

CURRICULUM POLICY SENIOR HOUSE

Aims

The curriculum aims to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve their potential. Great emphasis is placed on the importance of an all-round education with a balance of Arts, Sciences, practical and creative subjects. Classroom activities are often supplemented by excursions, theatre visits, workshops, field trips and study days.

The broad and balanced curriculum has been planned to incorporate the following:

- to encourage and stimulate the best possible progress and the highest attainment for all pupils;
- to develop pupils' enjoyment of, appetite for and commitment to learning and achieving;
- to equip pupils with the essential learning skills of literacy, numeracy and information technology and the skills to enquire and make connections across areas of learning;
- to build on pupils' strengths and interests and develop their confidence in their capacity to learn and work independently and collaboratively;
- to enable pupils to think creatively and critically and to solve problems;
- to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- to develop pupils' physical skills and encourage them to recognise the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves and others safe.

Spiritual and Moral Curriculum

Durham High School for Girls is an Anglican foundation and is committed to providing a Christian education for its pupils. Teaching about Christianity in RE lessons is given high priority and is delivered alongside teaching of other faiths and philosophies at appropriate stages.

Each day usually begins with an act of worship where pupils have the opportunity to explore spiritual and moral issues.

All departments are required in their schemes of work to ensure that the spiritual and ethical dimension of a topic is embraced.

There are also many opportunities for pupils to grow spiritually eg Christian Union, Confirmation classes, Holy Communion.

Great emphasis is placed on promoting Christian values in every possible way, thus creating a community where utmost value is placed on each individual (see policy on Spiritual and Moral Development).

PSHE

Delivery of PSHE reflects the Aims of Durham High School and takes account of the government's *Every Child Matters* agenda.

'Lifetracks' materials are used to deliver PSHE in KS3 and KS4. Careers education is embedded in the PSHE curriculum from Year 7 onwards; citizenship topics are also taught. (see PSHE Scheme of Work)

Key Stage 3

Girls in Yrs 7 - 9 follow all the subjects of the National Curriculum with the addition of Latin. Most subjects are taught in mixed ability groups with the exception of Mathematics, which places girls in sets from September in Y7, French which has sets in Yrs 8 and 9 and English in Yr 9. In Yr 9 some girls may study more classical civilisation and less Latin.

All girls start French as their first MFL in Yr 7 and all have the opportunity to begin studying German in Yr 8, although those who are experiencing some difficulties in English and French may opt to have additional support instead of taking a second MFL.

Science is taught as three discrete subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The various strands of Technology (Art: Painting and Drawing, Art: Textiles and Graphic Design) are all taught as discrete subjects as part of a carousel. Although each subject is concerned with the broadly similar objectives of Designing, Making and Evaluating, there is departmental autonomy in the way in which these objectives are achieved.

Pupils who have English as a second language are given specialist support if parental approval is received. Specialist support is also provided for pupils with a Specific Learning Difficulty if their parents request it and if they have an educational psychologist's report.

The timetable follows a 9 x 35 minute day, 45 periods per week. The average teaching group size at KS3 is 20.

The curriculum structure at Key Stage 3 is as follows:

	English	Maths	French	German	Latin	RE	Geog	Hist	Science	Music	Art/Des	PSHE	PE	ICT
Y7	4+ 1 drama	5	4	N/A	2	3	3	3	6	2	4	1*	5*	2*

Y8	4 + 1 drama	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	6	2	4	1	4*	2
Y9	5 **	5	3	3	3	2	2	2	9	2	4***	1*	4	N/A

* Yrs 7 and 8 pupils do swimming for half of each term, alternating with Games.

** An optional Drama lesson for Y9 is taught at lunch time

*** In Yr 9 Art, Textiles, Graphics and ICT form a 4-period carousel. Pupils take two of these four subjects at any one time.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 all girls follow a core curriculum of English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Science (separate sciences or science and additional science) and a Modern Foreign Language. (Girls who study only one MFL will usually take French. However, if it is more appropriate, German may be chosen instead of French). All girls must study at least one humanity (History, Geography or Religious Studies). 9 or 10 subjects are normally taken at GCSE at the end of Yr 11.

GCSE subjects do not form the whole curriculum at Key Stage 4. Those who do not take Religious Studies at GCSE will continue with a general course covering a wide range of issues. Physical Education remains an important part of the curriculum and all girls take a recognised qualification in ICT. A carousel in PSHE and Citizenship is also followed, covering study skills, health education, economic understanding and careers education.

The following subjects are available as options at GCSE:

Art and Design: Art / Textiles / Graphic Design

Classical Civilisation

Greek

Geography

History

Physical Education

Latin

Music

Religious Studies

Drama

Subjects at Key Stage 4 have a timetable allocation of 4 x 35 minutes per subject with the exception of Maths and English which have an allocation of 5 x 35minutes.

GCSE teaching groups do not normally exceed 20 pupils and for option subjects are often smaller.

Sixth Form

Most of our Y11 pupils continue into the Sixth Form at Durham High School. We actively encourage as many able pupils as possible to join from other schools in the local area, especially from 11 – 16 comprehensives. We draw to their attention that means tested funding is available, including some free places provided by the School and the Ogden Trust. The majority of girls take 4 AS subjects in L6 with a small number of girls taking 5 or 3 subjects. In U6 the vast majority of girls continue with 3 subjects to A2.

Subjects offered at AS/A2 are:

Art and Design: Painting and Related Media, Textiles or Graphics

Business Studies

Classics: Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation

Information Technology

Economics

English Literature

Geography

History

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Modern Languages: French and German

Music

Politics

Psychology and/or Sociology

Religious Studies

Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Sport and Physical Education

Most subject combinations can be accommodated. Additional A level subjects are considered if there are at least 4 students interested in taking a subject which is not currently offered. A level teaching groups are on average 10 students and do not normally exceed 14 students.

AS and A2 subjects have an 8 x 35 minute timetable allocation per week. In addition, all sixth form students follow an Enrichment Programme for 2 x 35 minutes with, for the Lower 6, compulsory modules in God, Sex and Death;

and Current Affairs and for the Upper 6 in Philosophy and Critical Thinking; PSHE; Survival Cookery; and Finance. Other options open to the sixth form include Community Service; the School Newsletter; the Buddy Scheme; and Helping in Junior House. The Enrichment Programme is supplemented by talks from visiting lecturers on a wide range of topics.

Wednesday afternoon is devoted to PE with a wide range of physical activities available in School, on the river and at local leisure centres.

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