



DEAN CLOSE
SCHOOL
CHELTENHAM

**Independent, Co-educational, Day and Boarding
Senior School**

**Curriculum Policy
(S106)**

Registered Charity No: 1086829

Date of Issue: December 2020
Review Date: December 2021
Owner: Deputy Head (Academic)

DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

The School's curriculum follows statutory requirements and is balanced and broadly based. It promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils and prepares them for adult life. Pupils are expected to follow the curriculum of and attend all lessons for their respective age group. Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic suitability and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

Aims & Objectives

1. To provide a full-time, supervised education giving pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, aesthetic and creative programmes of work.
2. To provide a programme of activities appropriate to those above compulsory school age.
3. To give all pupils the opportunity to learn and make progress.
4. To provide subject matter appropriate for the ages and abilities of the pupils (Years 9-13).
5. To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire skills in speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy.
6. To give pupils with Special Educational Needs appropriate educational support and to provide a variety of teaching and learning methods to suit pupils' different needs.
7. To provide a personal, social and health education which reflects the school's aims and ethos and encourages respect for other people particularly those with protected characteristics.
8. To provide appropriate university and careers guidance that is impartial that enables them to make informed decisions and encourage them to meet their potential.
9. To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in British society and to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The Curriculum Policy is reviewed annually by the Deputy Head Academic in consultation with the Directors of Studies to ensure that it meets the needs of the pupils. Separate policies on Special Educational Needs, English as an Additional Language and Prep

Year Group Provision

Fourth Form

In Year 9 the curriculum is kept as broad as possible. All pupils study Maths, English, Religious Studies, MFL, three sciences, Latin or Classical Civilisation, History and Geography. There is a carousel for creative subjects (Drama, Art, DT, PE, Food Technology and Music). Able pupils may study Greek. Pupils also follow a study skills course, a PSHE programme and a Computer Science course.

Subject	70×45min periods
English	8
Maths	8
MFL	4
MFL	4
Biology	5
Chemistry	5
Physics	5
Latin/Classics	4
History	4
Geography	4
RS	4
Carousel	8
Computing	2
Study Skills	1
PSHE	2
Workroom	2
Total	70

Setting:

Maths, Science, Humanities, MFL and Classics set based on Year 8 results; traditionally English has also set in the same way, but for the 2018/19 academic year is experimenting with mixed ability groups in the 4th Form. 'Creatives' do not set and are mixed ability groups.

Set Sizes:

In most subjects, set sizes are up to about 20, though in Maths the top set can be up to 25 if pupils are sufficiently able and the bottom set as small as 10 so that individual support can be given if required. More generally, higher sets tend to have slightly larger numbers than lower sets to accommodate for pupils' respective ability. Some practical subjects such as Food Technology and Design Technology cap the size of groups at 16.

GCSE: Remove

In Year 10 pupils study a core programme of Maths, English (Language and Literature), a Modern Language and either Dual Award Science or Triple Science. They then choose four further option subjects. We encourage pupils to have a broad, balanced portfolio, but these are not mandatory and we allow pupils to play to their individual strengths. This might mean, for example, that some pupils study all three sciences, while others study two creative subjects. The most able can study 'Gratin' (Latin & Greek) in one option block. Some pupils study one subject fewer and received Learning Support during the resulting 7 study periods per cycle, in either: numeracy, literacy or curriculum support. Pupils receive study skills sessions through year group assemblies on Thursday mornings at various points during the year.

Compulsory GCSE Curriculum

English
English Literature
Mathematics
French, Spanish or English Language Training
Dual Award Science, 2/3 Triple Science or

GCSE Options

Humanities	Classical Civilisation	Geography	History	Religious Studies		
Triple Science	Triple Science					
Social Science	Business	Economics				
Other Science	Computer Science					
Second MFL	Spanish					
Classical Languages	Latin	Gratin				
Creatives	Art	Drama	Music	Design Technology	Food Technology	Physical Education

Subject	70×45min periods
English	9
Maths	8
Dual Science	15
MFL	7
Option 1	7
Option 2	7
Option 3	7
Option 4	7
PE	2/0

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PSHE	1
PE/ Workroom	0/2
Total	70

Fifth Form

In Year 11 the curriculum is broadly the same as in Year 10. However, two supervised study periods replace Core PE lessons. The most able mathematicians take Additional Maths in Year 11.

Setting:

English, Maths, MFL and Classics set based on 4th Form results. Unlike 4th Form option subjects do not set as the subjects are not compulsory and have been opted for. Fast Track Science tends to attract the most able scientists (discontinued in Remove for 2021); followed by Triple Science; Dual Award Science groups are then set accordingly. Some pupils might only take English (not English Literature) in order to maximise their chances of success, but this is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Set Sizes:

In most subjects, set sizes are up to about 20, though in Core subjects the top set can be up to 25 if pupils are sufficiently able and the bottom set as small as 12 so that individual support can be given if required. More generally, higher sets tend to have slightly larger numbers than lower sets to accommodate for pupils' respective ability. Some practical subjects such as Food Technology and Design Technology cap the size of groups at 16.

A Level: Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form, pupils study three A Levels, plus a qualification from the Enrichment Block. For the most able, there is a possibility to study a fourth A Level, either by taking Latin and Greek in one option block, or by taking Double Maths in the Enrichment Block or by studying independently in the Enrichment Block (eg. Music or a Modern Foreign Language). In Year 13, pupils receive some extra study periods to support their A Levels. The current Lower Sixth blocks are:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art	Chemistry	Business	EPQ + Adobe
Biology	Design Technology	Chemistry	EPQ + Junior Sports Leader
Business	Economics	English Literature	Cambridge English Assessment
Classics	Geography	Further Maths	EPQ + Music Diploma
Economics	History	Geography	GCSE Italian
French	Music	History	MFL Enrichment
Physics	Sports Science	Latin	Fast Track Music

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Politics	Physics	Maths	Leiths
Religious Studies	Politics	Psychology	ECDL: International Computer Driving Licence
	Theatre Studies	Spanish	Further Maths
			AS Philosophy
			History of Art
			Biology

Subject	70×45min periods
Block A	14
Block B	14
Block C	14
Block D/Enrichment	14
Total	56

Setting:

Most subjects do not set in the Sixth Form, the only exception being those subjects that have more than one set in the same block; this usually only applies to Maths.

Set Sizes:

Sixth Form sets are usually capped at 14.

Prep Policy

Prep is considered to be an essential part of the learning process and should take priority.

The aims of prep should be to:

- reinforce work done in class;
- help to develop understanding;
- build upon previous knowledge and experiences;
- widen interest;
- provide the opportunity for further thought around issues;
- prepare for further study;
- provide a variety of activity and learning experiences.

The prep schedule is published by the Deputy Head (Academic). The schedule takes into account the following factors:

- prep time must be found every night during the week and at some point during the weekend;
- the length of time should **not** be seen as a fixed maximum but can be extended, if necessary, to ensure the proper completion of a task.

Year Group Allocations

Year Group	Allocation	Amount
4th Form	20-30 minutes per subject	1-1½ hrs per night
Remove	30 minutes per subject	1½ hrs per night
5th Form	30 minutes per subject	1½ hrs per night
Sixth Form	5 hours a week per subject	15 hours a week

Subject Allocations

4th Form:

Amount	Subjects
4 x fortnight	English, Mathematics,
2 x fortnight	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, RS, French, Spanish, Latin/Classics

Remove:

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Amount	Subjects
4 x fortnight	English, Mathematics, Core MFL, Gratin
3 x fortnight	Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics; Option Blocks A, B, C and D*
2 x fortnight	Science Double Award: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

*The Fast Track Science group will receive 3 preps per subject a fortnight.

5th Form:

Amount	Subjects
4 x fortnight	English, Mathematics, Core MFL, Gratin
3 x fortnight	Option Blocks A, B, C, D, E and F

Sixth Form:

Amount	Subjects
5 hours a week per A Level subject	Options blocks A, B, C, D

It is the responsibility of each Head of Department to ensure that all members of staff are aware of these guidelines and follow them closely. Pupils should check to see when the prep is due.