

SCALBY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

HISTORY OF DOCUMENT

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1	A Wappat	January 2010	24.2.10	
2	A Wappat		17.11.10	Updated

Status of Policy

Review Date: February 2012

Context

At Scalby School we have embraced the Personalising Learning agenda and demand that curriculum design and redesign has a major part to play in the meeting of all our students' needs. We have tried to provide opportunities for 'assessment when ready' and choice, flexibility and progression are key elements of our curriculum offer. We see the curriculum as the building blocks on which good teaching and learning can take place.

KS3 (Years 7 & 8)

- Broad range of subjects: English, Maths, Science, Technology, French, Drama, Music, Life (including Religious Studies), Geography, History, Music, Art, ICT, PE
- Students graduate into KS4 at the end of Year 8 provided that their effort has been satisfactory during KS3
- Students begin a Level 2 qualification in ICT at the start of Year 8

KS4 (Years 9, 10 & 11)

- 15 periods per week for core subjects: English, Maths, Science, Technology, PE, Life Skills (including Religious Studies) and ICT (Year 9 only)
- 10 periods per week for option subjects – 2 choices each year for 5 periods each (6 option courses over the three years of KS4)
- Options subjects designed to be one year courses: Broad mixture of accredited with some non-accredited (Enrichment) courses; most are mixed age teaching groups
- Broad range of vocational courses on offer alongside GCSE

- All students work towards achieving a Level 2 - two GCSE equivalent in ICT by the end of Year 9
- All students work towards achieving a Level 2 - two GCSE equivalent in BTEC Sport by the end of Year 10
- Where appropriate, more able students entered for English and/or Maths GCSE at the end of Year 10 from September 2011, with Year 11 available to improve grades, follow additional related courses such as GCSE statistics, or begin higher level study.
- Options in Science include: Triple Science and vocational science courses in the core. A single GCSE Science option is also available.
- Opportunities for students to have extra 'booster' time for English and/or Maths in options, and also through careful subject blocking in Year 11, where a student has completed one subject, but needs to work on the other.

Technology Specialism

All students opt to study a Technology subject during Year 8. They follow the qualification through Years 9-11 leading to a Level 2 qualification. The current choices are: Food Technology GCSE, Graphics BTEC, Textiles GCSE, and Resistant Materials GCSE. Within the curriculum we have a focus on TLTS 'Technology Learning & Thinking Skills' where these are reflected in Learning Plans across all subjects.

Options

The flexibility of the Options process is created by running the groups across Years 9-11, on Mondays and Tuesdays. Because students opt for two subjects at the end of Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10, it is usually possible for them to follow all their preferred choices at some point during KS4. Where interest in an Option does not justify a group one year, it can run the following year, and students who did not gain their first or second choice the previous year have priority. Because many Option classes consist of students from Years 9-11, many more Options are viable, adding to the wealth of choice. Such planning, linked to the Curriculum Lead Financial Plan, ensures a curriculum fit for purpose, ensuring the school can also invest in the environment for learning too.

After School Activities

Although formal lessons end at 2.30pm, students can then choose from a range of enrichment activities and clubs, typically running from 2.30-3.30pm, although some go on longer than this. Examples are: PE clubs and practices, table tennis club, STEMS science club, music enrichment and rehearsal, drama enrichment and rehearsal, plus catch-up and revision sessions in most subjects.

School Day

The typical day contains 5 hours of lessons, a 20 minute vertical mentor session/assembly, a 15 minute morning break and a 30 minute lunch break. Period 1 starts at 8.25am and Period 5 finishes at 2.30pm

Subject Immersion Days

The timetable for all year groups is collapsed on either 5 Mondays or 5 Tuesdays throughout the year in order for students to gain a different shape and depth of experience. Students have a whole day when they would usually only have one hour in that lesson. This enables teachers to be more creative, and facilitates opportunities to take students on trips, complete day projects, hold revision sessions and much more.

The Timetable Year

From 2011, the new timetable will start at the beginning of July. This ensures that the maximum amount of time is available for Option subjects, which are studied for a full year from July – June examinations. Year 7 students begin Year 8 in July, and Year 8 graduate (where appropriate) into Year 9 and KS4.

Exemplar Timetable

EXAMPLE YEAR 9 TIMETABLE							
Core : Maths (3) English (3) D&T (2) Science (3) PE (2) ICT (1) Life/ICT/RS (1)							
Learning Pathway (Option) choices : BTEC Art (5) GCSE French (5)							
	1	2		3		4	5
Monday	MATHS Set 2	ENGLISH Set 1	Vertical Mentor Group	PE BTEC SP	Lunch	D&T Food	D&T Food
Tuesday	BTEC Art	BTEC Art		BTEC Art		GCSE French	GCSE French
Wednesday	SCIENCE Core	SCIENCE Core		ICT/LIFE RS		ENGLISH Set 1	MATHS Set 2
Thursday	GCSE French	GCSE French		GCSE French		BTEC Art	BTEC Art
Friday	ENGLISH Set 1	MATHS Set 2		ICT OCR		PE BTEC SP	SCIENCE Core
BTEC Art (Certificate) and GCSE French completed in one year							