

AYLESBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



CURRICULUM POLICY

Principles

High academic attainment and the development of confident, capable, responsible, imaginative and healthy young men are the twin aims of the curriculum.

Individual pupil needs are addressed. These include Special Educational Needs, extra challenge for the Able, Gifted and Talented, and support for those who need it in particular subjects. In exceptional cases our normal policies are set aside if the Headmaster judges this to be appropriate for an individual.

The formal curriculum (lessons and homework) follows any statutory requirements, interpreted and modified appropriately for the needs of a high achieving selective school.

Breadth and balance is encouraged for all students at all stages of school education.

The extended curriculum (extra-curricular activities) is very important in helping to complement the formal curriculum in achieving the twin aims. This is supported through the House structure, educational visits, participation in local, regional, national and international competitions, conferences in and out of school, school performances, visiting speakers, and clubs and societies.

Overview of the Curriculum (for details see Appendix 1)

- In Key Stage 3 pupils follow an enhanced National Curriculum
- In Key Stage 4 pupils study a core set of subjects, with a range of options
- In Key Stage 5 students study 3 or more A level subjects, together with a programme of complementary studies

Throughout the school students follow a programme of personal, social, health, citizenship and enterprise education (PSHCEE) and religious education (Philosophy of Religion).

Review and implementation

Operational decisions on the curriculum are made by the Headmaster or those to whom he delegates this task.

Strategic decisions on policy and subjects to be included will be proposed by the Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team, and decided by the Governors' Learning and Teaching Committee.

APPENDIX 1: CURRICULUM DETAILS

Key Stage 3

The national curriculum subjects are taught:

- Art
- Design Technology
- English
- Geography
- History
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Language (French)
- Music
- Physical Education and Games (including swimming in Year 7)
- Science (Integrated in Years 7 and 8)

In addition there are lessons in PSHCEE and Philosophy of Religion
Philosophy of Religion leads to a short course GCSE at the end of KS3.

Enhancements to the National Curriculum are:

- Classical studies
- A second Modern Foreign Language from Year 7 (German or Spanish)

Key Stage 4

All pupils follow GCSE courses in the following subjects:

- English (including English Literature GCSE)
- Mathematics (including a Free Standing Maths Qualification (AS module))
- At least one Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German)
- Three Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)

Pupils also study three subjects from this list:

- Art
- Ancient History
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Design Technology (a range of options is available)
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Information and Communication Technology
- Additional Foreign Language (French, Spanish, German, Latin or *ab initio* Italian and Japanese)
- Music
- Physical Education
- Philosophy of Religion

For pupils who have passed French GCSE early, there is the option of:

- Further French (non-examined) with additional Italian or Japanese
- Economics
- Geology

In addition PSHCEE/Philosophy of Religion is taught. There are non-examined PE and Games lessons for all.

Key Stage 5

A levels

All students study 4 “mainstream” AS subjects (not including any studied as part of Block E) in Year 12. Maths and Further Maths, although separate A level qualifications, count as a single subject for this purpose.

In Year 13 students study 3 or 4 mainstream A2 subjects. Those who study 3 are encouraged to continue with some additional broadening study (e.g. General Studies, Philosophy, Critical Thinking). In a minority of cases students in Year 13 may study a new AS subject or study on three A2 level subjects, but this will be by special arrangement and subject to the agreement of the Head of Sixth Form and/or the Headmaster

The list of A levels will be revised from time to time by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors’ Learning and Teaching Committee. Currently possible subjects are:

Ancient History	Economics	Mathematics*
Art	English*	Music
Biology	French	Physical Education
Business Studies	Further Mathematics*	Physics
Chemistry	Geography	Politics
Communication & Culture	German	Spanish
Computing	History	Theatre Studies
Design Technology*	Latin	

* there are different options available within these subjects

Block E

In Year 12 & Year 13 there is a set of options, including:

- Foreign Language GCSE (e.g. Japanese, Chinese, Greek, Italian)
- Maths for Physics students not studying AS Mathematics but are studying AS Physics (non-examined)
- General Studies
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Critical Thinking
- YASS (Open University) modules
- Community Service outside school.
- EES
- Sports Leaders Awards
- Young Enterprise

Other

There is a programme of PSHCEE lessons and games. These are compulsory, but those who take part in organised sports outside school may seek exemption from Games.