



CHARTERHOUSE

CURRICULUM POLICY

Charterhouse aims to provide a strongly academic education for pupils in a broad range of subjects in their first year at the School (The Fourth Form, Year 9). Specialisation begins in a pupil's second year (the Remove, Year 10) and appropriately focused Sixth Form (Specialist) programmes are provided post-16, when pupils follow either A Level subject courses or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Throughout the School pupils are encouraged to make the very most of their ability, and to engage actively in the learning process, that they might learn and make progress.

AIMS:

THE UNDER SCHOOL (YEARS 9-11)

- a) To develop pupils' skills in written and spoken English, and their confidence in reading for understanding thereby enhancing their communication skills through speaking and listening, as well as increasing their command of language and literacy through reading and writing. Focused work on manipulation of English develops an increased understanding of the language's structures. Pupils' communication skills are developed through engagement with speaking and listening tasks.
- b) To extend pupils' linguistic experience by continuing the learning of two foreign languages. This experience is intended to further both the understanding of language and also pupils' appreciation of different cultures as well as develop key communication skills. It is compulsory for all pupils to take at least one foreign language to the end of the Fifth Form (Year 11).
- c) To develop pupils' mathematical confidence, to enable them both to appreciate the beauty of mathematics and to understand its practical applications. Work provides a broad range of experience, fostering calculating ability, algebraic understanding, the appreciation of patterns in number and space (including relationships) and the development of logical thought, including practical activity, exploration and discussions, thereby allowing pupils to develop the skills of numeracy and to express themselves clearly.
- d) To engage pupils with three sciences, increasing their understanding and appreciation of the world around them. Work will focus on the areas of nature, materials and forces, promoting enquiry through experimentation and teaching pupils to observe, record and form hypotheses appropriately. Sciences are compulsory to the end of the Fifth Form.
- e) To provide pupils with appropriate technological experience. This includes work in information technology across a range of subjects to gain experience of programmes for word processing, spreadsheets and graphics. All pupils in the Fourth Form (Year 9) in the School receive an introduction to Design & Technology and Informatics (an introduction to computational science) as part of the 'Creative Carousel' on Tuesday afternoons. This allows them the opportunity to work with software and resources, in order to plan and create products, then to evaluate processes and products; those interested in doing so continue the subjects to (I)GCSE.
- f) To gain a fuller understanding of the world around them through the study of the human and social sciences. Pupils are encouraged through their work in History to develop an understanding of other cultures as well as their own, to appreciate the ways in which actions and events affect humanity, and to assess evidence in order to draw conclusions. In Geography, pupils are encouraged to explore ways in which their immediate environment affects the way they live, and to begin to understand how others' experiences may differ. All pupils study History and Geography in their first year in the School.
- g) All pupils in the Fourth, Remove and Fifth Forms are active participants in the sporting programme at the School. A range of sports is offered in order to provide opportunities for all pupils to develop physical skills, coordination, tactical understanding and an appreciation of strengths and weaknesses that they might improve their performance. In addition, pupils are involved in various

outdoor education, CCF and service activities, some of which contain a physical element which further enhance appreciation of fitness and health.

- h) All pupils in the Fourth Form have lessons in art, drama and music as part of the 'Creative Carousel' on Tuesday afternoons. They are encouraged to engage with the creative and aesthetic aspects of these disciplines. Some pupils choose to continue with these disciplines to (I)GCSE. For those who do not there are many opportunities for engagement with this area of the School, including the study of literature, the House art competition, frequent theatrical productions, and in music a range of ensembles, orchestras and bands and individual lessons.
- i) All pupils in the Fourth Form study Philosophy, Ethics and Theology, such that they develop historical and contemporary human and social education and further promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The School does not provide a parental opt-out for this subject in the Fourth Form as set out in Section 71 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended.
- j) Pupils in the Fourth Form study the 'Enquiry Series' on Wednesday afternoons. This is designed as a co-curricular course that engages pupils' critical thinking, requiring them to deconstruct conspiracy theories, identify fake news and analyse the art of rhetoric in written and spoken communication.
- k) Every pupil is expected to do work outside the classroom in all subjects. This work, known as banco, is designed to build upon learning in the classroom, to promote deeper knowledge and to challenge and stretch pupils.

THE SPECIALISTS (YEARS 12 AND 13)

As Specialists, pupils at Charterhouse have the opportunity to choose the appropriate path relevant to their needs for more specialised study. The School offers both specialisation through a range of subjects at A Level complemented by academically enriching, non-examined elective courses. In addition, pupils complete an extended project. The School also offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to allow pupils to maintain a greater breadth. All pupils are also able to participate in community and service initiatives, not just IB students as part of the Creativity, Action and Service programme..

Full details of the subjects offered can be found in the Specialist Choices Booklet, which is readily accessible in the academic section of our website.

Those who choose the IB Diploma Programme continue with six subjects, three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. The study of English, a foreign language, mathematics, a science and a subject from the humanities is compulsory; pupils also choose a sixth subject from the creative arts or from a range of option subjects. Once again, full details can be found in the Specialist Choices Booklet on the website.

Whether following A Level courses or pursuing the IB Diploma Programme, all Specialists are encouraged to become more independent in their studies; the intention is that they should be fully equipped for the challenges of university life by the time they leave Charterhouse. To that end research skills are fostered, independent reading is undertaken and presentation skills developed. All pupils are encouraged to think critically, to challenge perspectives and to engage in debate. Every effort is made to encourage a love of learning and scholarship which will last long after a pupil's time at School.

All pupils, whichever Specialist programme they follow, undertake a substantial amount of work outside the classroom. This work is used both to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom and to deepen and extend pupils' knowledge.

In addition to their academic programme Specialists are actively encouraged to involve themselves in all aspects of School life. Sporting and cultural engagement are promoted, with myriad opportunities to play in teams, become members of School societies, visit the art studio and the DT workshop, and to participate in theatrical and musical productions.

THE LIBRARY

All pupils at Charterhouse are encouraged to make use of the Library, which has substantial collections and also a range of electronic resources. All pupils are given an introduction to the Library when they arrive in the School, and its use by Under School pupils is further promoted by lessons which take place in the Library and by projects which require research to be undertaken. The Library is also widely used by Specialists both as a source of information and as a place of work.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

The School's curriculum, plan and schemes of work take proper account of the needs of all pupils, in terms of ability, need and aptitude. Pupils with SEND or an Education, Health and Care plan are given appropriate help and guidance by the Learning Centre team; in addition, all pupils in the Fourth Form are given guidance in study skills on their arrival in the School. New pupils are screened on entry to the School and feedback from their teachers on class and examination performance is regularly sought to ensure that every Carthusian receives the help and support they need, thereby allowing all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION

Charterhouse offers a comprehensive programme of Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE); we term this Reach Out, and it is delivered primarily through weekly lessons in tutor groups. Reach Out seeks to reflect the School's aims and ethos, with our five core values of kindness, moral courage, open-mindedness, perseverance and responsibility.

Lessons are framed to enable pupils to feel safe and at ease discussing issues. The scheme of work is spiral in nature, returning to topics in an age and stage appropriate manner. There are three broad themes of health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world. Opportunities are also taken to address issues that may arise outside of the scheme of work. The programme is informed by the Relationships and Sex Education Policy which is available on the school website.

The programme seeks to actively promote fundamental British Values and respect for other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010. Induction and outduction, anti-bullying week, mental health days and internet safety weeks are some of the opportunities taken to ensure pupils learn effectively about healthy relationships, consent, mental health and personal safety, including online safety.

There is more information available to parents on the Reach Out page of our website, as well as via webinars and talks. The School Community also receives a half-termly Reach Out newsletter which contains feedback from pupils on the effectiveness of lessons. The annual pastoral survey obtains feedback on the effectiveness and appropriateness of lessons and the extent to which pupils feel at ease.

Training for staff includes induction, working lunches, inset and guidance on the staff area of the intranet.

RELIGIOUS LIFE AND EDUCATION

Chapel is central to life at Charterhouse and the addresses, which are part of the services, are an important element in the delivery of the Reach Out programme. All pupils attend Chapel three times a week.

Carthusians are encouraged to reflect on the heritage of our Christian foundation, to grow spiritually, and to develop high moral standards. For all Fourth Form pupils at the School, theology forms part of the curriculum, and these lessons both explore other faiths and engage with philosophical issues, respect and tolerance for other faiths and beliefs.

GUIDANCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

Pupils have access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance that is presented in an impartial manner of the advice on offer in the Higher Education and Careers Department from early in their time at Charterhouse. In addition, members of the academic team are actively involved in providing assistance with (I)GCSE and Specialist choices and conversations take place with every member of the Fifth Form. Every effort is made to encourage pupils to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, to research appropriate university courses and to gain relevant experience of the world of work, that they might make informed choices about a broad range of career options. The aim is that every Carthusian should fulfil their potential and be ready for the next stages in their career by the time of leaving School.

OUT OF SCHOOL VISITS

In addition to activity in the classroom many departments arrange visits to reinforce learning; these are not usually part of the formal curriculum but are complementary to it. They range widely in scope, from local geographical observation to recent art visits to the USA and economics visits to the Far East.

BRITISH SOCIETY AND POLITICAL IMPARTIALITY

Pupils are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society through active consideration of their own experiences, as well as when held in comparison to the experience of others. Through the School's own structures, opportunity is provided for pupils to witness at first hand, participate in and support aspects of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty as well as mutual respect and tolerance of others with different faiths and beliefs.

Staff have a duty to avoid the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of all subjects. Where political themes are brought to pupils' attention, they will be offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.