



# Curriculum Policy

## 1. Curricular aims

The overall aim of Taunton School is to challenge, inspire and nurture young people to succeed in a global community. Our outstanding teachers inspire pupils and instil in them a desire to learn. We provide an educational environment that adds value and maximises every pupil's academic achievement.

It is our goal to develop personable, self-confident and articulate young adults with excellent academic qualifications, who are well prepared for life in this country or abroad.

All Taunton School pupils are given a broad, balanced and relevant education, which ensures continuity and progression, and takes individual differences into account, so that all can flourish.

The Taunton School curriculum is not restricted to what goes on in the classroom.

In our curriculum we undertake:

- To realise the potential within each pupil and to encourage all pupils to aim high in spite of difficulties
- To foster a spirit of enquiry amongst pupils and inspire them to engage with a range of contrasting viewpoints
  - To improve academic results continually across our broad subject range
  - To increase pupil participation in a variety of challenging activities
  - To provide a safe school environment for all pupils with an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect
  - To provide teaching and facilities of the highest quality, to stimulate pupils' curiosity
  - To promote independent learning and appropriate use of Information Technology

## 2. Regulatory matters relating to the curriculum

Taunton School satisfies the regulatory requirements for the quality of education we provide in the following ways:

The school has a written curriculum policy which is laid out in this document and supplemented by various further academic policies detailed in section 3 below. Section 4 below explains how the curriculum is structured. Further documentation regarding the planning of our curriculum, such as schemes of work, is contained within individual Departmental handbooks.

The school's written curriculum policy, curriculum plans, schemes of work and lesson plans are carefully constructed and refined over time to take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all our pupils, including those with an Education and Health Care (EHC) plan. Currently 1 pupil has an EHC plan. Provision for pupils with an EHC plan is detailed in our Academic Development Policy (see section 3).

As stated in our curricular aims above, Taunton School's curriculum promotes fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. As an IB World School, we subscribe to the IB philosophy "to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world", and encourage our

pupils to embody the characteristics of the IB learner profile: “inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, reflective”.

The school provides full-time supervised education for pupils of compulsory school age. We give pupils experience in linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, human and social, physical and aesthetic and creative education, as detailed in section 4.

All our pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills through the subjects we teach, such as English, Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and Science, also English as an Additional Language. Departmental schemes of work are set up to ensure that lessons are well planned and that instruction proceeds at an appropriate pace.

The language of instruction at Taunton School is English but we do also support mother tongues as detailed in our Language policy in section 3.

As befits our school aims and ethos, we have a full programme of personal, social, health and economic education. The PSHEE programme encourages respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Act(a). More detail is given about our PSHEE programme below in section 3.

The school is fortunate to possess an excellent Careers department which provides accurate, up-to-date university admissions and careers guidance that is presented in an impartial manner, enables students to make informed choices about a broad range of Higher Education and career options and encourages them to fulfil their potential. The Careers Department is staffed by a full time Head of Careers plus an administrative assistant, who curates the Department’s Firefly intranet site with its wealth of resources as well as the abundant printed material contained within the Careers centre. The university admissions and Careers advice process begins with Morrisby assessments in Year 10 and moves onwards via individual consultations and research, through to large Universities and Careers Fairs with external guests in Sixth Form. Students thinking of applying to Oxbridge are catered for by a separate programme run by the Head of Oxbridge Admissions. We also run a Pre-Med programme for students applying to read Medicine. Please see the Careers Department Information (CEIAG) in section 3 for more detail.

The school has no pupils below compulsory school age but in Sixth Form pupils above compulsory school age are provided for by a full programme of activities appropriate to their needs, including academic and co-curricular programmes. See sections 4 and 6 below.

All Taunton School pupils have the opportunity to learn and make progress. Differentiation is at the heart of our Teaching & Learning policy which is linked in section 4 below. Our reporting and tracking practice allows us to make appropriate interventions and adapt pupils’ programmes to suit their needs. We use baseline assessment data to inform these interventions and pride ourselves on our success with providing bespoke programmes for difficult cases. In summer 2016 Taunton School participated in a ‘soft value added’ project under the auspices of the ISC during which the mental toughness of two year groups (Years 10 and 12) was measured. We will use the data gathered from this project to inform our next phase of curriculum planning.

Taunton School provides effective preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society through the content of our lessons and activities, our Academic Enrichment programme, our many clubs and societies, including CCF, our numerous offsite trips and visiting speakers who address the pupils in our regular Assemblies and Chapel services.

### 3. Related statements and policies

This curriculum policy should be read in conjunction with other statements and policies including:

- Departmental and Staff Handbooks
- 'Academic matters'
- Language Policy
- Academic Development Policy
- Library Policy
- PSHEE Programme
- Elite Sport Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Controlled Assessment Policy
- EAL Philosophy and Aims
- Laptop and Mobile Device Policy
- Activities Programme (CCF, Community Service, Games, Music & Drama)
- Careers Department Information (CEIAG)

### 4. Organisation of the curriculum

#### Year 9

All students study the 'core' subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, English, Geography, History, Computing and ICT, Maths, Personal Social and Health Education, Physical Education, Physics and Religious Studies.

Each student then chooses one subject from the block below:

Language Option: French; German; Spanish

Each student then chooses **2** options from the list below:

Options: Business Studies, Classical Civilisation; Design and Technology; Drama; French; Latin; Music

#### Years 10 + 11

Core Subjects:

- English Language (IGCSE)
- English Literature (IGCSE)
- Modern Foreign Language from French, German, Spanish (IGCSE)
- Mathematics (IGCSE)
- Biology (Level 1/2 Certificate - GCSE equivalent)
- Physics (Level 1/2 Certificate - GCSE equivalent)
- Chemistry (Level 1/2 Certificate - GCSE equivalent)
- PSHEE (non-examined)

Pupils may then choose 2 or 3 further option subjects, leading to a total of 9 or 10 (I)GCSEs:

### Science:

All three science disciplines are taught to GCSE, but there are two routes to follow:

Trilogy combined science means studying the **core content** in each science and leads to **two** grades at GCSE calculated from the combined performance in all three sciences. Trilogy combined science occupies less timetable space, leaving more time for other subjects.

Triple award science involves studying **the core and additional content** in each science to lead to **three** grades at GCSE, each science subject being graded independently of the other two. This option occupies more periods in the timetable, leaving less time for other subjects.

There is **no** difference in difficulty of the core content shared by the two routes. Strong mathematical skills are required throughout GCSE science, especially for the Triple Award. The overall level of demand is higher in all the new GCSE science specifications.

Trilogy combined science is the GCSE start point upon which sixth form sciences syllabuses are designed to build and is therefore sufficient foundation to continue to study science subjects in the Sixth Form. It is the national standard for entry to sixth form science courses and for Universities, who expect all students to have studied GCSE science at least at trilogy combined science.

Students wishing to pursue the additional content at triple award do so at the discretion of the Head of Science.

### Modern Foreign Languages

The majority of students will also choose a Modern Foreign Language and 3 further optional subjects.

- All pupils must choose at least one Modern Foreign Language from French, German, Spanish (unless none of these languages have been studied in Yr 9).
- Extra Maths/English may be available for those who do not study a Language.

### Humanities and Arts

- Whilst Humanities and Arts subjects are not compulsory, Taunton School recommends very strongly that all pupils choose at least one Humanities subject (Geography, History or RS) and at least one Creative Arts subject (Art, Design and Technology, Drama or Music).

### (I)GCSE Options Choices

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| • Art                                  | • History (IGCSE)    |
| • Business Studies (IGCSE)             | • ICT (IGCSE)        |
| • Classical Civilisation               | • Latin              |
| • Computer Science                     | • Music              |
| • Design & Technology - Product Design | • Physical Education |
| • Drama                                | • RS *               |
| • Economics (IGCSE)                    | • Study Skills **    |
| • Geography                            |                      |

\* Please note that if RS is NOT chosen as a full course GCSE pupils will study for a short course GCSE taken at the end of Year 10.

\*\*Study Skills may be available for those who do not wish to take a full range of academic options and will involve supported study time.

## Sixth Form

### A Level September 2017

There are 4 subject blocks available – students choose a maximum of 4 subjects with no more than ONE subject from each block.

A Art; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Classical Civilisations; Design & Technology; German; Economics; English; IELTS; Maths Studies IB; Sports Science BTEC; Theatre Studies

B Business Studies; Chemistry; English; History Late; ICT; IELTS; Latin; Maths and Further Maths; Physics; Sports Science BTEC; IB Languages (French B SL, German B SL, Italian ab initio, Spanish B SL, Spanish ab initio)

C Biology; Computer Science; Design & Technology; Further Maths and Maths; Geography; Maths; Philosophy & Religion; Photography; Psychology; Resit Maths/English

D Economics; French; Geography; History Early; History Late; Maths; Music; Physics; Psychology; Spanish; Sports Science BTEC; Theory of Knowledge IB

Critical thinking for enjoyment is available outside the timetable

Only Classical Civilisations, Latin, Computer Science, ICT and Maths/Further Maths will offer AS examinations in summer 2018. All other courses are linear.

### International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

Students study six subjects, one from each block, 3 at Higher Level (HL) and 3 at Standard Level (SL), also the compulsory 'core' components of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) and the Extended Essay (EE).

Block	Subject and Level
Group 1	English A - Literature HL/SL
	French A - Literature HL/SL
	German A - Language & Literature HL
	Italian A - Literature HL/SL
Group 2	English B HL/SL (also in Group 6)
	French B HL/SL
	German B SL
	Spanish B SL
	Italian ab initio SL
	Spanish ab initio SL
	Latin HL/SL
Group 3	Economics HL/SL
	Geography HL/SL
	History HL/SL
	(Philosophy HL/SL only in Group 6)
	Psychology HL/SL

Group 4	Biology	HL/SL (also in Group 6)
	Chemistry	HL/SL
	Design & Technology	HL/SL
	Physics	HL/SL (also in Group 6)
Group 5	Maths	HL
	Maths	SL
	Maths Studies	SL
Group 6	Music	HL/SL
	Visual Arts	HL/SL
	English B	HL/SL (also in Group 2)
	Philosophy	HL/SL
	History	SL (also in Group 3)
	Biology	HL/SL (also in Group 4)
	Physics	HL/SL (also in Group 6)

Other subjects we may offer in the future are German and Theatre Arts.

### BTEC

Students study for the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Science. This occupies three out of the four A level 'blocks' above. Students may take a supplementary subject to AS/AL in the empty block if they are judged able to cope.

### Extended Project Qualification

A dozen or so students every year take on the EPQ which straddles Year 12 and Year 13.

## **5. Inclusion**

Entry to programmes of study at Taunton School is determined solely by academic suitability with no heed to race, gender or other factors. Academic suitability is judged by the Deputy Head Academic in consultation with the Admissions office, Heads of Department, the Heads of Learning Support and EAL. Our co-curricular programme, as laid out in section 6 below, is open to all without prejudice.

## **6. Co-curricular activities**

### **AUTUMN TERM**

MAJOR GAMES

BOYS: RUGBY

GIRLS: HOCKEY

GAMES OPTIONS

FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, LACROSSE, BADMINTON, SWIMMING, TENNIS, NETBALL, SQUASH, DANCE, GOLF, HORSE RIDING, ROWING, RUN CLUB, FITNESS, CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING.

**SPRING TERM**

MAJOR GAMES	BOYS: RUGBY	GIRLS: HOCKEY
GAMES OPTIONS	FOOTBALL, CROSS COUNTRY, LACROSSE, BASKETBALL, BADMINTON, SWIMMING, TENNIS, NETBALL, SQUASH, DANCE, GOLF, HORSE RIDING, ROWING, RUN CLUB, FITNESS, CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING.	

**SUMMER TERM**

MAJOR GAMES	BOYS: CRICKET	GIRLS: TENNIS
GAMES OPTIONS	ATHLETICS, SWIMMING, TENNIS, DANCE, GOLF, HORSE RIDING, ROWING, RUN CLUB, FITNESS, CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING, VOLLEYBALL, ROUNDERS, BADMINTON	

In addition to the major games, there are matches/competitions in: Football, Basketball, Lacrosse, Badminton, Athletics, Swimming, Cross Country, Golf, Horse Riding, Boys' Tennis and Squash.

CCF & DofE	These activities take place during weekly sessions throughout the year. With additional opportunities to attend Field Days, camps and expeditions throughout the annual calendar programme.
MUSIC	Music activities follow termly programmes throughout the school with a variety of different assembles, choirs and orchestras. Pupils are able to perform in a variety of concerts and productions throughout the school year, both from small scale weekly tea time concerts to full scale Concerto Concerts.
DRAMA	Drama activities follow termly programmes throughout the school with a variety of different activities that the pupils can attend throughout each term. The current pattern of the school year, is for there to be a small scale play involving year 9 and 10 within the first term, with the sixth form supporting in stage management roles. Spring Term is devoted to a) GCSE and AS/A level practical preparation and b) preparation for the end of Summer Term production Summer Term alternates on a bi-annual basis with the music department for a large scale production.
DANCE	Dance activities follow termly programmes throughout the school with a variety



of different activities that the pupils can attend throughout each term. GCSE Dance is available through the Horizons Programme, as is the opportunity to perform in termly Dance Shows or the annual Rock Challenge competition.

#### CLUBS & SOCIETIES

These activities, listed below, follow termly programmes throughout the school with a variety of different activities that the pupils can attend each term.

##### Academic Enrichment

Academic Scholars  
 Amnesty Society  
 Art  
 Astronomy  
 CAS  
 Christian Union  
 Classics Society  
 Conservation  
 EPQ  
 Geography Society  
 Global Society  
 Greenpower  
 Land Rover 4x4 Challenge  
 Lego Robotics  
 Literary Lectures  
 Little Bits Young Inventors  
 Maths Society  
 Maths Book Club  
 Maths Enrichment  
 Model UN  
 Modern Languages Society  
 Natural History  
 Oxbridge  
 Photography  
 Philosophy Society  
 Pre-Med  
 Scientific Society  
 Shakespeare Society  
 STEM (CREST Awards)  
 The Club  
 The Lisk (History)  
 UKMT Preparation  
 Young Enterprise

##### Co-curricular

Bridge  
 Chapel Choir  
 CCF (Army, RAF, Royal Navy, Trekforce)  
 Chess  
 Debating – Junior / Senior  
 Debating – The Burke  
 D of E (Expedition Supervisor)  
 Drama  
 Gardening  
 Momentum Leadership  
 Music

Technical Theatre

Run by students

Cultural Studies

'In Conversation'

Amnesty International

Epistemology Group

Science Forum

Little Bits Electronics

UK Rocket Competition

**12. Communication about the curriculum**

The school communicates with its stakeholders about its written curriculum by means of a variety of printed material available in person or by post from our Admissions Department. There is also plentiful information available on our website and a new school website will spring up in Autumn 2016. We hold regular parents' evenings and curriculum information evenings to update parents and guardians on how their children are doing, and how their prospects are for the future. Parents and guardians are also freely invited to consult with teachers and House staff in person, on the telephone or via email.