

## Curriculum Policy

Issue number	2.1
Name and appointment of owner / author	Paul Bridges, Deputy Head (Academic)
Review Body	SLT and Full Board of Governors
Last updated	16 <sup>th</sup> August, 2018
Reason for update	change of personnel
Last reviewed by SLT	May 2018
Last reviewed by Governors	June 2018
Next SLT review due	May 2019
Next Governor review due	September 2019
Where available	Staff Handbook, School web-site (unrestricted area)

## Freemen's Curriculum Policy

The City of London Freeman's School provides a rigorous and stimulating curriculum which will challenge and engage pupils. All pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress.

All pupils of compulsory school age receive a full time education which encompasses mathematical, linguistic, technological, human and social, physical and creative aspects.

At all levels the core curriculum provides the opportunity for pupils to acquire skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy; these are further developed in other subjects.

The curriculum provides adequate preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and pupils in the Senior School receive appropriate careers guidance. A key aspect of the curriculum is the enrichment afternoon. Every student from Year 3 - 13 will have at least one afternoon each fortnight when they are engaged in a programme of activities developing leadership, teamwork, community service and organisation. The full enrichment programme encompasses all the activities that were previously offered as 'extra-curricular'. Therefore, through the week, a varied, exciting programme of activities is on offer for all students.

### ***The Junior School Curriculum***

In the lower Junior School years (from Year 3) the majority of lessons are taught by the Form Teacher with subjects such as Religious Studies, Music and P.E./Games taught by specialist staff. As the pupils progress through the Junior School more of the subjects are taught by specialists. In the final two years of the Junior School (Years 7 & 8) all subjects are taught by specialist subject staff, many of whom also teach in the Senior School.

In the early years English and Mathematics account for up to 40% of class time with about one hour a week devoted to subjects such as History, Geography, Religious Studies, Design & Technology, Information Technology, Art and Music. From Year 4 Mathematics is set by ability.

**Science** is taught as a combined subject up to Year 7 after which it is taught separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

**Modern Languages** – French, German & Spanish – are introduced in to the timetable in Year 3 when pupils are given the opportunity to experience all three languages before

choosing their main language in Year 5. From this point, languages are set by ability if there are sufficient pupils choosing the language to make two sets.

**P.E. and Games** are considered to be a very important part of every child's education and at least three hours per week is devoted to this area. In addition to this, of course, many children will become part of at least one of the School's representative sports teams and/or will take part in House competitions.

**Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**, part of the timetable in all years, promotes the development of healthy lifestyles and citizenship and encourages individual responsibility and informed decision-making.

**Enrichment** is timetabled for one afternoon each week from Form 1 to Lower 3; the pupils follow an exciting programme developing leadership, teamwork, community service and organisation.

## ***Upper School Curriculum***

### **Year 9**

Pupils are provided with a broad curriculum allowing informed decisions to be made about the available GCSE options in Years 10 & 11. Linked to National Curriculum guidelines, the core subjects are English, Mathematics, the Sciences and a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish). The three sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) are taught separately. In addition, the Year 9 curriculum consists of the following subjects: a second Foreign Language (as above or Latin); Art & Design; Design Technology\*; Food Technology\*; Geography; History; Computing; Music; Physical Education & Games; Religious Studies.

The pupils are set by ability in Mathematics, Science, MFL and English. The English sets then determine the groupings for the rest of the curriculum (with the exception of PE and Games)

\*each subject taught for half the year

### **Years 10 & 11**

Pupils follow a two year programme culminating in 10 GCSE examinations. The core examinable subjects – English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, the Sciences and a Modern Foreign Language – will continue to be studied with the three sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) being taught and examined separately. The core subjects are all set by ability in Years 10 and 11.

In addition, pupils choose three options from the following:

A second Modern Foreign Language, (French, German or Spanish); Art & Design; Design Technology: Resistant Materials; Drama; Food Technology; Geography; History; Computing; Latin; Music; Physical Education, Religious Studies.

P.E. and Games as a whole year group continue to be delivered but are not examined.

### **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

PSHE is taught throughout the Upper School. Topics covered include: self discipline & decision making; study skills; self awareness & awareness of others including the elderly and disability; awareness of drugs, smoking & alcohol and law & order. In addition, pupils are familiarised with the Careers Room and the advice available. They are then able to use this facility throughout the rest of their time at the School starting with looking at the career implications of their GCSE option choices.

### **Enrichment**

The enrichment programme runs every other week for pupils in the Upper School and above and is a key part of the Upper School curriculum and builds on the Junior School programme further developing a wide range of skills.

Those pupils who have a SEN statement will be given support to ensure they receive an education that fulfills its requirements [see Special Educational Needs and EAL Policy]

### ***The Sixth Form Curriculum***

We endeavour to offer a range of subjects in the Sixth Form that allows all students to follow a programme that meets their interests, abilities and career aspirations.

For each Sixth Former the curriculum has the following elements:

- Three A level subjects will be studied throughout the Sixth Form. These will all be taken at the end of the Upper 6 year (Year 13);
- Further Mathematics may be chosen as a fourth A level and must be studied alongside Mathematics A level;
- A taught course on project management culminating in an extended project (EPQ); all pupils who are studying 3 A levels (i.e. not Further Mathematics) are expected to complete an EPQ. Those studying Further Mathematics may opt to do an EPQ but it is not compulsory for those pupils;
- The Free Minds programme; pupils who are not studying Further Maths will choose five courses from a broad selection – courses consist of 6 weeks of hour seminars / lessons.
- The enrichment curriculum for pupils in the Lower 6;
- A programme of appropriate Games options on Wednesday afternoon;
- A course of Careers Education, and Personal, Social and Health Education.

Pupils will choose their 3 A levels from the following options:

# Freemen's

Learn, lead and make a difference



Art, Biology, Business, Computing, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Drama, Economics, English Literature, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Latin, Classical Civilization, Mathematics, French, German, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Government & Politics, Psychology, Religion, Philosophy & Ethics.