

Curriculum Policy

for both the Junior and Senior Schools

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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:

Art, Biology, Business, Computing, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Drama, Economics, English Literature, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Latin, Classical Civilization,

Freemen's

Learn, lead and make a difference



Mathematics, French, German, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Government & Politics, Psychology, Religion, Philosophy & Ethics.

Appendix 1

Requests to undertake an alternative programme of study.

Students are expected to study the School's Curriculum, as outlined in the Curriculum policy, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This appendix outlines the process for making a request to study an alternative programme and the guidelines which are to be followed in making that decision. It is normally expected that an alternative programme is one in which a student takes one or more fewer subjects than required by the School's Curriculum policy.

How can applications be made to consider an alternative programme of study?

Requests to undertake an alternative programme of study should be made in writing or via email to the Head of the student's section.

Who can make changes to a student's programme of study

- The School may advise when they consider it is in the best interests of the student to make changes to their programme of study. Any decision to change the students programme of study will need to be discussed and approved by the student, their parents, the Head of Section and the Deputy Head Academic. In cases where there is a SEND issue the Learning Support Manager will be consulted.
- Parents may request that an alternative programme of study be allowed. Such requests should be made in writing to the Head of Section. The School reserves the right to make the final decision to grant the request.

What guides the School's decision to grant a student an alternative programme of study?

- History of need – students who have a history of needing support from the School over and above normal levels of academic and pastoral support will have that history considered;
- External referral – where the School has arranged for or been involved in an assessment that assessment may be considered;
- Co-curricular commitment – where the students undertakes co-curricular commitments in excess of what is deemed within achievable norms that can be considered;
- Pastoral need – where the pastoral team identifies that the student's pastoral needs require a change to their programme of study.

When students have elected to study additional subjects?

On occasion the School allows some students to study more subjects than the normal programme of study, for example when undertaking Further Maths at A Level. When a student commits to such a programme of study the decision, at a later date, to request to drop the additional subject may be made directly to the Head of Section and will not undergo the same assessment as would be levelled against a request to drop a subject from their core programme of study. If the additional subject has replaced a core subject,

then the additional subject becomes a core component and any request to drop the subject needs to follow the process above.

What happens next for those who have changed to an alternative programme of study?

Once the decision to change a student's programme of study is confirmed the student will normally be expected to use their gained time to concentrate on their other subjects, working and registering in the School's library. It is possible that some of the student's gained time may also be used to facilitate sessions delivered by the Learning Support Department.

Entry to the Sixth Form

When the School has advised that a change to the curriculum is in the best interests of the pupil the points required to re-enter the School at Sixth Form will be adjusted. When the decision to drop a subject is not supported by the School the points will not be adjusted.