

# SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY

Academic Management and Curriculum Policy – Christ College Brecon

2017 - 2018

## Academic Management and Curriculum Policy

The Deputy Head Academic is responsible to the Head for the academic management of the school. He is assisted in this by the Senior Academic tutor who takes a particular interest in data collation and interpretation and the Head of Faculty for Teaching and Learning (see job descriptions).

Departments are grouped into 7 faculties.

| Faculty             | HOF  | Departments  |
|---------------------|------|--|
| Maths               | IJO  | Maths  |
| Languages           | AEML | Spanish, French, Welsh, Latin, EAL, Chinese                  |
| Science             | SEJ  | Biology, Chemistry, Physics Junior science<br>PE, Psychology |
| English             | JMH  | English  |
| Humanities          | BJG  | Geography, History, RS, BS, Economics , Psychology           |
| Creative Arts       | JKEG | Art and Design, Photo, Music, Drama, IT                      |
| Teaching & Learning | REA  | PSE, ALN   |

Heads of faculty meet seven times a year following the grade reviews to discuss whole school academic issues. More specific subject related issues are discussed with Subject Leaders or in discrete faculty meetings.

All teachers are required to adhere to official academic policy as detailed in this policy and those found within the Teaching and Learning area. The Deputy Head Academic in consultation with the Heads of Faculty, subject leaders and SMT provides an annual Academic Development Plan. There is a separate document in the Teaching and Learning area for the respective job descriptions. Faculty's area responsible for producing self-evaluations covering the common inspection framework. Subject leaders are responsible for referring to standards within their department self-evaluations. Development plans must reflect and make reference to the whole school development themes for 2017 - 18

The head of the Junior section is responsible to the Deputy Head Academic for the academic programme of pupils in J3-J6, see St Nicholas House Curriculum Policy.

## CURRICULUM 2017- 18

The curriculum at Christ College fulfils the requirement to provide education in the following areas of learning: linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical, and aesthetic and creative. Subjects such as PSE, RS and ICT are compulsory subjects in years 7-11 in order to ensure development of values and key skills. The curriculum at Christ College is designed to meet the needs of all learners regardless of gender, race and additional learning needs.

Pupils in forms years 7-11 study a wide range of subjects to the end of key stage 3 before choosing GCSE options. Pupils are able to study two languages, separate sciences and a range of technological or creative options. A modern foreign language is encouraged but not required to GCSE. Pupils also study Drama, Music, Art and Design throughout key stage 3. The school curriculum policy works in conjunction with the additional learning needs policy.

In addition to this basic provision, Christ College, in its curriculum design aims to:

- provide a balance between core and optional choices to meet individual interests and skills;
- develop academic excellence and the opportunity to develop high level subject specialism;
- provide the foundation for lifelong learning and promote independent learning;
- be inclusive and accessible to pupils with EAL and ALN or want to study Welsh as a second language;
- provide continuity, progression and appropriate degrees of breadth, depth and balance for each learner; and
- be supported by assessment that is fit for purpose.

Detail of the curriculum in years 7 to 11 is provided as a curriculum map. A separate map shows the time allocations in the junior section. It is worth noting that we don't see to make pupils bi-lingual in English and Welsh. We are preparing our pupils for linear examination and English pathway qualifications at GCSE and A level. We seek to develop a curriculum which takes the best features of a knowledge based and skills based curriculum models.

## Years 7 - 8

Pupils study 47 35 minute lessons per week including 4 lessons of integrated games. The only option is Spanish or Welsh as a second language. Science is taught as one subject in years 7 and 8. Pupils are placed in balanced mixed ability groups.

## Year 9

Pupils study 46 35 minute lessons and are streamed into 3 groups. The basis of this setting takes into account the spread of ability in the year group but there is no creation of a bottom set. Integrated games continues for 4 lessons per week. Pupils study Art and Design, Drama and Music on a carousel arrangement with an opportunity to specialise in two areas in the third term.

In year 9 science is taught as 3 discrete subjects each for 3 lessons per week.

## GCSE

The main GCSE options are selected at the end of form year 9. The groupings of subjects are shown below. Pupils select one subject from each block to complement the core programme of English, Maths and Science. Pupils select one subject from each block.

| Block A          | Block B   | Block C           | Block D     | Block E          |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Geography        | Geography | Drama             | Art         | Art              |
| Computer science | History   | History           | Music       | Separate science |
| French           | Welsh     | Spanish           | P.E         |                  |
|                  | Spanish   | Religious Studies | Photography |                  |

## Sixth Form

In the sixth form options are grouped into blocks but there are two sets in many subjects to provide choice and flexibility. The blocking allows pupils to study a combination of subjects of different types. The school does not provide a range of vocational choices. The curriculum offer meets the aspirations of our students to go on to university courses.

Currently, pupils study 4 AS levels in the lower 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 in the upper sixth and sit examinations in the stand- alone AS.

From 2018 we intend to offer A levels and exclusively linear qualifications and not sit the AS examinations.

### Sixth Form Options 2017 -18

| BLOCK A  | BLOCK B          | BLOCK C           | BLOCK D          | BLOCK E     |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Geography  | Chemistry        | Biology           | Drama            | Chemistry   |
| Maths  | Biology          | Religious Studies | Economics        | Art         |
| History  | Business Studies | Physics           | Geography        | History     |
| Psychology   | English          | Photography       | Maths            | Physics     |
| Spanish  | Further Maths    |                   | Computer Science | Music       |
|  |                  |                   | PE               | Photography |
|  |                  |                   | French           |             |
| <b>INDICATE UP TO 4 CHOICES IN THE BOXES BELOW</b> |                  |                   |                  |             |
|  |                  |                   |                  |             |

Lower Sixth AS Option choices 2017 - 18

### Curriculum Map 2017 -2018

| Year Group       | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10s | Year 10a | Year 11s | Year 11a |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Total Periods    | 47     | 47     | 46     | 43       | 43       | 43       | 43       |
| Science          | 6      | 6      |        |          |          |          |          |
| Biology          |        |        | 3      | 4        | 3        | 4        | 3        |
| Chemistry        |        |        | 3      | 4        | 3        | 4        | 3        |
| Physics          |        |        | 3      | 4        | 3        | 4        | 3        |
| Maths            | 5      | 5      | 5      | 5        | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| English          | 5      | 5      | 5      | 5        | 5        | 5        | 5        |
| French           | 4      | 4      | 3      | 4        |          | 4        |          |
| Drama            | 2      | 2      | 2      |          |          |          |          |
| Computer Science |        |        |        | 8        |          | 8        |          |
| Spanish          | 3      | 3      | 3      |          |          |          |          |
| Welsh            |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |
| Geography        | 3      | 3      | 3      |          |          |          |          |
| History          | 3      | 3      | 3      |          |          |          |          |
| GCSE RS          |        |        |        | 4        |          | 4        |          |
|                  |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |
| Art and Design   | 3      | 3      | 3      |          |          |          |          |
| Music            | 2      | 2      | 2      |          |          |          |          |
| Photography      |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |
|                  |        |        |        | 2        |          | 2        |          |
| GCSE PE          |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |
|                  |        |        |        |          |          |          |          |
| ICT              | 2      | 2      | 2      | 2        | 2        | 2        | 2        |
| general RS       | 2      | 2      | 2      | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| general PE       | 1      | 1      | 1      |          |          |          |          |
| PSE              | 1      | 1      | 1      | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| INTEGRATED GAMES | 4      | 4      | 4      |          |          |          |          |

Years 7, 8 and 9 also have 4 Periods per week of games integrated into the timetable.

All lessons are 35 minutes

