



## **Exeter School**

### **Curriculum Policy**

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## Aims

Exeter School believes that the curriculum in the widest sense includes far more than the timetabled taught lessons in examination subjects. The school is working towards a 7-18 approach to the curriculum and to teaching and learning.

Although this policy focuses on the detail of the distribution and choices within the 40-period academic week, the contribution of the large number of additional opportunities for curriculum enrichment is considered to be of great value. These opportunities include: lectures, masterclasses, trips - day and residential, performances, revision classes, study skills lectures, leadership training, clubs and societies, etc.

The school's academic and pastoral teams operate side by side to monitor and develop childrens' potential. Heads of House have an overview of each child's development and close communication with parents is encouraged.

PSHE and Careers education are part of the school's curriculum provision. The arrangements for the delivery of these elements are detailed within specific named policies.

All pupils are expected to work hard to develop their full potential. Academic success in university admissions, A Levels, GCSEs and all manner of other events and competitions is an aim of the curriculum and an aspiration of pupils, staff and parents. The development of learning skills and an understanding and love of learning which will continue into adult life are wider aims of the curriculum. These (which include the provision of Learning Support) are detailed at greater length in the schools Teaching and Learning policy.

Exeter School is committed to providing equal opportunities within and access to the curriculum to all of our pupils regardless of their gender, race, ability and background. All choices within the curriculum are discussed with the pupil and parents through the Head of House system to ensure that each individual makes informed choices that are appropriate for individual abilities, needs and aspirations.

*This policy document outlines the Senior and Junior School curriculum below. At the end of this policy is a more detailed breakdown of the number of periods per week assigned to each subject through the school and the option choices available at GCSE and A Level.*

## Outline of Junior School Curriculum

In any given week there is a focus on core subject teaching, the foundation of learning. This is supported by the delivery of a wide-ranging curriculum, offering French to design technology, history to music.

Exeter Junior School generally follows the National Curriculum in core and foundation subjects, without being shackled to it. The Junior School subject coordinators liaise with Senior School Heads of Department to ensure that subjects are taught with continuity from Year 6 to Year 7.

The varied 'extra-curricular' programme is another part of the overall curriculum which is seen as an essential part of the school, and staff are dedicated to providing every opportunity for pupil success. Whether their interests lie in chess, drama or football, there are many opportunities for them all to do well and they are actively encouraged to explore (see curriculum outline below). Parents are given curriculum outline at the beginning of each term. Further detail in the Junior School curriculum policy.



## Outline of Senior School Curriculum

A broad, academically challenging education awaits pupils between the ages of eleven and eighteen. The school's curriculum offers a wide range of subjects and aims to respond to changes in focus suggested by national trends and the expertise of the staff. All pupils also take part in the school's games programmes and have access to a large number of additional clubs and sporting facilities.

### Years 7, 8 and 9

The emphasis of the curriculum in these three years is to ensure that pupils with a diverse range of educational backgrounds and abilities are given an equal chance to sample the full range of subject options.

In Years 7, 8 & 9 (named Third Form, Fourth Form and Lower Fifth at Exeter School), the pupils are set by ability for mathematics but are taught in mixed ability groups for all other subjects (this is in forms for all subjects *except* languages where they are taught in classes based on their option choices - see detail below).

In these three years, pupils have a chance to sample a full range of subject options. In all three years pupils will study English, mathematics, modern foreign languages and/or classical studies (see below), physics, chemistry, biology, history, geography, art, drama, design technology, religious studies, computer science, music, physical education and games.

The School House Library sits at the heart of learning at Exeter School and there is a programme in place to enable pupils in all subjects to make the most of this wonderful resource and to help highlight the importance of gaining enjoyment and academic breadth and insight through reading. The Librarian is involved in order to help cultivate a love of reading and a sense of its importance along with the skills and knowledge required to fully utilise a modern library.

In addition to these subjects, in Year 7, there is also a single period of PSHE. Drama is taught in half form groups during this period for two terms of the year and also covers a number of PSHE topics. In Year 8 there is a single period split through the year between PSHE and drama with each being taught in half teaching groups. In Year 9, there is a period which is split through the year between PSHE and the Learning at Exeter School. Electronics is also taught in Year 8; its double period being taught at the same time as Computer Science, so the pupils can be taught in half form groups in these subjects but also bring together skills from each in the form of independent project work.

Modern foreign languages and classical studies: before entry into the Senior School, pupils choose two subjects from French, German and Spanish to study in Year 7. They also all study classical studies which covers Latin as well as a look into the Ancient World. At the end of Year 7, pupils will be given options as to which two subjects from French, German, Spanish and classical studies they wish to continue in Years 8 and 9. They will then pick at least one Modern Foreign Language to study at GCSE and can pick their other language in one of the option blocks if desired.

Sciences: biology, chemistry and physics are taught separately. In Year 9, pupils begin studying for their science GCSEs, which they study over the course of three years (Years 9 - 11).



## **Years 10 and 11**

Year 10 and 11 (named Middle Fifth and Upper Fifth at Exeter School) are the two years of GCSE courses. The process of choosing GCSE options starts at Christmas in the L5 and every effort is made to ensure that parents and pupils are given clear and individual advice.

The summary of the choices available is shown below.

Core: mathematics, English (language and literature), a modern foreign language, science (double award science or separate sciences) and religious education (non-examination)

Optional: guided choice of three subjects chosen from: art, classical civilisation, computer science, design technology, drama, French, geography, history, Latin, music, religious studies, Spanish.

The core GCSE subjects of maths, English and sciences are set by ability. Pupils in the top maths set also study the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths course in their normal maths lessons, and some of them will then sit the exams at the end of Year 11. Some core French and Spanish sets are also set by ability, depending on numbers.

The core subject of religious education is a single period per week and does not lead to a qualification. It is entirely distinct from the religious studies GCSE course which is one of the option subjects.

Pupils take GCSE examinations in 9, 10 or 11 subjects at the end of Year 11.

## **Years 12 and 13**

Years 12 and 13 (usually referred to as Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth) are the two years of Sixth Form study. There are ten tutor groups in the Lower and Upper Sixth arranged by houses.

In the Lower Sixth, all pupils will study four A level subjects from: art, biology, business, chemistry, classical civilisation, computer science, design technology, drama, economics, electronics, English literature, French, further mathematics, geography, German, history, Latin, mathematics, music, physics, politics, psychology, religious studies and Spanish.

In addition, Lower Sixth formers have the options to work towards the Extended Project Qualification, which counts as an AS Level in terms of UCAS points.

In the Upper Sixth, pupils continue their study of either 3 or 4 subjects which they started studying in the Lower Sixth.



## *Curriculum map and option choices*

### Years 3 to 11: Junior School through to GCSE

The table below gives an overview of the number of periods per subject through the Junior School (Years 3-6) and the Senior School to GCSE (Years 7-11).

Exeter School Year	N.C. Year	Ma	En	MFL /La	Bi	Ch	Ph	Hi	Gg	RS /RE	AD /DT	CS	Mu	PE	TS	EI	PSE /TLC	Opt A	Opt B	Opt C	Fri8	Ga	Tot
F1	3	7	8	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1		1					2	35
U1	4	7	7	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1		1					2	35
L2	5	7	6	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1		1					4	35
U2	6	7	6	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1		1					4	35
3	7	5	4	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			1					2	40
4	8	5	4	6	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	(2)		1					2	40
L5	9	4	5	6	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		1					2	40
M5	10	5	6	4	3	3	3			1								4	4	4	1	2	40
U5	11	4	6	4	3	3	3			1								4	4	4	1	3	40

### GCSE options

Three subjects, one from each of the columns, should be chosen.

It is *recommended* that *at least one* humanity is studied.

It *may* be the case, although very unlikely, that only one creative/technical subject is possible. If two are chosen then alternatives must also be given for one of these options.

Within these guiding principles, Exeter School will consider requests for pupils with specific aspirations, needs and circumstances on an individual basis. Whilst maintaining the principle of fair and equal access to the curriculum for all, Exeter School is also committed to achieving the right programme for each individual.

Column A	Column B	Column C
Drama	Art & design	Art & design
Geography	Classical civilisation	Computer science
History	Computer science	Design technology
Music	Design technology	Geography
Religious studies	Drama	History
	Geography	Spanish
	Latin	
	Music	



### The Sixth Form curriculum

The table shows the allocation of the periods per week in the Sixth form.

Exeter School Year	N.C. Year	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Futures Programme (inc EPQ option)	Games	Fri8	Private Study
L6	12	7	7	7	7	2	3	1	2
U6 (4 A level programme)	13	8	8	8	8	2	3	1	2
U6 (3 A level programme)	13	8	8	8		2	3	1	4

Core options:

The four current option columns for the Lower Sixth are as shown below.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Biology	Biology	Art and design	Biology
DT	Classical civilisation	Business	Chemistry
English literature	Computer science	Chemistry	Economics
History	Geography	Drama and theatre	Electronics
Further mathematics	History	Economics	English literature
Geography	Mathematics	English literature	French
Mathematics	Physics	Further mathematics	German
Music	Psychology	Geography	Geography
Politics	BTEC sport	History	Physics
Spanish		Physics	Psychology
		Politics	BTEC sport

### Private study

In order to manage the transition between GCSE and university, the Sixth Form are required and encouraged to make use of the 'free' periods in their school week. To this end, they are allocated a number of periods in the week during which they must sign into the Library in order to work on their A Level courses. It is hoped that the pupils will also make use of this excellent facility in their remaining unallocated periods although they are free to be in the Common Room if they so choose. The percentage of unallocated periods increases in the U6 as a steppingstone on the way to the freedom of university life.



### **University applications / careers information**

The Sixth Form also prepares pupils for future steps into Higher Education and employment. This is done through the Head of Careers, the Higher Education Advisor and the Heads of House and Head of Sixth Form. Some of this is carried out in the designated timetabled *Futures* lessons (see detail below).

The vast majority of Sixth Form pupils apply through UCAS and there is a programme of events starting in the Lower Sixth to guide pupils through this process.

Other events include: a Careers Evening at Exeter School, the use of Morrisby, a 'mock' interview scheme in conjunction with a local law firm and university visits.

### **The Futures programme**

The Sixth Form pupils have two periods allocated each week to the school's *Futures* programme. A series of activities are run in these slots to help prepare pupils for University, Careers and Employability. Most of the activities are optional, allowing pupils to plot their own path through the programme. Pupils also have the opportunity to study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), and the mentoring sessions for these are included in this slot. Preparation for Oxbridge & medical applications and additional qualifications is also carried out as part of the Futures programme.

### **Additional qualifications: AEA, STEP, BMAT, Oxbridge entrance exams**

Our more able pupils, those applying to Oxbridge and those wishing to apply for medicine have a series of further qualifications and examinations that they may wish to take or are required to take. These include Advanced Extension Awards, Sixth Term Entrance Papers in Mathematics, the Biomedical Aptitude Test and entrance papers specific to Oxford and Cambridge University. The school provides support for these as appropriate.