



# LOUGHBOROUGH

## High School

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Point of Contact (Reviewer): Mrs Rebecca Connick – Assistant Head Curriculum

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The curriculum at Loughborough High school aims to provide:

- full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age;
- for pupils to experience linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education;
- subject matter appropriate for the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils including those with an EHC plan;
- for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy;
- personal, social, health and citizenship education which reflects the school's aims and ethos including the promotion of fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act;
- accurate, up-to-date careers guidance which is presented in an impartial manner, enables pupils to make informed choices about a broad range of career options and helps and encourages them to fulfil their potential;
- a programme of activities which is appropriate to the needs of pupils above compulsory school age;
- for all pupils to have the opportunity to learn and make progress;
- effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

### **An overview of the curriculum**

Linguistic education and the development of communication skills are provided mainly by the English, Modern Languages and Classics departments although promoting effective communication is a part of every aspect of school life. Lessons in English, French, German and Spanish include specific teaching of listening, speaking, reading and writing. All teaching, except for the use of target languages, is in English.

Mathematics courses provide the main source of mathematical education although many other subjects (sciences, Economics, Psychology etc) also contribute to this and the development of numeracy skills. The Mathematics department aims to enable students to develop a genuine feeling for how numbers fit together, to apply mathematics in everyday situations and to other subjects, to carry out calculations and solve problems, estimating whether or not an answer is reasonable and understanding the significance of results.

Schemes of work for Year 7 and 8 Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics give details of the provision of scientific education in the school. The acquisition of knowledge and understanding about forces, materials and nature underlies the curriculum in these subjects but the development of experimental skills is considered equally important. Students engage in practical work in all science courses, designing and carrying out experiments, then recording and interpreting the results. Students are encouraged to formulate well-informed opinions on scientific issues.

Courses in Food, ICT and Computer Science contribute to the technological education of students but the use of ICT pervades the curriculum through the 1:1 iPad project. In Food students are able to develop their ability to plan, create and evaluate their work and communicate their findings. The ICT curriculum provides the skills needed for effective communication through electronic means. Computer Science includes programming products, which are evaluated and improved.

Human and social education is mainly provided through the teaching of courses in History, Geography, Religious Studies, Classics and Psychology. History gives students an understanding of the past and how the values and actions of our predecessors have shaped the present. Geography covers the study of the human and physical world, helping students to develop informed concern about the quality of the environment, the future of the earth's habitat and the global effects of human actions.

Physical Education is taught throughout years 7-11 and the Health and Wellbeing afternoons continue this provision for the Sixth Form. PE aims to promote healthy lifestyles, making students exercise conscious and aware of the benefits for both physical development and stress relief. The development of motor skills and body awareness take place alongside learning tactics in team games and creativity in gymnastics.

Art, Music and Drama play a major part in providing aesthetic and creative education. Literature is studied in Classical Civilisation and ancient and Modern Languages as well as English Literature. Students are enabled to express their personal responses to established works and create, compose and write using their original ideas, both individually and in groups.

All year groups follow a PSHCE programme appropriate to their age and needs which includes economic education. Visiting speakers and external agencies work with whole year groups on appropriate occasions. Topics covered include diversity, drink and drugs education, homophobia, mutual respect, personal security, relationships, stereotyping and study techniques.

A planned programme of careers education is in place for all pupils in Years 7-13 allowing them to develop self-awareness, explore their interests, and recognise their skills, strengths and values. Pupils are encouraged to research and expand their knowledge of careers and the world of work and become familiar with the various pathways open to them. Morrisby Assessments are introduced prior to pupils choosing GCSE and A level options. Alongside this, independent and impartial careers guidance is available for all girls as they progress.

The head of learning support is in regular communication with those pupils with EHC plans, their parents and teachers to ensure that the requirements of their plans are met, they are taking appropriate courses and able to make progress.

The school has a separate Academic Extension Policy which should be consulted for all matters relating to Academic Extension and gifted and talented matter.

The curriculum is reviewed frequently to ensure that changing needs are addressed and, where relevant, changes are implemented to promote the pursuit of excellent standards for all the pupils.

### **The curriculum by year group**

In Year 7 all pupils study Art, Drama, English, Food, Geography, History, ICT, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Science. All pupils study each of French, German and Spanish on a rotation basis. Pupils in Year 7 also follow the .b curriculum, a ten week course in mindfulness as part of their weekly enrichment programme.

In Year 8 all pupils continue with these subjects including one language.

From Year 9, Science is taught as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is the start of the IGCSE courses in these subjects. In this year pupils choose a second language from French, German, Spanish and Classical Greek, and select whether to continue studying Latin or take Classical Civilisation. They also chose two subjects from: Art, Drama, Food, Computer Science or Music. Careers lessons and interviews with staff help pupils to choose their GCSE option subjects.

In Years 10 and 11 pupils study towards nine GCSE subjects, in addition to this students may pick one more option from GCSE Music (reduced timetable allocation), Sports leaders, Additional Maths or the Higher Project Qualification. Five of these are the core subjects of English, English literature, Mathematics and two sciences from Biology, chemistry or Physics. Students then have a free choice of four other subjects from: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Computer Science, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Food Science and Nutrition, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies and Spanish. It is expected that most students will choose a language, a humanities and a creative subject. Physical Education and PSCHE lessons continue for both years and Pupils in Year 10 also follow the .b curriculum, a ten week course in mindfulness.

In the Sixth Form pupils normally pursue three A Level subjects and an independent study option, this could be an EPQ, the LIBF or a MOOC. The A Level subjects offered are: Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Computing, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English Literature, French, Food Science and Nutrition, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies and Spanish. Some subjects in the Sixth Form are taught jointly with Loughborough Grammar school and Loughborough Amherst school.

Sixth form students also follow an age specific PSCHÉ course, they take part in a Health and Wellbeing afternoon and are offered the choice of in excess of 30 options as part of the STEP enrichment programme.

The timetable is constructed as far as possible around the pupils' choice of subjects but groups for subjects need to be viable, usually comprising at least seven pupils.

Ability setting is used where appropriate in years 7-11 but the majority of teaching is in mixed ability groups.

Related documents

Departmental schemes of work