

Curriculum Information

Year 7

On admission to St. Joseph's, learners are placed into mixed ability form groups, using information from our associated primary schools and parental requests where possible. The majority of our pupils are already high attainers when they join us. In order to encourage aspirations even further, those who achieved the highest marks in the National Tests at the end of year 6 are placed in a separate band for all their subjects. Other pupils are taught in two parallel bands. For Mathematics and English they are placed in sets based on their relevant score in the Year 6 National Tests, other subjects being taught in the mixed ability form groups. For core subjects baseline tests takes place during September and grouping are reviewed. All groupings and bandings are reviewed at the end of each term by the Heads of Department working together. Progress in one subject area may not necessarily result in a change of band as a number of different subjects will be tied together. Technology is taught in 8 smaller mixed ability groups.

During the first year at St. Joseph's all students study:

Religious Education

English

Mathematics

Science (covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

History

Geography

Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)

Physical Education

Design Technology

Drama

Art

Music

Programming and Computing

Where a National Curriculum programme of study exists for a subject, all pupils will follow it. Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise Education and Citizenship is delivered in tutorial time and 'one off' Enrichment Days.

Year 8

In order to encourage aspirations, the highest achievers at the end of year 7 are placed in a separate band for all their subjects. For Mathematics and English other pupils are placed in sets based on their relevant attainment at the end of the Year 7, other subjects being taught in the mixed ability form groups. Technology is taught in 7 smaller mixed ability groups. All groupings and bandings are reviewed at the end of each term by the Heads of Department working together. Progress in one subject area may not necessarily result in a change of band as a number of different subjects will be tied together.

During the second year at St. Joseph's all students study:

Religious Education

English

Mathematics

Science (covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

History

Geography

Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)

Physical Education

Design Technology

Drama

Art

Music

Programming and Computing

Where a National Curriculum programme of study exists for a subject, all pupils will follow it. Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise Education and Citizenship is delivered in tutorial time and 'one off' Enrichment Days.

During Year 8, consultation between the Head of Year, Form Tutors, The Director of Standards, The Director of Student Services and interviews with Senior Leaders take place to agree an appropriate Pathway for each pupil from Year 9. Most students will choose the Specialist subjects that they wish to study at Level 2 (GCSE). Compulsory subjects currently include English, Maths, Dual Award Science, Religious Studies and core Physical Education. From 2018 a Modern Foreign Language will also be compulsory for the majority of pupils. Consultation between the Head of Year, Form Tutors, The Director of Standards, The Director of Student Services and liaison with parents ensures that the individual needs of each child are carefully considered. Pupils will then follow a pathway based on their needs. From 2018 there will be two main Pathways and up to two others. Following the consultation the following may also apply -; some pupils may follow a tailored vocational programme; some pupils may undertake an extended work experience programme. More details on Pathways appear at the end of this sheet.

Years 9,10 and 11

From Year 9 our pupils will follow GCSE or equivalent courses which comprise of Compulsory Core subjects and Specialist subjects lasting three years.

RE and English and students are set according to ability in two bands. Mathematics and Science are taught within two different ability bands. Specialist subjects are taught in mixed groups.

Obviously GCSE and equivalent qualification provision at any given time depends on different factors, including government requirements, which are open to modification from time to time.

Our current arrangements are that all pupils will study a common core of:

Religious Education

Mathematics

English

English Literature

Science – Trilogy. The most able pupils may be entered for Separate Sciences.

Physical Education (non-examined compulsory non-GCSE course)

In addition to the core subjects, pupils can choose to study some of the following specialist subjects:

Art

Drama

Food Technology

French

Geography

History

Music

Spanish

Separate Science (current years 10 and 11 only)

Technology - focus in Resistant Materials, Product Design or Textiles

OCR Cambridge National Diplomas :-

– Sports Science

– Information and Communication Technologies

– Creative iMedia

Btec Technical Awards :-

– Health and Social (current years 9 and 10 only)

Pathways

Following consultation in year 8 (see above) the following may apply – most pupils will follow the Green Pathway which fulfils the governments EBacc criteria. Some pupils will may the Pathway in which MFL is a Specialist subject. Some pupils may follow the Orange Pathway where one Specialist subject is replaced by a Foundation Learning Programme; some pupils may follow a tailored vocational programme; some pupils may undertake an extended work experience programme. During the consolation in year 8 parents are invited in to school to a meeting to ensure that the individual needs of each child are carefully considered.

Where a National Curriculum programme of study exists for a subject, all pupils will follow it. Careers Information, Advice and Guidance and Personal, Social, Health and Enterprise Education and Citizenship are delivered in tutorial time.

The vast majority of our learners successfully complete their GCSE course and results have been well above national averages over many years. Most of our learners go onto further education, studying A-Levels and Level 3 BTECs, many of them go to study at University, gaining high quality degrees. Some of our learners decide to enter the world of employment, training or apprentice at 16 but whatever route they choose, they have the support and encouragement from school to help them succeed.