in its own right. A Computer Science GCSE was introduced in September 2012. The emphasis is on development of skills and progression: Word Processing, Databases, Spread sheets and Graphic Packages. These skills then enhance learning and presentation in all subjects. 'Logo' programming introduces the concept of computer control, and students consider the uses, costs, and benefits of technology in everyday life. Computers are networked and have CD ROM facilities as well as 'Microsoft Office' software and other specialist packages. INTERNET access is available from all machines across the site. The Learning Resource Centre and staffed computer suites allow all students to access ICT resources at lunchtime and after school. A suite of twenty laptops is available for use in the preparation of controlled assessment and external examinations in a dedicated room.

CAREERS EDUCATION and GUIDANCE (C.E.G)

The School has an extensive programme of C.E.G. which starts in Year 9 and continues throughout the Senior School and the Sixth Form. The Head of Careers and the Sixth Form Tutors are responsible for Higher Education C.E.G. Two very well equipped Careers rooms, one in the Learning Resource Centre and one in the Sixth Form Centre, are available for use throughout the day and also at other times by arrangement. Parents are welcome to make use of the information in these rooms to help their daughters make informed career choices. The School considers this part of its curriculum to be exceptionally important and prides itself on providing all its students with the best possible individual careers education and guidance at all times.

THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form curriculum embraced all the changes resulting from the reform of post-16 qualifications that took effect from September 2000. A full review of the Sixth Form curriculum was undertaken in 2007 as a part of the Senior School Curriculum Review and in preparation for the reform of A Levels for first teaching in September 08. We offer a flexible "Pathways" programme allowing students to choose combinations of subjects and supporting enrichment activities that are appropriate to their individual needs and aspirations.

Details of the Sixth Form arrangements can be found in the Sixth Form Academic Guide that is updated each September and subject flyers that are available upon request.

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

The Sixth Form Curriculum comprises the following AS/A2 level subjects in 5 option blocks, with a period allocation of 7 or 8 thirty five minute periods per week.

Art	Geography	Psychology
Biology	German	Religious Studies
Business Studies	History	Spanish
Chemistry	Latin	Resistant Materials
Classical Civilisation	Mathematics	Textiles

Economics	Media Studies	Theatre Studies
English Literature	Music	
French	PE	
Further Mathematics	Physics	

Sixth Form students attend three periods of PE lessons and two periods of Life Skills or lectures. Students are able to select from a range of voluntary enrichment courses including the Extended Project Qualification, The European Computer Driving License and specific support for university entry. AS level subjects have a standard allocation of 7 periods per week. An additional "+1" period is allocated for each subject to allow staff to work with any students who require individual support. Science subjects are allocated an additional period to allow a treble practical session.

The working week for the Sixth Form may be based on a 10 period day.

The Curricular Enrichment Programme

This is subject to continuing review.

The Head of Careers Education and Guidance oversees the development of Life Skills programmes from Year 10 to Lower Sixth.

Year 9	Study Skills/Health Education/CEG/Moral and ethical issues
Years 10 & 11	Life Skills Programme: Health Education/CEG/Moral and Ethical Issues Community Service, Current Affairs, including varied input from professionals and other outside speakers. European Computer Driving License The Level 2 Project Qualification (AQA)
Sixth Form	Enrichment 1 - Life Skills and Lecture Programme Enrichment 2 - (Optional) including: Extended Project Qualification European Computer Driving Licence University Entrance Preparation