



## ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE

# CURRICULUM POLICY (SENIOR SCHOOL) 2020-21

### **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 Tutor Time and other sessions. A programme of PSHE topics, lectures and talks, given by visiting speakers and college staff, covers a wide range of guidance and information about career and higher education options. 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 and sciences in Years 9 to 11.

In Years 7 and 8 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 their needs as learners. These placements are reviewed regularly in the light of performance over the year with the aim of providing the most supportive and encouraging environment in which pupils will make the greatest progress.