DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

Introduction

The curriculum throughout the School is broad and balanced, encompassing an extensive range of subjects that takes into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils. It starts with a wide range for younger pupils, which gives a firm foundation on which to build gradual specialisation. The options system from Years 9 to 12 is then built around pupils' choices rather than fixed option blocks, which provides well for the different interests and aptitudes of all pupils. Pupils with a specific learning difficulty or with a statement of educational needs and overseas pupils requiring additional English lessons receive extra support as appropriate, without having to miss lessons. The needs of Able, Gifted and Talented pupils are accommodated in all year groups.

The curriculum supports the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Teachers negotiate the curriculum in a measured way - they do not voice or promote partisan political views and ensure a balanced overview of opposing views when political issues are covered. Indeed, respect for other people not only runs through our whole curriculum and ethos as a school, but it is also particularly encouraged in our extensive PSHE programme. This is delivered in timetabled periods to as part of our Complementary Curriculum. That Curriculum reflects the school's aim and ethos, and pays particular regard to protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity). Elements of PSHE and British values are also actively incorporated in our Religious Studies curriculum, as well as in other appropriate events, such as assemblies, Chapel Services, trips and visits.

The Complementary Curriculum also gives pupils access to accurate, up-to-date careers guidance and complements our Futures Programme. A programme of guidance commences in Year 7 and continues throughout the pupils' time in the Upper School. This is delivered primarily by a dedicated Head of Futures, who also organises various careers and futures events during the course of the year and offers a great deal of one-to-one support. Guidance is presented impartially, enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of career and future options, and helps to encourage pupils to fulfil their potential.

The curriculum ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress, and that they are prepared effectively for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society. Lessons are delivered by specialist teachers in a challenging, stimulating environment that is conducive to a positive, enjoyable learning experience for the pupils. The School is keen to promote independent learning, enabling pupils to fulfil their potential and develop a range of key skills needed in later life. The timetable offers a great deal of flexibility with a well-structured weekly lesson arrangement. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 take a timetabled period of PE/swimming each week and all pupils in the School participate in two timetabled sessions of games per week. In addition to their weekly classes, a large number of pupils of all ages take music lessons and an extensive selection of clubs and societies supports and enriches the quality and breadth of education provided. There are four fifty-five and two fifty-minute periods on each weekday and four fifty minute periods on a Saturday morning (three for Years 7 and 8), giving a total of 68 periods in the two-weekly cycle (66 for Years 7 and 8). Period 4 on Saturdays for Years 7 and 8 forms part of their Games programme and this time is often used for fixtures.

The curriculum is organised in three sections to meet the needs of pupils of different ages: Years 7-9 (pre-GCSE), Years 10-11 (GCSE) and Years 12-13 (Sixth Form). The subjects studied at each level clearly reflect the fact that pupils have experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education. They also acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills.

The Lower School: Years 7 to 9

The emphasis in these important years is on breadth and challenge and a busy programme enables pupils to study a wide spread of subjects. The School takes advantage of its independence to deliver courses beyond the confines of the National Curriculum and there is much focus on making lessons interesting and enjoyable, with a variety of teaching styles in the classroom.
Pupils are taught in mixed ability classes of about twenty, except in Mathematics where pupils are banded in Year 7 and set by ability in Years 8 and 9. Pupils study two languages in Year 7 – French and Spanish - as well as Latin/Classics. Pupils then continue with two of these three subjects in Years 8 and 9. A small number of pupils study one language and have English skills support and/or Learning Support in place of a second language. Year 9 pupils also participate in the popular Moonrakers programme of outdoor pursuits. PSHE is delivered through an innovative Complementary Curriculum, which teaches pupils about a whole host of broader topics and issues. There is also a carousel within the Year 9 curriculum that sees pupils have three lessons of Design and Technology, and three lessons of Art per two-week cycle, for two terms of the year each. The 'free' slot within this carousel is taken with a short digital literacy course, an additional PSHE lesson, and an additional Music (Tech) lesson. (*indicates carousel with two terms for each subject)

	PE	DRA	RS	HIS	ENG	GEO	MAT	PHY	CHE	BIO	LANG 1	LANG 2	CLA	ART	DT	COM	PSHE	MUS	GAM	MOO N
Year 7	2	3	3	3	7	3	7	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3		2	2	6	
Year 8	2	3	3	3	7	3	7	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	4	2	3	6	
Year 9		3	3	3	6	3	6	3	3	3	4	4		3*	3*	3	1	2	6	2

Years 10 and 11

It is the firm policy of Dauntsey's that a strong and balanced programme for GCSE should be studied by pupils in Years 10 and 11. English, Mathematics and Science are compulsory, forming the core curriculum, and breadth of study is achieved by the provision of a wide range of optional subjects. In many subjects, students are taught the IGCSE courses and extra Science is an option, enabling pupils to study three separate sciences rather than the double award.

Pupils take 9 full courses plus and optional 'extra' course in Middle School, but each year a number take 10 full courses (typically by including Further Maths). In addition to our GCSE courses, we also have two school developed courses that pupils can choose instead of one or two traditional GCSEs – these are Sustainability and Leadership Sport and Adventure (LSA).

A real strength of the system is that there are no set columns, giving pupils a completely free choice of subjects. This gives a great deal of flexibility in individual schedules and does not restrict subject combinations. A programme of careers lessons and guidance commences in Year 10 and continues throughout pupils' schooling. Pupils in both Years 10 and 11 have Complementary Curriculum lessons, involving SRE, Critical Thinking, Citizenship, Political and Global Issues, Independent Study and much more.

In addition to the flexibility in Science, the full courses currently offered are:

• Art and Design	• History
• Computer Science	• Latin
• Dance	• LSA
• Design and Technology	• Music
• Drama	• Physical Education
• French	• Religious Studies
• Geography	• Spanish
• German	• Sustainability

Pupils can also choose an additional 'Plus One' course from:

- Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)
- Further Mathematics
- Maths and Statistics for Business
- Rambert Dance Grades
- Digital Communications
- Classical Civilisation

Pupils in the top Maths set study GCSE Further Maths and pupils in lower sets have the option to study Further Maths outside of timetabled classes.

Some pupils choose to follow an additional subject such as Mandarin or Japanese outside of timetabled classes.

The Sixth Form: Years 12 and 13

The majority of students currently take three Sixth Form courses along with one of our alternative 'Plus One' options. A small number of pupils study four A-levels.

There are no set option columns, giving students a free choice from the 30 subjects available. This gives a great deal of flexibility and does not restrict subject combinations.

The options currently offered are:

- Applied Science (Cambridge Advanced National)
- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies (and Business CTEC)
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- History of Art
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Mathematics (Further)
- Music
- Music Technology
- Photography
- Physical Education (and CTEC Sport)
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics
- Spanish
- Drama and Theatre

The Complementary Curriculum adds breadth and enrichment to individual programmes. Pupils are also able to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Core Maths, Rambert Dance Grades, our very own 'Leadership, Sport and Adventure', or 'Maths for Science' as timetabled non-A-level options. International pupils may also opt to take IELTS as an option. In addition, there are many lectures and other activities of an academic nature to enhance and broaden students' Sixth Form experience. The Stretch and Challenge Programme supports pupils applying for Oxbridge and other high-end universities - these pupils are also monitored and supported by departments where both specialist teaching in timetabled periods and interview practice are provided as appropriate. All students receive extensive careers and futures guidance throughout the two years of study.

David Noble
Deputy Head (Academic and Staff)

Reviewed: September 2026
Next Review: September 2027