



CURRICULUM POLICY (SENIOR SCHOOL)

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 our social vision which emphasises the importance of kindness, community, positivity and respect
- Producing compassionate young people who will actively make the world a better place and who will be emotionally intelligent as well as spiritually aware
- Promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

This is summarised in our academic vision statement: **Lawrentians love learning and are independent, confident and curious**

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

The core aims of the school include providing an outstanding holistic education which caters for the individual, and we aim to do this by:

- 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 (HPL), 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 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.

High Performance Learning

High Performance Learning (HPL) is an established teaching and learning framework that recognises that every pupil can be a high performer and it aims to create students who have the values, attitudes and attributes that enable them to meet the challenges of adult life. These aims align with those of the College and therefore HPL is featured throughout College life, most explicitly through teaching and learning. Each academic department provides opportunities in lessons for pupils to develop HPL skills and attributes most pertinent to the subject area.

Pupils will learn to identify and use advanced thinking skills in a systematic way as well the key values, attitudes and attributes for successful learning, such as resilience and open-mindedness. Our aim is to maximise the performance of every pupil, ensuring that they leave school equipped with the knowledge, skills and qualities that will serve them well for

university, the workplace and life.

Guidance

Beyond the academic curriculum, pupils at St Lawrence 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. Expert careers guidance is provided to all year groups through the PSHE programme and delivered by our qualified Head of Careers

This guidance is incorporated in timetabled lessons as detailed below:

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

Year 9, 10 and 11: within Tutor periods which includes careers education around option choice guidance.

Years 12 and 13: within Tutor periods. This programme delivered by College staff and visiting speakers covers a wide range of guidance and information about career and higher education options as well as PSHE.

The Head of Careers supports pupils from the 4th form upwards, through regular and frequent one-to-one meetings where bespoke advice is provided. Such meetings are also available and offered to younger pupils in the school.

Taught programmes are 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 Science in Years 9 to 11.

In Years 7 to 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 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 Modern Foreign Languages

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, Careers Education, social and life skills.

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

AEN and EAL classes can be taken in place of a language.

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 the Third form. 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 35 (55 minute) periods a week

| 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 | PE |
| Periods a week | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | Games | Extra-curricular Activities | Supervised Daytime Prep and Form Periods | Tutor Time |
| Periods a week | 4 | 1 plus 3 Saturday morning activities | 3 days a week | 1 |

Year 9 Curriculum (Form 3)

The Third form curriculum aims to provide a secure foundation for GCSE studies in core subjects and allows for the 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.

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.

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 39 (55 minute) periods a week (plus 2 Games on Saturday afternoon).

| 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, Physical Education, Geography, History, Religious Studies, French (3), Spanish (3), Additional EAL, AEN (3) | | | |
| Periods a week | Each Option subject is timetabled for 2 periods a week. Modern languages, EAL and AEN have 3 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 (September 2025 onwards)

Years 10 & 11 Curriculum (Forms 4 & 5)

Most 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.

Three further Option Subjects are chosen from those studied in Year 9, providing a total of 9 GCSE subjects. It is possible to study both French and Spanish. Pupils may also opt to work on the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) as an additional course.

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

Total 39 (55 minute) periods a week (plus 2 Games on Saturday afternoon).

| Core Subjects | English Language and English Literature or EAL | Mathematics | Science (Dual or Triple subject) | |
|--------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|-------|
| Periods a week | 5 | 5 | 10 | |
| Options | Three subjects chosen from: Art & Design, Drama, Music, Design & Technology, Physical Education, Geography, History, Business Studies, Religious Studies, French, Spanish, 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 6th Form)

St Lawrence College aims for educational excellence with all students achieving the best grades they possibly can. The 6th 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 6th 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). In the L6th, all pupils take part in the Extended Enrichment Programme, where they follow an individual pathway, initially completing a 1500 word essay, then opting to take The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), or a massive open online course (or MOOC), a Sports Leader Qualification or virtual work experience. Exceptions to this are those pupils taking English as an Additional Language (EAL).

AEN support classes are available in both years.

Pupils who have not achieved passes in GCSE 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 6th Form pupils have Study Periods (generally supervised in the Library in the Lower 6th). Upper 6th pupils study in their rooms or 6th Form Centre unless there are concerns about their progress, in which case they will be supervised in the Library.

Total 39 (55 minute) periods a week (plus 2 Games on Saturday afternoon).

| Option Subjects | Art & Design, Photography, Design & Technology, Music, Media Studies, English Literature, French, Spanish, Geography, History, Philosophy & Ethics, Psychology, Business Studies, Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Sport A Level | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Periods a week | 6 periods a week (Lower 6 th) 6 periods a week (Upper 6 th) for each option subject | | | | |
| Development Course | Games | Extra Curricular Activities | Tutor Time | Extended Enrichment Programme (L6 th only) | Study Periods |
| Periods a week | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | All remaining periods |

| Version No. | Revision Date | Summary of change | Approved by | Updated by |
|-------------|---------------|--|-------------|------------|
| 1.1 | 18.12.20 | Updates to Guidance section to reflect the use of Tutor Periods | TM | TM |
| 1.2 | 11.8.21 | Updates to activities and Tutor periods in Kirby, removed reference to ACE programme in Sixth form and updated information relating to study periods | TM | BRP |
| 1.3 | 5.10.23 | Updates to subject offer | TM | BRP |
| 1.4 | 14.2.25 | Updates to subject offer and changing GCSE curriculum | BGD | KBP |
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