

## Laurence Jackson School KS3 & KS4 Curriculum

### The Curriculum

At Laurence Jackson School we believe that every student should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that is crucial for the development of all learners and will provide opportunities for life beyond Laurence Jackson School.

Our school curriculum;

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all students.
- Prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

### Curriculum update

There have been significant educational changes to the curriculum recently with the introduction of the new reformed GCSEs with a new grading system 9-1 which has replaced the 'old' A\*-G grades, with the aim of raising standards nationally. The Government's requirements and Performance Measurements have changed so that they now include: **Progress 8, Attainment 8, % 9-4, % 9-5 & % 9-7 in English & Maths, English Baccalaureate and Destination Measures**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/school-performance-tables-about-the-data>

The new reformed GCSEs are more challenging in terms of the skills they require students to have to be successful and in terms of the increased curriculum content they are assessing. The majority of exams are now 100% linear, with the exception of some practical subjects.

### Key Stage 3

On arrival in the school each student is placed into an appropriate Year group. Within each Year group every student is placed into a mixed ability form.

For lessons, in Year 7, students have been placed into 'Learning Pathways' (Red, White, Blue, Green) to enable them to be successful and follow a learning path that meets their educational needs. These Learning Pathways are based on the student's achievement of the intake cohort using the KS2 scale score results and Primary data.

### Learning Pathways in Year 7

- **Red** (Approximately 30% of the cohort will follow this pathway)
- **White** (Approximately 30% of the cohort will follow this pathway)
- **Blue** (Approximately 30% of the cohort will follow this pathway)
- **Green** (Approximately % of the cohort will follow this pathway)

Internal assessments will be completed throughout the academic year and used to help evaluate these pathways in relation to our students emerging needs. This could involve movement between the pathways.

In Years 8 and 9 we have a range of mixed ability classes, along with set classes. These are all designed to challenge and support our students in a range of subjects. Students are currently placed in linear

blocks, 8y and 8z and in Year 9, 9y and 9z bands. These are currently being reviewed for next academic year to roll out the 'Learning Pathways Programme'.

In Key Stage 3 students are assessed throughout the year via Progress Checks (please refer to our Assessment Policy for further information).

In Year 9 the 'Options Process' begins. An Option Booklet and Option form is issued to each student to share with parents/carers to review the options on offer. The choice of subjects is the result of a careful process of consultation involving students, parents/carers and staff. (Also, if required, other curriculum partnerships including Post 16 providers). These are all delivered through assemblies, straw poll, pilot tests and Option Pathway routes, along with our 1:1 Options interviews with parents/carers and the students before final informed decisions are made.

An Options Pathway has been introduced to support the English Baccalaureate (English, Maths, Science, a Language and a Humanities Subject; Geography or History), a suite of subjects we know Russell Group Universities value. A personalised curriculum for all ensures the right pathway will have been made for each individual student.

### **Key Stage 4**

The reformed GCSE exams are linear exams, the grades are now 9-1 grades and the curriculum has significantly increased in content and demand.

Some subjects commenced their KS4 GCSE curriculum in Year 9, due to the new reformed curriculum and the increased content to be delivered. These subjects are: English, Maths, Sciences and MFL subjects French and Spanish.

In Year 10 we have introduced a personalised 'Learning Pathway' (Red, White, Blue, Green). As with other Year groups, this system has been designed to enable students to be successful and follow a learning path that meets their educational needs.

### **Learning Pathways in Year 10**

- **Red** (English Baccalaureate)
- White (Optional English Baccalaureate)
- **Blue** (Non English Baccalaureate)
- **Green** (Personalised Curriculum Group)
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Year 11 students continue with their Key Stage 4 programme via core subjects and Options. Most of the subjects offered lead to nationally recognised GCSE or equivalent qualifications.

KS4 students are mainly taught in groups set according to their ability, although in some options subjects, due to their small number uptake, they are taught in mixed ability groups.

**GCSE subjects include:** Core subjects English, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Art, Business, Catering, Child Development, Design Technology, French, Geography, History, ICT, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Textiles.

Mrs Sharron Carter  
Deputy Headteacher  
Curriculum, Standards & Achievement