

# CURRICULUM POLICY (SENIOR SCHOOL) 2019-20

## Educational Philosophy

### St Lawrence College is committed to

- Developing independent thinkers and knowledgeable young people who can aspire to high achievement and have a love for learning that will last their lifetime
- Providing a rich, varied and broad education that develops the diverse talents of the pupils
- Encouraging their self-confidence allied to courtesy and graciousness
- Producing compassionate young people who will actively make the world a better place and who will be emotionally intelligent as well as spiritually aware

Academic performance is of paramount importance but is placed within the context of the overall spiritual, moral and social development of the pupils.

The core aims of the school include

- Establishing best practice with regard to Teaching and Learning, within a curriculum which inspires and stretches all pupils of all abilities but is delivered so as to be differentiated to their specific abilities
- Growth in self-reliance, recognising the importance of thinking and learning skills, and the development of a love of learning
- Developing a balanced academic life with a curriculum providing full scope for sports, activities and the arts, as necessary components in a full and rounded education
- Maintaining Christian values and worship at the heart of the school's life and developing an understanding of service to others as an intrinsic part of good community living and citizenship

These aims should inform and shape department schemes of work and lesson planning.

### Guidance

Beyond the academic curriculum, pupils at St Lawrence pupils are given additional guidance to help them prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society and enable them to make appropriate choices as they move between Key Stages and beyond.

This guidance is incorporated in timetabled lessons as detailed below:

Years 7 and 8: within Religious Studies classes and also the enrichment programme in Tutor periods.

Year 9, 10 and 11: within Tutor periods which includes careers education and option choice guidance. The School uses a careers service, Fast Tomato, to inform and provide guidance.

Years 12 and 13: within ACE sessions. This programme of lectures and talks, given by visiting speakers and college staff, covers a wide range of guidance and information about career and higher education options as well as some PSHE aspects. Careers staff also offer individual advice to pupils. The School uses UniFrog to guide and manage the UCAS applications process.

Taught programmes are also augmented by special events, such as Careers Fairs.

Through these means, pupils receive accurate up-to-date guidance that is presented in an impartial manner and enables them to make appropriate career and education choices. They are encouraged to understand themselves and others and identify their own particular strengths and weaknesses.

It is an integral part of the ethos of St Lawrence College that all pupils learn respect for others and that all are encouraged to fulfil their potential – whether academic, sporting, cultural or otherwise.

### **Setting and Streaming**

Pupils are set by ability in Mathematics and French in Years 7 to 11. They are also set for English in Years 9 to 11 and in Sciences in Years 10 and 11.

In Years 7 to 9 other subjects are generally taught in Form Groups which are streamed with at least one upper stream and the others in parallel streams.

Pupils are initially placed in sets and Form streams based on prior achievement and results from ability tests. These placements are reviewed regularly in the light of progress and performance over the year with the aim of providing the most supportive and encouraging environment for pupils to learn.

*For the curriculum details that follow, lessons are in units of 55 minutes.*

## Key Stage 3 Years 7 to 9 overview

The curriculum is designed to both develop essential key skills and provide a broad and balanced programme.

Pupils follow a Core Curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science and French.

In addition pupils study a range of subjects from the Arts, Humanities and Technologies to provide a foundation from which GCSE option choices can be made.

The academic programme is augmented by Religious Studies courses and Tutor periods which incorporate elements of PSHE, social and life skills.

All pupils take part in a Sport and Physical Education and choose from a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

AEN and EAL classes can be taken in place of French. Strong linguists can also study Latin alongside French.

### Years 7 & 8 Curriculum (Kirby Forms 1 & 2)

Kirby is a half way house between the Prep school years and membership of the Upper School Houses in Year 9. With smaller class sizes, a day structure appropriate to their age and a more flexible curriculum, pupils find the progression natural and unthreatening. Lessons are based on 55 minute sessions.

**Total 37 (55 minute) periods a week (some will be Activities and Prep / Study Periods).**

Core Subjects	English	Mathematics	French (or AEN or EAL)	Science
Periods a week	4	4	4	4
Creative and Technical subjects	Design & Technology	Art	Music	Drama
Periods a week	1	1	1	1
Foundation Subjects	Geography	History	Religious Studies	ICT
Periods a week	2	2	1	1
Other	Games	Extra-curricular Activities	Supervised Daytime Prep and Form Periods	Tutor Time
Periods a week	4 plus Saturday afternoon matches and additional games	3 Saturday mornings	3 days a week	1

## Year 9 Curriculum (Form 3)

The Form 3 curriculum aims to provide a secure foundation for GCSE studies in core subjects and allows selection of six subjects from a broad range of options so that informed decisions can be made on subjects for GCSE study next year.

A core of English, Mathematics and the Sciences is taken by all pupils. For those who do not have English as a first language there is the option of studying English as an Additional Language (EAL) instead of English Language.

Six further Option Subjects are chosen providing a total of eleven subjects studied.

Pupils who do not have AEN or EAL support are expected to take a Modern Language (French or Spanish) as one of these four options. It is possible to study both French and Spanish. Pupils who have a good background in Latin may choose this as one option subject.

In order to achieve breadth and keep GCSE options open, pupils choose a minimum of two subjects from the Humanities group and a minimum of two subjects from the Creative & Performance group. A pupil from overseas taking EAL as the main English course can also choose Additional EAL as an option if more language support is needed.

Games or Extra Curricular activities sessions take place on 5 afternoons a week.

Note that it is possible for a pupil to take AEN or EAL as well as French or Spanish.

### Total 41 (55 minute) periods a week (some will be Activities and Study Periods).

Core Subjects	English Language or EAL	Mathematics	Science (Dual or Triple subject)	
Periods a week	4	4	9	
Options	Six subjects chosen from: Art & Design, Drama, Music, Design & Technology, Computing, Physical Education, Geography, History, Religious Studies, French, Spanish, Latin, Additional EAL, AEN.			
Periods a week	Each Option subject is timetabled for 2 periods a week.			
Development Course	Tutor Time	Supervised Daytime Prep and Form Periods	Extra-curricular Activities	Games
Periods a week	1	2	2	6

## Key Stage 4 - GCSE Years 10 & 11 Curriculum (Forms 4 & 5)

All pupils follow a two year GCSE programme.

A core of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and the Sciences is taken by all pupils. For those who do not have English as a first language there is the option of studying English as an Additional Language (EAL) instead of English Language and Literature.

Four further Option Subjects are chosen from those studied in Year 9, providing a total of ten GCSE subjects. Pupils who do not have AEN or EAL support are expected to take a Modern Language (French or Spanish) as one of these four options. It is possible to study both French and Spanish.

Games or Extra Curricular activities sessions take place on 5 afternoons a week.

### Total 41 (55 minute) periods a week (some will be Activities and Study Periods).

Core Subjects	English Language and English Literature or EAL	Mathematics	Science (Dual or Triple subject)	
Periods a week	4	4	9	
Options	Four subjects chosen from: Art & Design, Drama, Music, Design & Technology, Computing, Physical Education, Geography, History, Business Studies, Religious Studies, French, Spanish, Latin, Additional EAL, AEN.			
Periods a week	Each Option subject is timetabled for 3 periods a week.			
Development Course	Tutor Time	Supervised Daytime Prep and Form Periods	Extra-curricular Activities	Games
Periods a week	1	3	2	6

## Key Stage 5 Years 12 & 13 Curriculum (The 6<sup>th</sup> Form)

St Lawrence College aims for educational excellence with all students achieving the best grades they possibly can. The 6<sup>th</sup> Form is a transition from the very structured learning of the GCSE years to the development of the capacity for independent thought and study which is required for the higher education courses at university that nearly all of our Upper 6<sup>th</sup> will proceed to. This progression requires an understanding of the potential of each student, their strengths and weaknesses and a careful monitoring of their application and achievement.

Pupils take three (or four subjects exceptionally). The Extended Project Qualification programme is also available in addition to the GCE and BTEC courses.

AEN and EAL support classes are available in both years.

In addition to the GCE and BTEC programmes, all Lower 6<sup>th</sup> pupils attend an Academic and Cultural Enrichment course which includes lectures by visiting speakers, a Citizenship programme, Study Skills and Careers sessions amongst other elements designed to equip all these pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for life after the 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

Pupils who have not achieved passes in GCSEs Mathematics and/or English are allocated to re-sit classes, and EAL courses leading to either the IELTS qualification or IGCSE are available.

Games or Extra Curricular activities sessions take place on 5 afternoons a week.

When not attending lessons 6<sup>th</sup> Form pupils have Study Periods (generally supervised in the Library in the Lower 6<sup>th</sup>). Upper 6<sup>th</sup> pupils study in their rooms or 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre unless there are concerns about their progress, in which case they will be supervised in the Library.

### Total 41 (55 minute) periods a week (some will be Study Periods).

<b>Option Subjects</b>	(2019-20) Art & Design, Photography, Design & Technology, Music, Music Technology, Physical Education, Drama & Theatre Studies, Media Studies, English Literature, French, German*, Spanish, Geography, History, Philosophy & Ethics, Psychology, Business, Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics				
Periods a week	5 periods a week (Lower 6 <sup>th</sup> ) 6 periods a week (Upper 6 <sup>th</sup> ) for each option subject				
<b>Development Course</b>	ACE	Games	Extra Curricular Activities	Tutor Time	Study Periods
Periods a week	1	6	2	1	All remaining periods



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Version No.	Revision Date	Summary of change	Approved by	Updated by