

QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

Aims of the Curriculum

The curriculum at QEHS supports the aims, ethos and values of the school by:

- promoting the intellectual, aesthetic, moral, physical and social development of all students
- providing opportunities for the creative and performing arts to make a contribution to the education of young people
- ensuring that equality of opportunity in access to the curriculum is an entitlement
- ensuring that extra-curricular activities play an important part in school life
- providing students with every opportunity to be happy and successful learners

The National Curriculum

In addition to supporting the aims, ethos and values of our school, our curriculum meets the statutory requirements of the Secondary Curriculum (2007) and the three key aims for all young people; namely that all young people should be:

- successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

Organisation of the Curriculum at QEHS

Our taught curriculum is delivered through a weekly timetable (with some slight variation between week 1 and week 2) with each day divided into 5 periods of either 60 or 65 minutes (4 periods on alternate Tuesdays), resulting in a 24½ period week (49 period fortnight). The timing of the day is as follows:

Time	Event
8.55-9.05am	Registration
9.05-10.10am	Period 1
10.10-11.15am	Period 2
11.15-11.35am	Break
11.35-12.35pm	Period 3
12.35-1.35pm	Period 4*
1.15-2.15pm	Period 4*
2.15-3.20pm	Period 5 (not on alternate Tuesdays)

**The timing of Period 4 depends on the timing of the students' lunch break which is either 12.35pm to 1.15pm or 1.35-2.15pm*

Year 9 (Key Stage 3)

All students in Year 9 follow a broad and balanced curriculum which builds on work done in middle school in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8). Regular liaison and planning meetings between middle and high school colleagues ensures that transition and progression are smooth. We aim to prepare students for study at Key Stage 4 through an emphasis on the skills and knowledge required in Years 10 and 11.

Subject	Periods
English	3
Maths	3
Science	3
Art	1
Drama	1
Geography + IT	1½
French	2
History	1
Music	1
PE	2
RE	1
Second Language (German, Latin, Italian or Spanish)	2
Technology	2
Tutorial/Guidance/PSHE	1
Total	24½

In addition to the formal taught timetable, students have the opportunity to take part in specific learning activities organised throughout the school year which take the place of normal lessons. This will involve field trips, concerts, guidance sessions, citizenship, extra-curricular activities and “Enrichment Week” (in June) which includes blocked sessions on enterprise, sport, IT, RE and life-skills. IT is also taught throughout the year within other subjects.

Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4)

The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 gives students more choice but within an overall framework that ensures they enjoy a broad and balanced education. All students follow a common core of subjects and supplement this with up to four option choices. A structured guidance programme ensures that option choices meet the needs of the individual student.

Subject	Periods
English (inc English Literature)	3½
Maths	3
Science	5
PE	2
Tutorial/Guidance/PSHE	1
Option 1	2½
Option 2	2½
Option 3	2½
Option 4	2½
Total	24½

Options available are as follows:

- Languages (GCSE French, German, Spanish, Latin, Italian)
- Humanities (GCSE Geography, History, Religious Studies)
- Expressive & Creative Arts (GCSE Drama, Dance, Music, Art, Textiles, Graphics, BTEC Performing Arts)
- Technology (GCSE Food Technology, Engineering, Resistant Materials, Electronic Products)
- Other Subjects (GCSE Business Studies, Media Studies, PE, BTEC Health & Social Care, NVQ Hospitality and Catering, BTEC Sport, NVQ Horticulture, BTEC IT)

Students are given a free choice of options but guidance is given to ensure that courses are appropriate and the curriculum is broad and balanced.

In addition, enterprise, citizenship, IT and RE are taught within the guidance programme, through subjects and/or as part of specific days and enrichment week throughout the year. Many of our Key Stage 4 students are involved in vocational and work related programmes with other agencies co-ordinated by our Key Stage 4 co-ordinator and curriculum leaders.

Post 16 (Key Stage 5)

The post-16 curriculum is designed to ensure progression from Year 11 and on to university, further education, training or employment. We offer programmes of study at levels 1, 2 and 3 and provide a wide range of academic and vocational qualifications. Prior to choosing their options all Year 11 students undertake a specially designed guidance programme which includes taster sessions, parents' evenings and an individual interview with a senior member of staff before making their final choice.

Subject	Periods
Typical Level 3 Programme	
Tutorial/Guidance/PSHE	1
Option 1	4½
Option 2	4½
Option 3	4½
Option 4	4½
Enhancement (e.g. general studies, EPQ, sports leadership)	1½
Total	20½

Our sixth form prospectus provides information about the courses available to students (approximately 40), the entry requirements and pathways, and the support available to students to help them progress through the sixth form and on to their chosen destination.

Curriculum Planning and Monitoring

It is the responsibility of curriculum and subject leaders to plan and manage the curriculum and assessment for their subject areas. They report back regularly to the Deputy Head (Curriculum). Key Stage Co-ordinators play an important role in managing the options guidance process each year. An annual, structured curriculum review takes place each autumn, led by the Deputy Head (Curriculum) who meets with curriculum leaders and other key staff to plan the curriculum for the following year. Regular reports on the curriculum are made to the Pupil and Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body and, via the termly Headteacher's report, to the full Governing Body.

This policy was agreed by the Pupil and Curriculum Development Committee at their meeting on 14 June 2011.

Signed		Chair of Pupil & Curriculum Development Committee (Adrian Woolley)	Date	
Signed		Headteacher (Neil Morrison)	Date	
Review Date:	June 2013			