



Senior School Policy

Curriculum Policy

Action	Policy to be reviewed annually		
	Committee	Date	Completed
Reviewed	Deputy Head (Academic)	06 June 2023	✓
Reported	Education Committee	06 October 2023	✓
Approved	Board of Governors	11 December 2023	✓
Next review	Deputy Head (Academic)	June 2024	

General Ethos

The school's curriculum policy takes into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) and those who have been identified as Most Able.

Throughout Years 9 to 13, curriculum breadth and flexibility are important. This is demonstrated in the full programme of a subject encountered by pupils in Year 9, the breadth available in being able to study up to ten (or more) IGCSEs and GCSEs in Years 10 and 11 and the offering of A-Level alongside the IB Diploma in Sixth form (Years 12 and 13).

Gresham's is a tolerant, diverse and international community in which the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs are cherished and celebrated. A thorough subject audit has been conducted to ensure that these values are positively promoted throughout the curriculum.

Gresham's delivers an embedded programme of career education and guidance through Gresham's Futures. 2 core principles sit at its heart:

- All pupils should be encouraged to understand their own skills and interests, enabling them to make informed choices
- All pupils should know how to research their ideas about potential careers and fulfil their potential through a wide range of future options

All advice is given in an impartial and independent manner.

The Careers provision at Gresham's seeks an integrated approach across Years 7-13 and is guided by 'The Benchmarks' laid out in the Gatsby Report on 'Good Career Guidance', 2014. Gresham's Futures' provision is laid out in full in the School's Careers Policy.

Gresham's delivers a full programme of PSHE to Years 9-13. The core aims of this programme are:

- To provide the pupils of Gresham's School with an effective continuous, age appropriate programme of study for Sex and Relationships education, Health Lifestyles, Economics Wellbeing and to encompass aspects of the World of Work, with particular input from 'Gresham's Futures'
- To enable pupils to develop confidence and responsibility, encouraging them to make healthy, safer lifestyle choices.
- To foster the development of good relationships, respect for the differences between people and promote an empathetic awareness of diversity.
- To provide effective sex and relationships education ensuring young people are able to make responsible, informed and healthy decisions about their lives, both now and in the future.
- To ensure pupils are fully informed of the dangers of drug, alcohol and tobacco on their physical and mental wellbeing.

- To create an environment where pupils are encouraged to consider the needs of others in society.
- To ensure pupils have an awareness of the different learning styles of pupils with SEND and have an understanding of the recommendations of The Equality Act (2010), which ensures people with SEND are treated equally and fairly.
- To support the School's anti-bullying policy in all respects.
- To foster in the individual an ability to handle uncertainty, response to change and take responsibility for their own actions as part of a community.
- To assess and manage risk to themselves and others.
- To enable pupils to identify and access help, advice and support.

Year 9

All Pupils are provided the opportunity to experience the full range of the Gresham's curriculum – linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative.

There is a taught curriculum of thirty-one 45 minute lessons per week. Pupils receive three or four homework slots a night covering all subject areas.

Pupils study in sets broadly based on ability according to assessment entry data.

Linguistic	English (Language and Literature) is delivered in four lessons per week. Command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing is central to the curriculum, along with fostering a love of literature, poetry and creative writing. Year 9 pupils may also choose two and possibly three Modern Foreign Languages from a choice of six, either continuing acquisition of a known language or taking up a new language ab initio. Most pupils study two languages. It is assumed that most pupils will study French as a core language. Other languages available include: German, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish. Each language is allocated five periods per fortnight. Where pupils' first language is not English, they are also given additional lessons in English as a Second Language (ESL). Pupils may opt to study Latin. There is a two-week timetable in the language columns to accommodate the lessons, with 5 lessons per fortnight.
Mathematical	Maths is allocated four lessons per week in Year 9. Pupils are setted in order to match the pace and challenge of lessons to pupil ability. All pupils have their knowledge and understanding developed in a variety of ways including practical activity, exploration and discussion.
Scientific	All pupils study the traditional three sciences as separate subjects in Year 9. Observation hypothesis testing, experiments and the recording of findings are key to all three sciences. Two

	lessons per week are allocated to each of Biology, Chemistry & Biology.
Technological	All pupils take part in Design Technology as part of a carousel, which explore both Resistant Materials and Graphic Products. ICT is also in this carousel
Human and Social	Human and social aspects of the curriculum are well covered in the Year 9 curriculum with all pupils receiving two lessons per week in each of Geography, History and Religious Studies.
Physical	Physical skills of control and co-ordination, tactical skills and evaluation of performance are delivered in one of the carousels. In addition, pupils receive coaching and instructing in Games three times a week (Tuesday afternoons, Thursday mornings and Saturday afternoons). PSHE lessons (one lesson per fortnight) also touch on the basic principles of fitness and health.
Aesthetic and creative	All Year 9 pupils take part in a carousel of Art, Music and Drama. Many pupils have additional music instruction in instruments and voice. Year 9 pupils get the opportunity to show their work in an Art exhibition, and perform in the school drama and in a number of choirs, ensembles and orchestras.

Carousels

There are two carousels in Y9. Carousel A contains Art, Drama and Music; carousel B contains DT, IT and PE. Pupils have one of the subjects in each carousel for a 10 week period, with 5 periods per fortnight and a weekly prep comprising the time in the carousel. (There is a two-week timetable in the carousel to accommodate the 5 lessons per fortnight.)

A small number of pupils who wish to study a third language can choose to opt out of Carousel B if there are sufficient numbers.

Pupils with a learning support need are also given one-to-one lessons in the Learning Support Department in addition to Supervised Study there. Normally these lessons are instead of a second language, although in exceptional circumstances other lessons may be exchanged. Where pupils with learning support needs study the whole curriculum, additional support is provided at other times in the day.

All Year 9 pupils also have an enrichment programme on Friday afternoons. This allows them to develop and broaden their understanding and experiences across a number of areas. Pupils taking Latin as an additional subject in Y9 have a lesson on Friday afternoons as part of the academic enrichment.

Year 9 Enrichment Programme (80 minutes per week)

The year 9 Enrichment programme is an opportunity for all year 9 pupils to achieve the Bronze Arts Award (RQF) through a carousel of creative activities and demonstrate an understanding of effective communication and an ability to convey information.

Working in house groups, pupils are required to create an individual arts log or portfolio that demonstrates how they meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Development of interests, knowledge, and skills through active participation in any art form
- ▶ Experience of at least one arts event/experience as an audience member
- ▶ Research into the work of an artist/craftsperson that inspires them
- ▶ Experience of passing on an arts skill

Bronze Arts Award is a Level 1 qualification on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

Gresham's Skills

This is a new course and comprise a lesson once a week with pupils on relatively swift rotation. The course is designed to provide pupils with foundations in certain knowledge and skills. The teachers include the senior members of the School's management Team.

The Headmaster (Current Affairs) The Deputy Head Academic (Learning Skills) The Deputy Head Pastoral (Global Awareness) The Deputy Head Co-Curriculum (Making the most of Gresham's) The Director of Studies (Microsoft 365) and Online Digital Safety.

Careers

Year 9 pupils have an introduction to Gresham's Futures.

Years 10 and 11

The school offers a mixed portfolio of GCSEs and IGCSEs. Departments are free to choose the qualification which best engages, stretches and stimulates the pupils in their care.

A great deal of flexibility is permitted in allowing pupils to choose the programme of subjects that best suits them and their skills and future aspirations.

The usual is for pupils to study a full programme of ten GCSE or IGCSE subjects which allows them to maintain curriculum breadth and keep future academic options as open as possible. Pupils may study fewer than ten subjects if this load is felt to be heavy or if necessitated by a pupil's needs. Similarly Most Able pupils are permitted to study additional subjects 'off timetable' should they wish, chiefly Music or additional languages. Three or four homework tasks a night consolidate pupil learning.

All pupils are expected to study a curriculum of:

- English (Language and Literature)
- Mathematics
- All three sciences (as Separate Sciences or Dual Award)
- Options subjects which include a full range of the linguistic, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative

Every year, a number of chiefly international pupils join the school in Year 11 to undertake a very successful Pre-IB Programme. These pupils normally study a reduced core of six or seven GCSE / IGCSE subjects.

Linguistic	All pupils are instructed in English Language and Literature(CIE IGCSE, two qualifications) with four lessons per week allocated to their command of language in a variety of media. GCSE sets are setted solely according to ability in English. Pupils for whom English is not a first language also study E2L, normally for two lessons per week. Language acquisition remains central to the ethos of Gresham's. All six languages – French, German, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish – are available to IGCSE or GCSE and pupils may study up to three languages. The vast majority of pupils study at least one. Native speakers are also permitted to undertake GCSEs in their mother tongue. It is not compulsory to study a modern foreign language but all pupils are encouraged to do so, and almost all do.
Mathematical	All pupils study Edexcel IGCSE Maths on an allocation of four periods per week. Sets are setted purely on mathematical ability. Set 1 take their IGCSE at the end of Year 10, freeing them to study extension work in the form of AO Maths in Year 11. Sets 2 and 6 may attempt their IGCSE in the January of Year 11.
Scientific	All pupils who embark on the Year 10 curriculum continue their three sciences taught by specialist teachers. This ensure the foundations of scientific knowledge and principles are studied by all pupils. Pupils may choose to study the separate sciences or Dual Award science. Separate sciences are allocated three lessons per week; Dual Award sciences have two lessons per week. Pupils arriving in Year 11 are expected to study at least one Single Science.
Technological	Technological options available for study include Computer Science, Resistant Materials and Graphic Products. All pupils have the opportunity to select these subjects which are allocated three lessons per week. A heavy emphasis is placed on practical work and production in these courses.
Human and social	The study of the human and social is encouraged at GCSE through it is not compulsory. Most pupils study one human and one social subject, though many study two or even three. All pupils are free to choose Geography, History and Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics), each of which are allocated three periods a week.
Physical	GCSE Physical Education is available as an optional subject on three lessons a week. Lessons in PSHE continue to stress the basic principles of fitness and health. All pupils continue to experience coaching and performance advice with three sessions of taught Games per week.
Aesthetic and creative	Art, Drama and Music are all offered at GCSE with three lessons per week. Beyond this, the aesthetic and creative remain central to the ethos of the school, with many Year 10 and 11 pupils involved in artistic creativity with exhibitions of their work (such as house music), and involvement in school drama (from formal productions and house entertainments) and the rich musical life of the school (house music, choirs, ensembles, orchestras).

PSHE is delivered through a carousel of specialist teachers who in one period a week tackle areas of expertise (SRE, Drug Sense, Financial Literacy, British Values, and Careers).

Sixth Form

- The Sixth Form curriculum at Gresham's aims to be as flexible as possible to allow pupils to maximise their future career options, whether at university or the world of work.
- All pupils are free to choose to study either A-Level or the IB Diploma Programme. All pupils are offered information, advice and guidance to ensure that their educational choices are sound and suitable for their aspirational goals.

A-Levels

- Pupils normally study three A-Level subjects. Four subjects are permissible. Pupils are free to study from any of the subjects offered, allowing either for specialism or breadth.
- Pupils are encouraged to complete Extended Essays on a subject and topic of their choice.
- Pupils are allocated 7 periods per week per A-Level subject over the course of two years.

Pre-U

- We currently offer Pre-U Mandarin.

BTEC

- We currently offer a Level 3 Diploma in Sport, Agriculture and Music Technology

IB Diploma

- Pupils normally study six IB Diploma subjects, at least three of which must be at Higher Level. In addition, all IB Diploma Pupils complete the core of Theory of Knowledge, CAS and Extended Essay.
- Pupils are allocated five periods per week for each Higher Level subject. For Standard Level subjects it is four per week in the Lower Sixth and three in the Upper Sixth.
- Pupils with learning support needs receive support based tailored to the programme they are following. Opportunities for academic enrichment are widely advertised to all pupils, including those who are AG&T.

Linguistic	A full range of languages is open to all pupils: English Literature, English Language and Literature, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Mandarin, Spanish. Two languages are compulsory as part of the IB Diploma. For IB, languages are available as native (English, German and self-taught) alongside B and ab initio.
Mathematical	A large number of pupils take up Maths and Further Maths at A-Level; for those that take neither a post-16 numeracy course will be available from September 2015. Mathematics is compulsory for IB Diploma pupils – at Higher Level or Standard Level.
Scientific	All three sciences are available at A-Level and IB Diploma. Science is compulsory for IB Diploma pupils, who must select at least one of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems & Society or Physics.
Technological	Technological options available at A-Level include Computer Science and Design, both Resistant Materials and Graphic Products. Technological options are not available to IB Diploma pupils, but may be encountered as part of CAS or the Extended Essay.

Human and Social	Human and social disciplines are available to A-Level and IB pupils and are compulsory in Group 3 of the Diploma. Business Studies / Business and Management, Economics, Geography, History, Philosophy and Ethics and Psychology are all available.
Physical	Physical Education may be taken up as an A-Level option. All Sixth Form pupils have three afternoons of timetable sport each week. IB Diploma pupils must reflect on physical activity as part of their CAS programme. The compulsory well-being programme in the Lower Sixth stresses the importance the fitness, health and science.
Aesthetic and creative	Art, Drama and Music are all offered at both A-Level and as part of the IB Diploma Group 6. Beyond this, the aesthetic and creative remain central to the ethos of the school, with many Sixth Form pupils involved in artistic creativity with exhibitions of their work (such as house music), and involvement in school drama (from formal productions and house entertainments) and the rich musical life of the school (house music, choirs, ensembles, orchestras). IB pupils must undertake aesthetic and creative activities and reflect upon them as part of their CAS programme.

In the Sixth Form, the curriculum extends beyond the classroom. Lower Sixth Formers are engaged in a series of academic enrichment lectures which explore the widest range of curriculum areas and topics. Similarly, there are a large number of student academic societies which explore the linguistic (Auden and Modern Language Societies), Human and Social (History and Skiouros Societies) & scientific (Hodgkin Society).

PSHE is delivered through an extensive well-being programme delivered through staff volunteers and external professionals for Lower Sixth on Friday afternoons.

Careers education in Years 12 and 13 is based predominantly around key events related to university options and applications through regular exposure to careers events and talks, and through individual guidance from academic tutors and House staff.