



ST JAMES

Senior Boys' School

Curriculum Policy

Aims of the Policy

- To set out the specific nature of the curriculum offered at St James, along with the pedagogical and educational justification for that curriculum
- To detail how the statutory requirements of the curriculum are met at St James

Summary of the St. James curriculum

The St James Senior Boys' School curriculum is designed to provide a holistic education for the boys focused on their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. The school day begins at 8:15am and finishes at 4pm and within that time students have a programme that addresses all aspects of their education. The whole of the curriculum is underpinned by our philosophical approach and the importance of stillness. Each lesson begins and ends with a short period of silence (called "the pause") and a dedication. All students also have two 10-minute periods of Quiet Time each day, where they can choose to meditate, pray or just sit and be still. Teaching this discipline develops students' higher powers of concentration as well as the ability to use reason over reacting to impulse.

The boys are provided with a balanced curriculum. The physical is addressed by regular PE lessons, extra-curricular activities, and for older students the extensive Friday Options programme, where pupils have a wide array of sports to choose from. Intellectually, a wide range of subjects are designed to cater for the strengths and interests of different students:

- Students can take Design Technology, Art, Music and Drama
- All three Sciences are taught separately from Year 7

- The Classical Languages: Sanskrit, Greek and Latin
- Modern Foreign Languages: Spanish and French
- The Humanities of Geography, History, Religious Studies and Classical Civilisation are on offer throughout the school.
- ICT and Computing are offered to all students as a discrete subject and embedded throughout the curriculum to develop digital literacy.
- PSHE is taught within the curriculum through discrete lessons across Year 7 to 11. These lessons are taught by a specialist teacher.
- English and Mathematics are prioritized within the structure of the KS3 and KS4 curriculum in terms of time allocation.

The emotional and spiritual aspects of a boy's education are catered for in regular Philosophy lessons, Form Periods, PSHE sessions (for example; on drugs, sex and alcohol). There are also Assemblies with a common theme and special events (like 6th Form formal dinners with guest speakers) and the yearly Activities Week where pupils from Years 7-10 travel to various locations around the world for cultural experiences.

The aim of our curriculum is to help form young men who:

- Have the ability to reason, be intellectually curious and be good problem solvers
- Enjoy leading their peers, but who can also listen carefully and work with others
- Want to serve their community and society
- Are philosophically and spiritually curious, knowledgeable and sensitive to the needs of others
- Are disciplined, determined, courageous and hard working
- Are prepared for life in beyond school through their knowledge, experiences and skills

Key Points

There are a number of key differences between the curriculum at St James and other mainstream schools.

- Our focus on stillness, silence and meditation (see Aims and Ethos Policy)
- Science taught separately from Year 7: with all Science lessons delivered in laboratories and most including a practical element
- Extensive PE programme
- Focus on the Classical Languages, with Sanskrit and Latin taught from Year 7 and Ancient Greek from Year 9
- Friday Options Programme for Year 9 and above offering an extensive range of different sports, both on and off site

- Clubs Period offering a diverse choice of clubs for all students (see Clubs activity list)
- Activities Week, where Years 7-10 travel overseas for one week a year in March for cultural and natural experiences
- GCSE Options chosen through the ‘Stepping Into Manhood’ programme at the end of Year 8, increasing focus and purpose in Year 9

British Values

St James has been teaching ‘British Values’ implicitly within the academic curriculum and explicitly for many years. The Philosophy curriculum is organised around core themes that relate directly to human values such as justice, honesty, service and both an understanding and celebration of other cultures and religions. ‘Citizenship’ lessons are also embedded into the Year 10 Philosophy curriculum, where students are told about the workings of British democratic and justice systems. St James also is involved in discussing every significant British political decision: holding debates on the general election, Scotland leaving the UK and most recently whether or not to remain in the EU. These debates are led by members of the 6th form but are held in front of the whole school and everyone is encouraged to actively participate. At staff INSET sessions we also discuss how the St James Ethos can be embedded into the academic curriculum. Assembly themes for each term are publicised and staff are encouraged to plan lessons that refer to these themes.

1. Lower School Curriculum

At Year 7 and 8, St. James Senior Boys’ School aims to provide students with a broad curriculum, helping them to explore different subjects and areas of interest. The aim is to inspire students and light the fire of interest in particular fields of study.

At Year 7 and 8, most lessons are taught in Forms, allowing boys to forge relationships and work effectively in mixed ability groups. Mathematics and some Language classes are set by ability.

1.1 Year 7 Curriculum

Academic Subjects (examined)		Non-academic subjects
<p>English</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>3.5 lessons per week</p>	<p>Biology</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p> <p>Chemistry</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p> <p>Physics</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>	<p>Drama</p> <p>3x Forms (with English)</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>
<p>Maths</p> <p>4x sets</p> <p>3.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>ICT</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>	<p>Philosophy</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week for half of the year. This is taught in carousel with PSHE and Sanskrit.</p>
<p>History</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>Geography</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>PSHE</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week for half of the year. This is taught in carousel with PSHE and Sanskrit.</p>
<p>Art</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>	<p>Design and Technology</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>Music</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>

<p>Sanskrit (one class, made up of boys from the Junior School who have previously studied the subject, and high achieving new boys)</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week.</p> <p>The remainder of the year group are on a carousel of PSHE and Philosophy</p>	<p>French</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>3 lessons per week.</p>	<p>Physical Education</p> <p>5 lessons per week.</p> <p>Includes lessons on core sport (rugby/cricket) and cross country running (focus on fitness)</p>
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1.2 Year 8 Curriculum

Academic Subjects (examined)		Non-academic subjects
<p>English</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>3.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>Biology, Chemistry and Physics</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week in each subject</p>	<p>Drama</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>
<p>Maths</p> <p>4x sets</p> <p>3.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>French/ Spanish carousel</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>3 lessons per week.</p>	<p>Philosophy</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week for half of the year. This is taught in carousel with PSHE and Sanskrit.</p>
<p>Art</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>	<p>History</p> <p>3x Forms</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>PSHE</p> <p>Year Group</p> <p>1.5 lesson per week for half of the year. This is taught in carousel with Philosophy and Sanskrit.</p>
<p>Design and Technology</p> <p>1.5 lessons per week.</p>	<p>ICT and Computing</p> <p>1 lesson per week.</p>	<p>Physical Education</p> <p>5 lessons per week.</p>

		Includes lessons on core sport (rugby/cricket) and cross country running (focus on fitness)
Geography 3x Forms 1.5 lessons per week.	Music 3x Forms 1 lesson per week.	Form Period (with PSHE and Study skills sessions) 11 lesson per week.
Sanskrit (one class, made up of boys from the Junior School who have previously studied the subject, and high achieving new boys) 1.5 lessons per week. The remainder of the year group are on a carousel of PSHE and Philosophy.		

2. Upper School Curriculum (Years 9-11)

At the end of Year 8, students choose their GCSE subjects from a broad range of options. At St. James our academic aim is to enable a boy to develop his powers of reasoning and each subject provides a unique discipline as well as helping develop these skills in different ways. Therefore, the balance of subjects is important as well as responding to the needs and talents of the young man.

All boys take the following academic subjects:

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics
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Boys are given free choice of other subjects to choose, constrained only by the matrix below in which they choose one subject from each band. The bandings are reviewed each year to enable maximum subject choice for boys. Boys will study eight subjects leading to 9 GCSEs (with English counting twice for literature and language). To enable a well-rounded education, boys are encouraged to take:

- at least one Language
- at least one Humanity
- at least one Science

Boys discuss their choices with the Director of Studies, the Academic Director, Head of Upper School, and subject teachers to ensure a balanced curriculum.

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F
Chemistry	Geography	Physics	Physics	Spanish	French
Music	Drama	Computing	Chemistry	Biology	Biology
Physical Education	Biology	Art / Photography	Classical Civilisation	History	Design Technology
Drama	Chemistry	Geography	Design Technology	Geography	Religious Studies
Physics	Spanish	History	Sanskrit	Latin	

This matrix is valid for Year 9. A boy does one subject from each column for 2.5 lessons per week in Year 9 and 2.5 lessons per week in Years 10 and 11. The curriculum is organised over a 2-week timetable.

2.1 Extra GCSEs

Boys with higher ability with an aptitude to languages are offered a 10th GCSE. This is taught outside of the Banding. It includes an Extra Greek class (currently Year 9, 10 & 11). Two periods per week are found for these lessons (in Registration Periods, Activities, Assemblies etc.)

2.2 Non-examined Subjects

All boys will take the following non-examinable subjects: Philosophy, Careers Education (in Year 9 delivered during Form Periods), PSHE.

2.3 Physical Education (non-Examined)

All boys in Year 9 have 4 periods of PE. Furthermore, they have 2 more hours of the Friday Options programme where a number of Physical Activities are available (over 15 per term), which include: fencing, kayaking, squash, judo, cross country running, sailing, golf, and cricket. This totals 355 minutes per week of Sports Activities.

In Years 10-13, students have 2 lessons of PE per week (a third is added if required for a fixture), along with an after-school Squad training lesson for 1 hour. They also take part in the Friday Options physical programme. This totals 295 minutes per week.

3. 6th Form Curriculum

In the 6th Form, St James offers a wide range of A Level subjects. Students choose a minimum of three A Level subjects to follow for two years. In exceptional circumstances some students will take a fourth subject, often Further Mathematics. Our curriculum matrix ensures that we provide a mixture of subjects suitable for the ability range across our cohort and aims to provide combinations of subjects conducive to successful entry to higher education in STEM subjects, humanities, vocational subjects and languages. Each A Level subject receives six lessons per week. A minimum grade requirement is set for each subject to ensure that pupils choose to study areas in which they will make the most progress and stand the best chance of securing the grades needed to begin higher education.

A Levels Subjects offered	
Chemistry	Politics
Geography	Spanish
Physics	P.E.
Biology	History
Mathematics	Greek
Further Mathematics	Latin
Economics	Photography
English Literature	French
Art	Drama
Religious Studies	Computing
Music	Design & Technology
BTEC Subjects offered	
Business Studies 6 Units	Business Studies 12 Units

Listed below are the options for A Level by band, along with the recommended minimum grade requirement at GCSE to study this subject. The minimum grades are a general guideline. However, in some circumstances admission can be made subjects with a lower grade with the consent of both the Head of Department and Head of Sixth Form.

Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Subjects not in Bands
Chemistry 7 in GCSE Chemistry & 7 in GCSE Maths.	Physics 7 in GCSE Physics & 7 in GCSE Maths also needed. Students must also be studying A Level Maths	Economics 6 in GCSE Maths and 6 in GCSE English Language	Biology 7 in GCSE Biology & 6 in GCSE Maths	Maths 7 in GCSE Maths	Music GCSE music and Grade 5 instrument / voice or Grade 5 theory and Grade 5 instrument / voice
French 7 in GCSE French	History 7 in GCSE History or 7 in GCSE English Language & Literature	Philosophy 6 in GCSE English Literature & Language	Psychology 6 in GCSE English Language & English Literature & 6 in GCSE Maths	Further Maths 8 in GCSE Maths	
Design and Technology 6 in Design & Technology	Spanish 7 in GCSE Spanish	Computer Science 6 in GCSE Maths and 6 in GCSE Computer Science	Further Maths 8 in GCSE Maths <hr/> Geography 6 in GCSE Geography & 6 in GCSE Maths	Classical Civilisation 6 in Classical Civilisation or a Humanities-based	
Politics	Physical Education 6 in GCSE P.E or 6 in	Latin 7 in GCSE Latin	Art 6 in GCSE Art	Classical Greek	

6 in a Humanities-based subject	any GCSE Science			7 in GCSE Greek	
English Literature 7 in both GCSE English Language & English Literature	BTEC Business Five 5s or equivalent in any subject (Double Award)	Drama 6 in any Humanities based subject	Photography 6 in GCSE photography	BTEC Business Five 5s or equivalent in any subject (Single Award)	

The super curriculum is also covered in the 6th Form through special events, programmed courses and the form tutors. They are taught financial skills and also have an extensive UCAS programme preparing their University applications and also preparing them for University life. Philosophy and mindfulness courses run during the first two terms and at 6th Form dinners and students also attend Model United Nations, Debating and Specialised Lectures with the St James Senior Girls School. The 6th Form also take part in school wide events such as the speech and music competitions, the Christmas Service and the Summer Concert.

4. Assemblies

All pupils in the school regularly attend whole school and Year Group Assemblies. PSHE is taught through Assemblies, including specific Assemblies on current issues, drugs, sex education, internet safety and study skills. An Anglican minister is also attached to the school and delivers Christian themed assemblies once every half term. Students are encouraged to take Assemblies themselves, as are all staff members, on issues that are important to them, academic interests and religious festivals. Assemblies are organised around a termly theme, although can be flexible so as to respond to important international events.

5. Careers and Work Experience

A Careers Programme exists for the whole school. It comprises a number of specific activities planned through all Year levels. They include: Business and Enterprise days (with the Girls' School); University visits; UCAS statement workshops; Work Experience Placements; Taught careers education in lessons and Form periods; Career Aptitude Testing; Library Resource Centre; Individual Meetings with career expert(s); Bi-annual Careers Fair (with the Girls School).

6. Clubs, Societies and Clinics

One lesson per week is devoted to student suggested Clubs and Societies. These generally are not sporting related, so as not to clash with the Friday Options programme. Clubs on offer change each year depending on staff expertise but can include Chess, Gardening, Role Playing, Classics, Cartoon design, Eco Club, and Cadets weapon handling. Their aim is for pupils to expand their interest in any particular area, to develop skills and aptitudes, as well as giving them a chance to socialise with different age groups. Clinics are also run by departments to assist specific students with skills and are generally by invitation.

7. Special Events

An important part of the St James curriculum is the regular special events. The school calendar lists these and individual departments are responsible for organising them. They range from Year group trips to Art Galleries to Speech and Music Competitions; lectures and workshops by specialized experts, to role-playing Geography days. Events and trips are used to inspire and motivate the students.

8. Homework

Homework is seen as an essential part of the curriculum offered. Year 7 and 8 have a specific homework timetable, which they follow and they receive approximately 90 minutes of work per evening and on the weekend, set on a particular night and handed in the next day.

9. Online Resources

St James operates the Firefly system for online resources. All pupils and parents have access to the system and teachers regularly require students to use it to complete work and homework.

10. Learning Support

St James has a dedicated Learning Support Unit that offers one-to-one tutorials to boys with Special Learning Needs as well as in-class support. The Learning Support team and the teaching staff assess pupils. Individual Education Plans are written for boys with Special Learning Needs and communicated to the teaching staff.

Policy Written by	Steve Roberts
Reviewed by	Chairman of Governors
Approved by	Chairman of Governors
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